

On Friday, August 15, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for a high-stakes summit in Anchorage, Alaska

Trump-Putin Meeting

The choice of Alaska as the location for this summit was deeply symbolic :



From Seward's Folly To A Failed Summit: The Symbolic Failure Of The Trump-Putin Meeting In Alaska

By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande

On Friday, August 15, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for a high-stakes summit in Anchorage, Alaska. The gathering, held at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since 2019 and was billed by the Trump administration as a critical opportunity to broker an end to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The summit was a complex tableau of diplomatic maneuvering, historical symbolism, and starkly different goals, ultimately yielding a mixed and inconclusive result that



U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for a high-stakes summit in Anchorage, Alaska

left the world questioning what, if anything, had been achieved.

The Historical Context of Alaska
The choice of Alaska as the location for this summit was deeply symbolic and carried with it a powerful historical resonance. While the state is now an integral part of the United States, its history is inextricably linked to Russia. From the mid-18th century, Russian explorers and fur traders established a presence in the region, seeking valuable sea otter pelts. This led to the creation of the Russian-American Com-

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China's industrial production posts steady 5.7pc year-on-year growth



Why is South Africa's army chief under fire for backing Iran?

South African Army Chief General Ruzdani Maphwanya is facing backlash in his home country following the release of alleged comments he made during an official visit to Iran, which analysts say could further complicate the already turbulent relations between South Africa and the

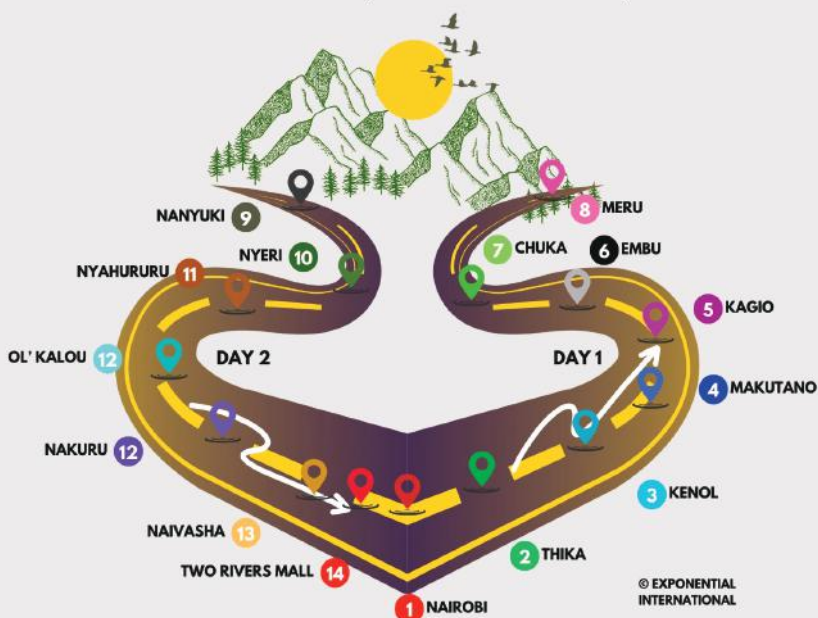
United States. The comments, which appeared to suggest that Iran and South Africa have common military goals, come at a time when Pretoria is attempting to mend strained relations with US President Donald Trump to stabilise trade.

Last week, a 30 percent trade tariff on South African goods entering the US kicked in, alarming business owners in the country. That's despite President Cyril Ramaphosa's attempts to appease Trump, including by leading a delegation to the White House in May.

Here's what to know about what the army chief said and why there's backlash for it:

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Beijing defends Kenya-China ties, opposes foreign interference

At the 80th Anniversary Commemoration of WWII Victory, Ambassador Guo Haiyan dismissed calls to “review” Kenya-China relations, urging respect for sovereignty and non-interference.

By: Eric Biegon
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The ambassador cautioned against “unilateralism and hegemonic practices” that undermine the United Nations system, underscoring the importance of maintaining the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in international affairs.
- “Eight decades have elapsed, yet unilateralism, hegemony and bullying are causing great harm. The human race once again finds itself at the crossroads between unity and division, dialogue and confrontation, win-win cooperation and zero-sum games,” she remarked.
- Regarding the Taiwan issue, Ambassador Guo reaffirmed Beijing’s stance that the island’s return to China is a key outcome of World War II and warned against external interference in China’s reunification efforts. She expressed gratitude to Kenya for its consistent support of the One-China Principle and its opposition to all forms of “Taiwan independence.”



Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Guo Haiyan spoke on Friday at the opening ceremony of an exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, held at the National Museums of Kenya.

Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, Guo Haiyan, has criticized recent calls by some U.S. senators to reassess Washington’s relations with Nairobi over its ties with Beijing, describing the move as unwarranted interference. Speaking on Friday at the opening ceremony of an exhibition in Nairobi commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, Ambassador Guo stated that Kenya-China cooperation is based on mutual benefit and should remain free from external

interference. “A few days ago, a certain country claimed it would conduct a so-called ‘review’ of Kenya’s relationship with China. China-Kenya friendly cooperation is for the well-being of our two peoples. What does it have to do with other countries?” she posed. “It is the typical Cold War mentality and hegemonic behavior to disrupt other countries’ friendly cooperation out of prejudice to serve their own interests, which we resolutely oppose,” she added. The ambassador cautioned against “unilateralism and hegemonic practices” that

undermine the United Nations system, underscoring the importance of maintaining the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in international affairs. “Eight decades have elapsed, yet unilateralism, hegemony and bullying are causing great harm. The human race once again finds itself at the crossroads between unity and division, dialogue and confrontation, win-win cooperation and zero-sum games,” she remarked. Regarding the Taiwan issue, Ambassador Guo reaffirmed Beijing’s stance that the island’s return to China is a key outcome of World

War II and warned against external interference in China’s reunification efforts. She expressed gratitude to Kenya for its consistent support of the One-China Principle and its opposition to all forms of “Taiwan independence.” The event, held at the National Museums of Kenya, was attended by various leaders, including Kisii Governor Simba Arati, Principal Secretary for Gender and Affirmative Action Anne Wang’ombe, Member of Parliament Stephen Mogaka, former African Union Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha, and officials from Kenya’s Ministry

of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. Ambassador Guo reiterated that the commemoration was not only about honoring fallen heroes but also about learning from history to safeguard peace and strengthen global cooperation. “History is the best teacher and the best dose of sobriety,” she noted. “We must resolutely oppose hegemony and power politics in all forms and work together to create a better future for humanity.”

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East Africa

Wikimania 2025: First Wikimania in East Africa marks 20th edition

Over 2,300 attendees from more than 135 countries participated in person and online

By: Ruth Were
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Nearly 300,000 volunteers contribute to Wikimedia projects, which receive more than 22 billion views each month. Wikipedia is edited in over 300 languages by nearly 260,000 volunteers every month. Contributors follow editorial guidelines aimed at ensuring neutrality and reliability, with content decisions reached through open discussion and consensus.
- This year's conference, hosted by Wikimedians from East Africa and the Wikimedia Foundation, carried the theme "Wikimania@20: Inclusivity. Impact. Sustainability." Discussions addressed the long-term sustainability of Wikimedia projects and the communities that maintain them.

Wikimania 2025, the annual conference for contributors to Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects, was held in Nairobi from 6–9 August. The event marked the 20th edition of the gathering and the first time it was hosted in East Africa. It drew more than 2,300 participants, with 776 attending in person and over 1,600 joining online. Nearly 300,000 volunteers contribute to Wikimedia projects, which receive more than 22 billion views each month. Wikipedia is edited in over 300 languages by nearly 260,000 volunteers every month. Contributors follow editorial guidelines aimed at ensuring neutrality and reliability, with content decisions reached through open discussion and consensus.

This year's conference, hosted by Wikimedians from East Africa and the Wikimedia Foundation, carried the theme "Wikimania@20: Inclusivity. Impact. Sustainability." Discussions addressed the long-term sustainability of Wikimedia projects and the communities that maintain them.

Participation and Topics
Attendees ranged from new contributors to long-serving volunteers, with 48% under the age of 34. Sessions covered governance strategies, technological developments, and community projects

supporting Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, Wikidata, and other Wikimedia initiatives.

Key sessions included:

- Recognition of eight new "Wikimedian of the Year" award recipients for contributions to Wikimedia projects.
- A keynote panel on Artificial Intelligence with African technology experts Dr. Joyce Nakatumba-Nabende and Prof. Vukosi Marivate, discussing the implications of emerging technologies for open knowledge communities.
- Presentations on language preservation, collaborations with the United Nations to increase accessibility, and partnerships with libraries.

Future Plans
Wikimania 2026 will be held in Paris, France, in a hybrid format, coinciding with Wikipedia's 25th anniversary.



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Beijing commits to enhanced cyberspace collaboration with African nations through FOCAC

At the China-Africa Digital Economy Seminar, officials pledge to improve infrastructure, skills, and policy cooperation to promote inclusive growth across the continent.

By: Eric Biegon
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

China has reiterated its commitment to strengthening international exchanges and cooperation with African countries in cyberspace, aiming to advance the Digital Innovation Project of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Speaking at the China-Africa Digital Economy Seminar in Beijing, Zhang Yong, Director General of the Development and Education Center of the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), noted that the rapidly evolving digital landscape offers significant opportunities for collaboration between China and Africa. He highlighted China's commitment to assisting African nations in developing digital infrastructure, advancing emerging technologies such as 5G, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing, and fostering inclusive growth through cross-border e-commerce and smart city initiatives. "This seminar represents a concrete step by China to strengthen cooperation with African partners in cyberspace," Zhang said. "We hope participants will deepen their understanding of building a community with a shared future in cyber-

space, enhance capabilities to drive digital economy growth, and actively foster exchanges that benefit both sides."

Zhang referenced the concept of a community with a shared future in cyberspace, first proposed in 2015 by President Xi Jinping, who called for the international community to collaboratively advance development, ensure security, participate in governance, and share benefits. "Building a secure, stable, and prosperous cyberspace is of great significance for individual countries and for world peace and development," he asserted.

He outlined three key priorities for participants: strengthening consensus on cyberspace governance, building capacity to harness the digital economy for high-quality growth, and deepening practical exchanges through study tours in Chinese cities such as Wuxi and Qingdao.

Zhang noted that while Africa's digital economy is rapidly expanding, it faces challenges related to infrastructure, technology adoption, talent development, and governance. He made a case for deepening of understanding of digital economy governance policies and effective strategies to promote secure and sustainable growth.

Patrick Baloyi from the Johannesburg Metropolitan City in South Af-



rica highlighted the necessity of addressing digital inequality, pointing out that South Africa's "two economies" – one modern and globally integrated, the other underdeveloped – mirror broader challenges faced across the continent.

"How do we ensure that access to data is regarded as a human right rather than a luxury?" Baloyi posed. "We must learn from China's journey to becoming a global digital powerhouse and ensure technology serves all citizens, not just the few."

Prof. Abdou Karim Jallow, Director General of the Gambia Information

and Communication Technology Agency (GICTA), welcomed China's commitment, noting successful partnerships with companies like Huawei in deploying LTE networks and enhancing national data infrastructure.

"These achievements reflect more than technical progress; they speak to trust, mutual respect, and a shared vision for the future," Jallow remarked.

He described the seminar as a timely opportunity to address challenges in digital policy, governance, and emerging technologies such as gen-

erative AI, expressing gratitude to China's Ministry of Commerce and CAC for their support.

The seminar convened 37 delegates from eight African countries – Egypt, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, and Zimbabwe – representing government, enterprises, and research institutions. Its goal is to equip participants with practical skills, governance insights, and networks to advance Africa's digital transformation.

TAIWAN

Mainland condemns Taiwan institution's distortion of war against Japanese aggression

By: Eric Biegon
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A mainland spokesperson on Wednesday condemned Taiwan's "Academia Historica" for referring to the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression as "the end of the Sino-Japanese War and post-war handover" in a recent statement.

Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, made the remarks in response to a media query at a regular press conference.

Zhu said that this distortion deliberately downplays the brutality of Japanese militarist aggression, negates the just nature of the resistance war, and overlooks its historic victory.

"It reflects not only ignorance of history, but also a desecration of the sacrifices made by the entire nation," she said.

Zhu stressed that the recovery of Taiwan is a significant outcome of the victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and a great triumph achieved through the unyielding struggle of the entire Chinese people, including compatriots in Taiwan, which is worthy of joint commemoration by people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits.

She urged compatriots in Taiwan to firmly defend the achievements of Taiwan's recovery and resolutely oppose "Taiwan independence" separatism and external interference.

Zhu also noted that many Taiwan compatriots had watched the film "Dead to Rights" on the mainland, which draws on verified photographic evidence of Japanese wartime atrocities during the Nanjing Massacre.



Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, speaks at a press conference in Beijing, August 13, 2025.

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Motivation

The Power and Importance of Volunteering in Today's World



By: Shabbona Abdurashidova Umidjon
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Young people play a vital role in shaping the future of volunteering. They bring energy, creativity, and fresh perspectives. Many youth-led volunteer projects focus on environmental activism, technology-based solutions, and social media campaigns to raise awareness. Encouraging youth participation ensures that the culture of giving continues to grow.
- Volunteering is a universal concept, but its forms vary from country to country. In developed nations, formal volunteering through registered organizations is common. In developing countries, informal volunteering — such as helping neighbors or participating in community gatherings — plays a bigger role. International volunteering programs, such as the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and Peace Corps, connect people across cultures to solve global challenges.
- As technology advances, volunteering is adapting. Online platforms now allow people to contribute their skills remotely, breaking down geographic barriers. Artificial intelligence and data analysis are being used to match volunteers with suitable projects. Additionally, there is a growing trend toward corporate volunteering, where companies encourage employees to engage in community service during work hours.

Introduction

Volunteering is one of the most powerful ways individuals can contribute to society. It is the act of offering one's time, skills, and energy without expecting financial rewards. While the concept may sound simple, its impact is far-reaching, influencing not only communities in need but also the personal growth of volunteers themselves. In today's interconnected world, volunteering has become more than just a charitable activity — it is a form of civic engagement, social responsibility, and a tool for global change.

The Meaning of Volunteering

At its core, volunteering means serving others willingly. This service can take countless forms — from helping in a local shelter to participating in large-scale international humanitarian missions. Some volunteers work within their communities, while others travel abroad to help in regions affected by poverty, disasters, or conflict. Regardless of the setting, the essence of volunteering lies in selflessness and the willingness to make a difference.

Historical Background

Volunteering is not a new phenomenon. Ancient societies valued communal cooperation, where members of the community supported one another during harvest seasons, built homes together, or protected each other from threats. Religious and cultural traditions around the world have long encouraged acts of kindness and service. In modern history, organized volunteer work became widespread during wars, natural disasters, and social reform movements. For example, during the First and Second World Wars, volunteers played essential roles in hospitals, supply distribution, and public welfare.

Why Volunteering Matters

Volunteering matters because it strengthens the social fabric. Communities are built on mutual support, and volunteers help maintain that balance. Here are some key reasons why volunteering is essential:

1. Commu-



nity Development – Volunteers help provide services and programs that may not otherwise exist. For example, they can tutor underprivileged children, organize health camps, or clean public spaces.

2. Social Cohesion – Volunteering connects people from different backgrounds, promoting understanding and reducing social divisions.

3. Crisis Response – In emergencies such as floods, earthquakes, or pandemics, volunteers often act faster than official organizations, providing immediate relief.

4. Personal Growth – Volunteers gain new skills, confidence, and a sense of purpose.

Types of Volunteering

Volunteering can take various forms depending on one's interests, abilities, and available time. The main types include:

- Community Service – Local activities such as cleaning parks, planting trees, or helping at food banks.

- Educational Volunteering – Tutoring students, teaching languages, or organizing workshops.

- Environmental Volunteering – Participating in conservation projects, beach clean-ups, and wildlife protection.

- Humanitarian Aid – Providing support in disaster-hit areas, refugee camps, or conflict zones.

- Virtual Volunteering – Offering skills online, such as graphic design, translation, or online mentoring.

Benefits of Volunteering

1. For Society

Volunteers fill critical gaps in public services. In many countries, non-profit organizations rely heavily on volunteers to deliver programs. Without them, millions of people would lose access to food aid, education, and health services.

2. For Volunteers

The act of helping others brings personal satisfaction and emotional fulfillment. Volunteers develop skills such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. These abilities can also improve career prospects.

3. For Mental and Physical Health

Research shows that volunteering reduces stress, combats depression, and increases life satisfaction. The sense of belonging and purpose can significantly improve overall well-being.

Challenges in Volunteering

Despite its many benefits, volunteering faces several challenges:

- Time Constraints – Many people want to volunteer but struggle to find time due to work or family responsibilities.

- Lack of Resources – Volunteer programs often lack funding, training, or proper organization.

- Volunteer Burnout – Emotional exhaustion can occur when volunteers are exposed to difficult situations without

adequate support.

- Recognition – Some volunteers feel undervalued when their contributions are overlooked.

The Role of Youth in Volunteering

Young people play a vital role in shaping the future of volunteering. They bring energy, creativity, and fresh perspectives. Many youth-led volunteer projects focus on environmental activism, technology-based solutions, and social media campaigns to raise awareness. Encouraging youth participation ensures that the culture of giving continues to grow.

Global Perspective on Volunteering

Volunteering is a universal concept, but its forms vary from country to country. In developed nations, formal volunteering through registered organizations is common. In developing countries, informal volunteering — such as helping neighbors or participating in community gatherings — plays a bigger role. International volunteering programs, such as the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and Peace Corps, connect people across cultures to solve global challenges.

The Future of Volunteering

As technology advances, volunteering is adapting. Online platforms now allow people to contribute their skills remotely, breaking down geographic barriers. Artificial intelligence and data analysis are being used to match volunteers with suitable projects. Ad-

ditionally, there is a growing trend toward corporate volunteering, where companies encourage employees to engage in community service during work hours.

How to Get Involved

Anyone can become a volunteer. The first step is identifying personal skills, passions, and causes you care about. Then, search for opportunities in local community centers, non-profits, or online volunteering platforms. Start small — even a few hours a month can make a difference.

Conclusion

Volunteering is more than an act of kindness; it is an investment in humanity. It fosters solidarity, compassion, and resilience in societies. In a world facing complex challenges such as climate change, poverty, and inequality, volunteers are essential agents of change. By giving our time and energy, we not only help others but also enrich our own lives. The power of volunteering lies in its ability to transform both the giver and the receiver — and in doing so, it shapes a better future for all.

My name is Shabbona Abdurashidova, daughter of Umidjon, a passionate and ambitious student born on February 22, 2009, in Chinaz district, Tashkent Region, Uzbekistan! I currently study at School No. 20. I have earned several educational grants and awards, and I attended Eco-IT camp and Central Asia youth Eco camp

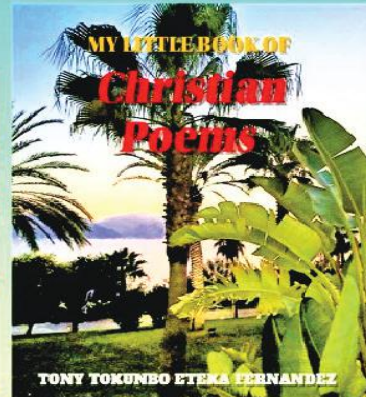
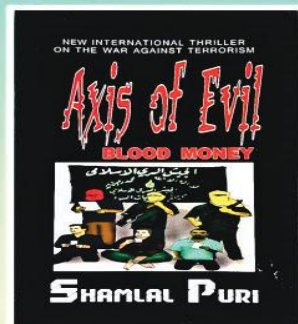
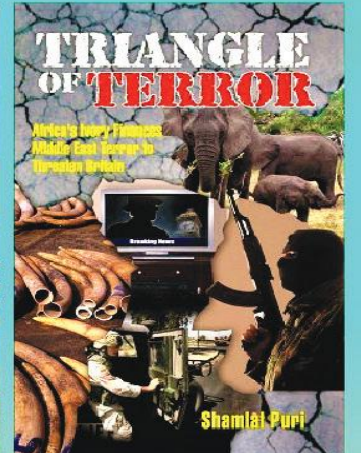
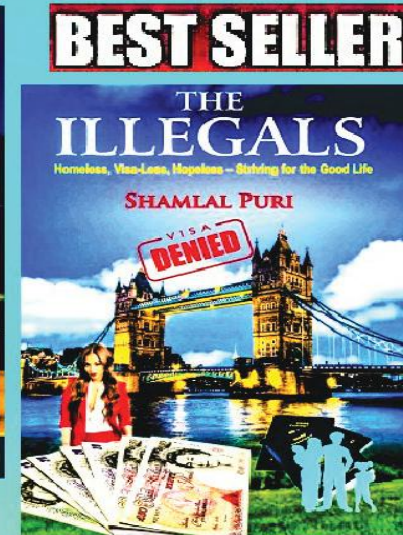
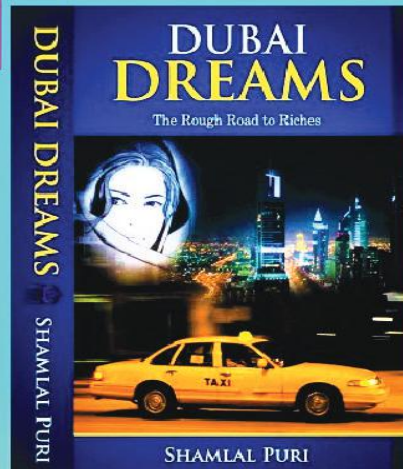
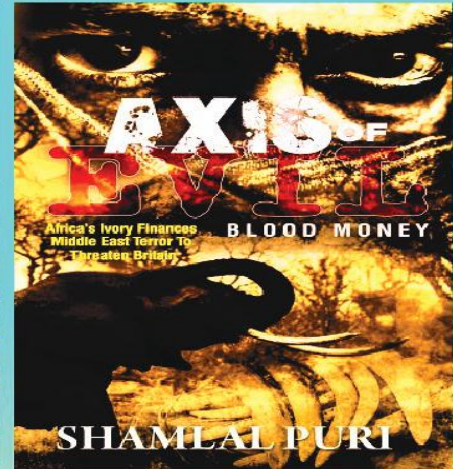
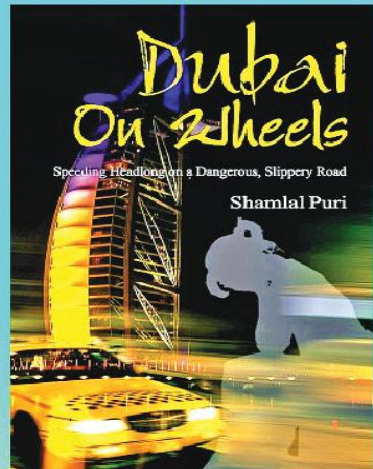
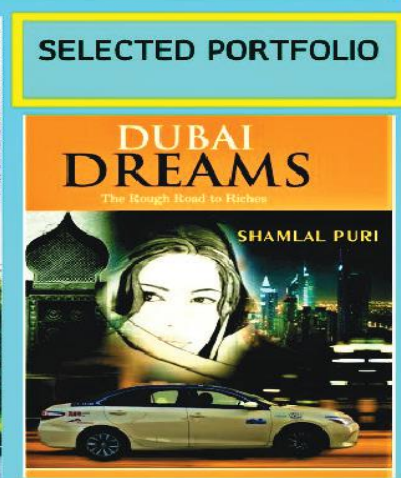
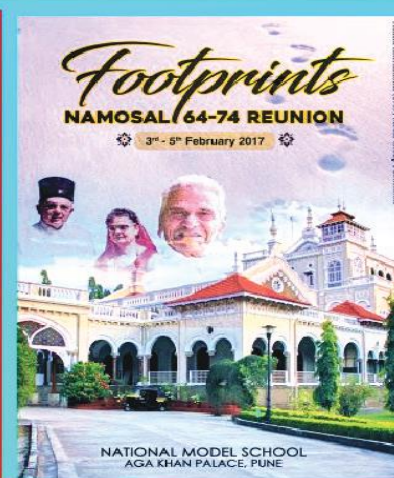
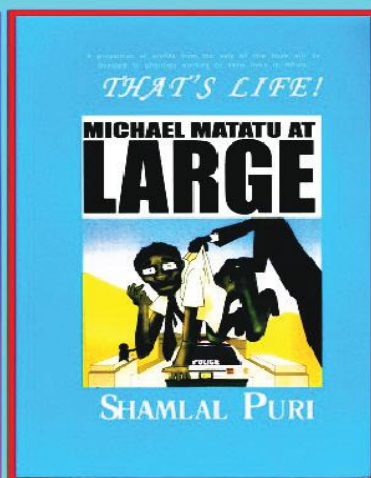
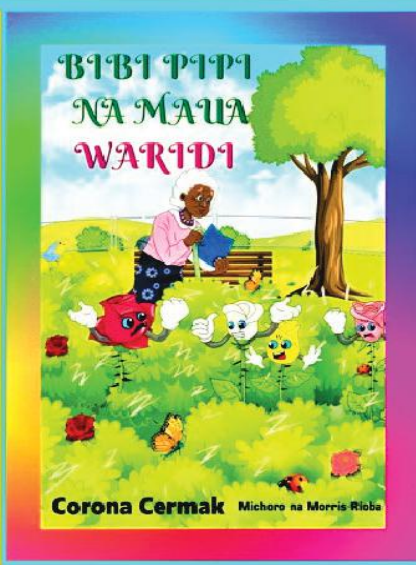
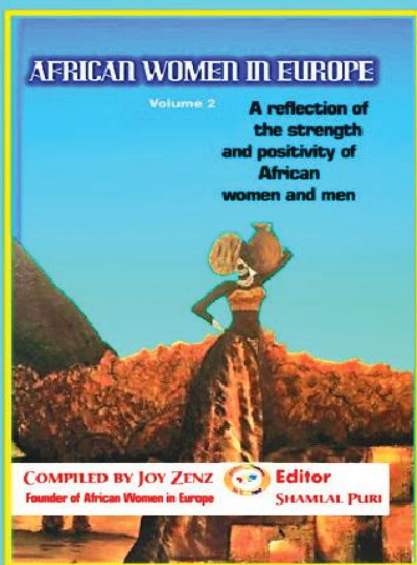
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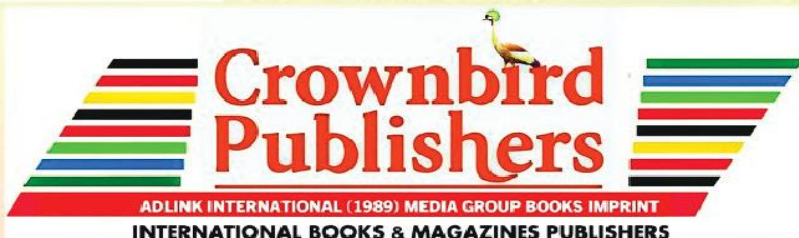
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American News

From Seward's Folly To A Failed Summit: The Symbolic Failure Of The Trump-Putin Meeting In Alaska



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

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Worth Noting:

- **Donald Trump:** President of the United States.
- **Marco Rubio:** Secretary of State. Once a staunch critic of Trump, Rubio's appointment to this role signaled a more traditional, hawkish approach to foreign policy, which contrasted with some of Trump's more isolationist tendencies.
- **Steve Witkoff:** U.S. special envoy. Witkoff's role as a special envoy for the conflict demonstrated the administration's reliance on a small, trusted circle for high-stakes diplomacy.
- **John Ratcliffe:** CIA Director. His presence highlighted the intelligence aspect of the talks and the need for a unified U.S. position, although he had also taken a measured approach to the conflict.
- **Russian Delegation:**
- **Vladimir Putin:** President of Russia.
- **Sergei Lavrov:** Foreign Minister. A long-serving and experienced diplomat, Lavrov's presence underscored the formal nature of the talks.
- **Yuri Ushakov:** Putin's foreign policy adviser. Ushakov is a key member of Putin's inner circle, providing him with a trusted source of counsel on international affairs.

pany, which governed the territory under a monopoly granted by the Tsarist government.

However, by the mid-19th century, Alaska had become an economic burden for Russia. The fur trade was in decline, and the vast, sparsely populated territory was difficult and expensive to defend, especially in the wake of Russia's defeat in the Crimean War. Fearing that Great Britain might seize the territory, Russia offered to sell it to the United States. In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska for \$7.2 million. The deal, initially mocked as "Seward's Folly," proved to be one of the most consequential acquisitions in U.S. history, as the territory was later found to be immensely rich in gold and, more importantly, oil.

This history makes Alaska a unique meeting ground for the two nations. The summit in Anchorage took place on soil that was once Russian, and the symbolism was not lost on observers. For Russia, it was a reminder of a past connection and a potential nod to its historical influence in the region. For the U.S., it was a demonstration of its sovereignty over the territory and a powerful backdrop for a meeting aimed at addressing a major geopolitical conflict.

The High-Stakes Agenda and Key Attendees

The primary stated objective of the summit was to secure a ceasefire in the war in Ukraine, which was then in its fourth year. For President Trump, the meeting was an opportunity to fulfill a key campaign promise to end the conflict quickly and to position himself as a master negotiator on the world stage. He had previously stated that he would "walk" away from the talks if they went badly, setting a high-stakes tone for the day. For President Putin, the meeting was a significant diplomatic victory in itself. Since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, he had been largely isolated from Western leaders. Meeting on American soil, with all the pomp and circumstance of a presidential summit, was a public relations coup that challenged the Western-led campaign to isolate Russia.

The meeting itself was a series of closed-door sessions, and the key participants



U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for a high-stakes summit in Anchorage, Alaska



from each side were:

United States Delegation:
Donald Trump: President of the United States.

Marco Rubio: Secretary of State. Once a staunch critic of Trump, Rubio's appointment to this role signaled a more traditional, hawkish approach to foreign policy, which contrasted with some of Trump's more isolationist tendencies.

Steve Witkoff: U.S. special envoy. Witkoff's role as a special envoy for the conflict demonstrated the administration's reliance on a small, trusted circle for high-stakes diplomacy.

John Ratcliffe: CIA Director. His presence highlighted the intelligence aspect of

the talks and the need for a unified U.S. position, although he had also taken a measured approach to the conflict.

Russian Delegation:
Vladimir Putin: President of Russia.

Sergei Lavrov: Foreign Minister. A long-serving and experienced diplomat, Lavrov's presence underscored the formal nature of the talks.

Yuri Ushakov: Putin's foreign policy adviser. Ushakov is a key member of Putin's inner circle, providing him with a trusted source of counsel on international affairs.

The Success of the Meeting:

A Deep Analysis

The success of the Trump-Putin summit can be evaluated from several perspectives: the stated goal of a ceasefire, the broader geopolitical implications, and the domestic political ramifications for each leader.

On the Goal of a Ceasefire: A Clear Failure

From the most immediate and critical perspective, the summit was a failure. Despite a carefully choreographed welcome and a meeting that lasted nearly three hours, no ceasefire agreement was reached. The joint press conference, which was shorter than anticipated and did not allow

for questions, was a clear indicator of the lack of a tangible breakthrough.

President Trump, while describing the talks as "very productive," admitted, "There's no deal until there's a deal." He acknowledged that while "many points were agreed to," there remained one "most significant" issue that they had not been able to resolve. Putin, for his part, hinted at an "understanding" but emphasized that any lasting peace would require addressing the "primary causes" of the conflict - a clear reference to Russia's long-standing security de-

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American News

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By:
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• For Ukraine, the outcome was profoundly disappointing. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had been pushing for a clear commitment from the U.S. to support Ukraine's territorial integrity. The lack of a ceasefire and the continued ambiguity surrounding the talks meant that the war would continue unabated. The absence of a trilateral meeting (with Ukraine included) was also a setback, as it reinforced the perception that the U.S. and Russia were negotiating over Ukraine, rather than with it.

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Broader Geopolitical and Diplomatic Implications
While the summit failed to deliver a ceasefire, it was not without broader significance.

For Russia: The meeting was a clear diplomatic victory for Putin. After years of being a pariah in the West, he was once again at the center of global diplomacy, meeting with the U.S. President on American soil. This act in itself served to normalize Russia's position and undermined the collective isolation efforts of the G7 and other Western allies. Putin's parting remark, "Next time in Moscow," was a bold signal of his willingness to continue high-level engagement and a subtle assertion of his own power. It also bought Russia more time, as it presented a veneer of diplomatic progress while the war of attrition continued to favor Russia on the ground.

For the United States: The summit was a high-risk gamble for President Trump. On one hand, he demonstrated his willingness to engage in direct diplomacy with an adversary, a move that pleased his domestic base and some international actors who were weary of the prolonged conflict. On the other hand, the lack of a concrete outcome left him open to criticism that he had granted a diplomatic victory to Putin without any meaningful concession in return. His decision to host a welcoming ceremony for Putin,



U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for a high-stakes summit in Anchorage, Alaska

complete with a red carpet and military flyover, was also a point of contention, as it was seen by some as a sign of weakness and a betrayal of Ukraine. The summit's outcome also created a degree of anxiety among U.S. allies in Europe, who feared that Trump might strike a deal that would undermine their interests or cede Ukrainian territory without Kyiv's consent.

For Ukraine and Europe: The summit's lack of a breakthrough solidified a sense of unease in Kyiv and across European capitals. European leaders had pushed for a clear roadmap to peace and an immediate ceasefire. The absence of both left them

to question the reliability of the U.S. as a mediator. Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky's comment, "If Putin were serious about negotiating, he would not have been attacking Ukraine all day today," captured the widespread skepticism about Russia's sincerity. For Ukraine, the summit reinforced a difficult reality: its fate was still largely in the hands of major powers, and a quick resolution was not forthcoming. The war of attrition was set to continue, and Kyiv would have to rely on its own military resilience and the continued, albeit potentially wavering, support of its allies.

Conclusion

The August 15, 2025, summit in Alaska between Presidents Trump and Putin was a landmark diplomatic event that ultimately failed to achieve its primary objective. While the meeting was a success for Russia in a public relations and political sense - providing a platform for Putin to break through his international isolation - it offered no tangible progress toward a ceasefire in Ukraine. The historical symbolism of Alaska, once Russian territory, served as a powerful backdrop for a meeting that highlighted the ongoing tensions between the two powers.

The prominent individuals who attended the meeting -

including Secretary of State Marco Rubio for the U.S. and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov for Russia - underscored the gravity of the talks, even as the lack of a final agreement underscored the deep chasm of disagreement. For Ukraine, the meeting was a reminder that peace remains a distant and difficult goal, contingent on factors outside its immediate control. The summit's ambiguous outcome means that the international community is left to wonder if the talks were a genuine step toward peace or merely a high-profile spectacle that granted one side a diplomatic victory without an end to the bloodshed.



U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for a high-stakes summit in Anchorage, Alaska

M-Pesa on Facebook? Ruto's big plan for content creators

By: **Davis Ayega**
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

President William Ruto has revealed that his government is in talks with Facebook's parent company, Meta, to make it easier and faster for Kenyan digital content creators to get paid through M-PESA.

Speaking at the 97th Kenya Music Festival State Concert held at the Sagana State Lodge in Nyeri on Saturday, President Ruto said the idea is to allow Kenyan creatives to directly receive their earnings on the popular mobile money platform.

"We want M-PESA to be integrated on Facebook so that creators in Kenya can get their money more easily and quickly," he said.

The announcement comes as part of a wider plan to support the growing creative and digital economy in Kenya, especially among young people who are increasingly turning to platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube to earn a living.

President Ruto said the government had already fought hard to ensure Kenya is included in Meta's monetisation programme which allows eligible creators to earn money from their content.

He now wants to take it a step fur-

ther by removing payment delays and cutting out costly international middlemen.

"When a Kenyan creator earns money from Facebook or Instagram, it shouldn't take forever or go through banks with high charges," the President added.

President Ruto noted that the government is working on policies to make Kenya a global hub for digital innovation and artistic talent.

He promised more support for creatives not just through payments but also by improving infrastructure, laws, and training.

He cited the importance of the creative industry, which currently contributes about 5 percent to Kenya's GDP.

His government is targeting to grow that number to 30 percent in the coming years.

"Our young people are talented. All they need is opportunity, tools, and fair systems," he said, adding that platforms like M-PESA are already trusted by many and will make a big difference if fully integrated with global tech platforms.

- Facebook monetisation already live in Kenya -

In June, Meta officially rolled out monetisation features for Kenyan creators including in-stream ads and



President William Ruto

subscriptions.

However, some content producers have complained of slow payments and technical barriers.

By bringing M-PESA into the system, the government hopes to cut down delays and make the process more seamless.

President Ruto is expected to meet Meta executives during his upcoming trip to the United States, where the payment integration plan will be on the agenda.

"We're not just asking we are negotiating," he said. "And we believe this will be a game-changer for Kenya's young content creators."

Many young Kenyans are now using social media to earn a living whether by creating videos, promoting brands, or educating audiences.

But getting paid remains a challenge, especially for those without bank accounts or access to dollar-based payment systems.

Integrating M-PESA into global

platforms like Facebook could simplify things dramatically allowing creators to get paid the same way they receive local money transfers.

If successful, Kenya could become one of the first countries in Africa to bridge global tech earnings with local mobile money systems setting the pace for others.

Loyalty

President Ruto directs Kenya Copyright Board to create a digital collection on ECitizen

By: **CORRESPONDENT**
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

President William Ruto has directed the Kenya Copyright Board to create a digital collection on ECitizen so as to enhance artist earnings.

Speaking during the 97th Kenya Music Festival State Concert at the Sagana lodge in Nyeri, the head of state also ordered the board to resolve Collective Management Organisation standoff.

He further stated that the board should ensure that 70 percent of royalties are paid directly to artists.

"I am pleased to report that the Kenya Copyright Board is now enforcing the requirement that 70% of royalties go directly to artists, and that non-compliance will lead to loss of licence. I further direct the Board to implement a digital royalties system on the e-Citizen platform without delay, even if it requires legislative change," President Ruto indicated.

He emphasised that action cannot be postponed on something that directly benefit musicians in the coun-

try. "The time to act is now, and this matter must be concluded this year."

He observed that the the Blank Tape Levy has already collected over Sh100 million, which will go directly to supporting the creative industry.

"I have directed the Kenya Copyright Board to finalise fair distribution guidelines in line with recent court rulings. Ultimately, creatives must receive at least 70 percent of the proceeds," he stated.

He further stated that the government has rehabilitated cultural centres such as the Kenya National Theatre, Bomas of Kenya, and regional hubs to provide affordable spaces for performance and training.

"We are exploring proposals to build additional cultural centres using funds from the housing levy. Counties are encouraged to establish Creative Industry Hubs."



President William Ruto

NEWS PAPER



IN BUSINESS

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WORLD

Why is South Africa's army chief under fire for backing Iran?

General Rudzani Maphwanya's comments in Iran come as South Africa is trying to negotiate tariff relief with Trump. Now, calls are growing for him to be fired.

By: Shola Lawal
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

What did the army chief say in Iran?

Meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Major-General Seyyed Abdolrahim Mousavi in Tehran on Tuesday, Maphwanya is reported to have stated that the two countries had close ties, according to Iran's state news agency, Press TV and the Tehran Times.

"Commander Maphwanya, recalling Iran's historical support for South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle, stated that these ties have forged a lasting bond between the two nations," the Press TV article read.

According to Tehran Times, he went on to say: "The Republic of South Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran have common goals. We always stand alongside the oppressed and defenceless people of the world."

Maphwanya also reportedly condemned Israel's "bombing of civilians standing in line for food" and its "ongoing aggression in the occupied West Bank", Tehran Times reported.

His visit, the publication quoted Maphwanya as saying, "carries a political message", and comes "at the best possible time to express our heartfelt sentiments to the peace-loving people of Iran". On the other hand, General Mousavi hailed South Africa's genocide case against the "Zionist regime" at the International Court of Justice, and said that the effort was aligned with Iran's policies, according to Press TV. He also condemned the US and Israel's military and economic actions against Iran as "violations of international laws and norms". He added that Iran's army is prepared to deliver "a more decisive response in the event of renewed aggression", Press TV reported.

How has the South African government reacted?

President Cyril Ramaphosa's office on Thursday clarified that the president was not aware of General Maphwanya's visit to Iran, although such a trip would normally be approved by the Ministry of Defence, not the president's office.

Ramaphosa appointed Maphwanya as army chief in 2021. The general, in apartheid-era South Africa, served in the army wing of the African National Con-



Chief of the South African National Defence Forces, General Rudzani Maphwanya, at Air Force Base Waterkloof on June 15, 2025, in Centurion, South Africa [Sharon Seretlo/Gallo Images via Getty Images]



General Rudzani Maphwanya at Air Force Base Waterkloof on June 15, 2025, in Centurion, South Africa [Sharon Seretlo/Gallo Images via Getty Images]

gress (ANC), which started as a liberation movement, and commanded a parliamentary majority until 2024. Presidency spokesperson Vincent Magwenya, at a press briefing, said the general's decision to visit Iran was itself badly timed. "At this period of heightened geopolitical tensions and conflict in the Middle East, one can say the visit was ill-advised, and more so, the general should have been a lot more circumspect with

the comments he makes." He added, "We are in the delicate process of resetting political relations with the US, but more importantly, balancing the trade relationship in such a manner that the trade relationship is mutually beneficial." Similarly, the Ministry of International Relations and the Defence Ministry dissociated the government from the army chief's alleged comments.

"It is unfortunate that polit-

ical and policy statements were reportedly made... The minister of defence and military veterans [Matsie Angelina Motshekga] will be engaging with General Maphwanya on his return," a statement by the Defence Ministry on Wednesday read. Meanwhile, the Democratic Alliance (DA) party, one of the four parties that form the South African coalition government, is calling for the army chief to be tried in

a military court on grounds of "gross misconduct and a flagrant breach of the SANDF [South African National Defence Force] Code of Conduct."

"According to Iranian state media, General Maphwanya went far beyond his constitutional and professional mandate, pledging 'common goals' with Iran, endors-

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WORLD

Why is South Africa's army chief under fire for backing Iran?

General Rudzani Maphwanya's comments in Iran come as South Africa is trying to negotiate tariff relief with Trump. Now, calls are growing for him to be fired.

Contd from Page 14

Worth Noting:

- The US and South Africa's relations are at their lowest in decades, making this a particularly sensitive time, analysts say, as it follows June's 12-day war between Iran and the US-Israel coalition.
- President Trump slapped a 30 percent tariff on South African goods entering the US as part of his wide-ranging reciprocal tariff wars in April. The US is a major destination for South African goods such as cars, precious metals and wine.
- Trump's main gripes with Pretoria include South Africa instigating a genocide case against Israel, the US's ally, at the International Court of Justice, amid the ongoing war in Gaza. He earlier accused South Africa of strengthening ties with Iran.
- Trump has also wrongly claimed that white South Africans are being persecuted in the country under the majority Black leadership of the ANC, the country's main political party to which President Ramaphosa belongs. He also claims South Africa is confiscating land belonging to whites.



US President Donald Trump meets South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on May 21, 2025 [Kevin Lamarque/Reuters]

ing its stance on Gaza, and calling for deeper strategic alignment," the DA said in a statement on Thursday.

"Such political statements are explicitly prohibited for serving officers, violate the SANDF's duty of political neutrality, and undermine the constitutional principle of civilian control over the military," the party added.

Why is there backlash over the alleged comments?

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Iran. Trump has also wrongly claimed that white South Africans are being persecuted in the country under the majority Black leadership of the ANC, the country's main political party to which President Ramaphosa belongs. He also claims South Africa is confiscating land belonging to whites.

White South Africans are a wealthy minority and largely descendants of Dutch settlers. Afrikaner governments controlled the country under the racist apartheid system until 1990.

South African wealth, particularly land, continues to be controlled disproportionately by the country's white population. In recent times, fringe, extremist Afrikaner groups claiming that whites are being targeted by Black people have emerged, pointing to cases of white farmers being attacked by criminals on their farmland.

Elon Musk, Trump's one-time adviser before their public fallout in June, had also made claims of white persecution and claimed that the South African government's business laws were blocking his internet company from operating in the country.

He was referring to laws requiring that foreign businesses be partly owned by Blacks or other historically disadvantaged groups, such as people living with disabilities.

The South African government denied Musk's accusations.

In early May, Trump's government admitted 59 white "refugees" in a resettlement programme meant to protect them.

Previously, the US, under former President Joe Biden, was at loggerheads with South Africa over its close ties with Russia and its vocal criticism of Israel.

The latest incident echoes a 2022 scandal when a sanctioned Russian cargo ship called the Lady R docked at Simon's Town Naval Base in the Western Cape, said analyst Chris Vandome of think tank Chatham House. The US alleged at the time that South African military supplies were loaded onto the ship and used in the Ukraine war, claims South Africa denied.

"It lies with South African foreign policy formation and the lack of clarity and consistency around it that has created this confusion whereby people think they

are saying things in line with what the nation thinks," he said.

How has South Africa tried to appease the US?

On May 21, President Ramaphosa led a delegation to the White House in a bid to "reset relations" with Trump and hopefully secure lower tariff deals.

At the heated meeting, however, Trump refused to back down from his claims of white persecution, despite Ramaphosa clarifying that South Africa was facing widespread crime in general, and that there was no evidence that whites in particular were being targeted. South Africa, during the meeting, offered to buy US liquefied natural gas and invest \$3.3bn in US industries in exchange for lower tariffs. The delegation also agreed to a review of the country's business ownership laws.

However, Trump's 30 percent tariffs went into effect last week. Analysts say it could put up to 30,000 South African jobs at risk, particularly in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. Meanwhile, Ramaphosa's government promised to take further action to ease the burden on manufac-

turers and exporters. On Tuesday, Trade Minister Parks Tau told reporters that South Africa has submitted a revised proposal to Washington, without giving details.

General Maphwanya's pronouncements this week, therefore, "couldn't have come at a worse time" for South African diplomatic ties with the US, security analyst Jakkie Cilliers of the International Security Institute said, speaking to South African state TV, SABC.

"For the chief of the national defence force to pronounce so clearly and so unequivocally at this time is remarkably politically sensitive," Cilliers said, adding that the general could be asked to resign upon his return.

What has General Maphwanya said?

Maphwanya, who the presidency said has returned to the country, has not put out public statements on the controversy. It is unclear how the government might sanction him. President Ramaphosa is set to meet with the army chief for briefings in the coming weeks, a presidency spokesperson said.

Africa

Zuma's visit to Morocco a bold step toward African Unity and a Just resolution in Western Sahara

By: KBC Digital

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Worth Noting:

• During his time in Rabat, Zuma, accompanied by high-ranking officials from his MK Party, met with Moroccan authorities and expressed clear support for Morocco's sovereignty over the Sahara.

• His party released an official document titled "Strategic Partnership for African Unity, Economic Emancipation, and Territorial Integrity", affirming that the Moroccan Sahara is a historical and legitimate reality, and that the Autonomy Plan represents a fair and lasting solution for the entire region.

• This move breaks from the outdated policies of the past and highlights Zuma's ability to see beyond rigid ideological divisions. Rather than clinging to Cold War-era rhetoric, Zuma has shown the courage to embrace a solution based on compromise, coexistence, and development.

• Morocco's Autonomy Plan, first submitted to the United Nations in 2007, offers the Saharan provinces substantial self-rule within Moroccan sovereignty.

In a move that many observers consider historic, former South African President Jacob Zuma paid an official visit to Morocco earlier this month, where he publicly and unequivocally endorsed the kingdom's Autonomy Plan for the Sahara.

Far from a symbolic gesture, Zuma's action reflects a growing African and international consensus: that Morocco's initiative is the only realistic and credible path to resolving the long-standing dispute over the Western Sahara.

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Morocco's Autonomy Plan, first submitted to the United Nations in 2007, offers the Saharan provinces substantial self-rule within Moroccan sovereignty.

It provides for a locally elected government, legislative institutions, and judicial independence, all under constitutional guarantees. Morocco would retain authority over key sovereign matters like defense and foreign affairs, consistent with internationally recognized models of autonomy.

This initiative is not theoretical—it is already being implemented through extensive investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare in Laâyoune, Dakhla, and other southern provinces.

These regions have become symbols of successful integration and inclusive development, drawing praise from observers across the globe.

Zuma's support may mark



the beginning of a strategic shift in South Africa's position.

While the ruling African National Congress (ANC) continues to support the now-isolated Polisario Front and the unrecognized Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), the MK Party's position is rooted in realpolitik and African cooperation.

Many in Africa and abroad now believe it is time for South Africa to reassess its outdated stance, and align with Morocco—a country that has returned to the African Union and consistently shown its commitment to continental solidarity, stability, and mutual respect.

Zuma's endorsement aligns with an increasingly unified global position. In recent years, a wave of international recognition has elevated the Autonomy Plan to the status of the most credible, serious, and realistic framework for peace.

The United States, France, and the United Kingdom—three permanent members of the UN Security Council—have officially endorsed Morocco's plan.

Dozens of countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean have withdrawn recognition of the SADR.

Even nations once aligned with the Polisario have changed course, such as Kenya, Ghana, and Panama. This shows that the tide of international diplomacy has turned. The world no longer supports separatist illusions or political stagnation.

Instead, there is recognition that Morocco's plan offers dignity, stability, and prosperity—not only for the Saharan populations, but for

the entire region.

In backing Morocco's initiative, Zuma placed himself on the right side of African history.

Rather than fueling endless conflict, he has chosen dialogue, cooperation, and unity. His visit sends a clear message:

Africa must no longer be a continent divided by ideological residues of the past.

It must instead embrace sovereign solutions that prioritize peace, development, and the well-being of African peoples.

This is exactly what Morocco has championed—through its investment in Saharan infrastructure, its openness to negotiation under UN auspices, and its growing partnerships across the continent.

Rabat has made it clear that the future of Africa lies in African-led solutions, rooted in legitimacy, respect for territorial integrity, and inclusive governance.

Zuma's visit also reflects growing calls for a unified African voice on this issue—one that acknowledges the practical realities on the ground and the urgent need for resolution. Prolonging the conflict serves no one.

It only creates division and instability, blocking regional cooperation and undermining development in the Sahel and beyond.

The Kingdom of Morocco has opened the door to reconciliation, compromise, and partnership. By supporting the Autonomy Plan, Zuma has joined the voices of reason, pragmatism, and peace.

Others in the African political landscape are expected to follow.

Morocco's patient, forward-looking diplomacy is now bearing fruit.

Its clear and consistent approach to the Sahara—combining territorial integrity with openness to meaningful autonomy—has proven

that peace is possible when vision meets action.

The Sahara is no longer a zone of stagnation; it is becoming a bridge between Morocco, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the wider world.

Jacob Zuma's visit to Morocco is not merely a political statement—it is a call to action.

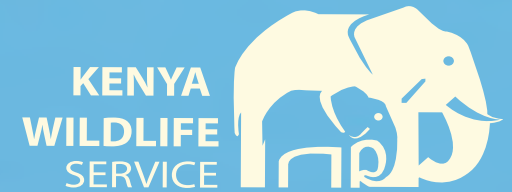
It challenges African leaders to move beyond the ideological deadlocks of the past and to embrace a shared future based on partnership, sovereignty, and justice.

The Moroccan Autonomy Plan is not just a policy document; it is a roadmap for the entire continent to follow.

As the international community continues to rally behind Morocco, and as more African voices join the chorus, the time has come for South Africa—and all of Africa—to recognize that unity must be built on truth, vision, and courageous leadership.



Former South African President Jacob Zuma






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France says Mali's arrest of embassy worker on coup charges 'unfounded'

Arrest of Yann Vezilier, accused of trying to destabilise Mali, marks new low in relations between Paris and Bamako.

Mali on "unfounded" charges of plotting a coup was a French embassy employee.

The Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that it was in talks with Bamako to "clear up any misunderstanding" and obtain the "immediate release" of Yann Vezilier, who had been arrested in recent weeks alongside two generals and other military personnel.

It added that the arrest of the French national was in violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Mali's security minister, General Daoud Aly Mohammedine, had announced Vezilier's arrest on Thursday, alleging that he had been working for the French intelligence services, mobilising "political leaders, civil society actors, and military personnel" to destabilise the country.

Mohammedine said that a full investigation into the alleged plot, which he said had been launched on August 1, was under way and that "the situation is completely under control".

The arrests followed a crackdown on

dissent following a pro-democracy rally in May, the first since the military government came to power after back-to-back coups in 2020 and 2021.

France's once close relationship with its former colony in West Africa's Sahel region has soured since soldiers seized power nearly four years ago. The military government, led by President Assimi Goita, has turned away from Western partners, notably former colonial power France, expelling its troops and turning to Russia for security assistance.

The country has since been gripped by a security crisis since 2012, fuelled notably by violence from groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and the ISIL (ISIS) group, as well as local criminal gangs.

In June, Goita was granted an additional five years in power, despite the military government's earlier promises of a return to civilian rule by March 2024. The move followed the military's dissolution of political parties in May.

Source: News Agencies



Mali's military leader, Assimi Goita, centre, broke a promise that the country would return to civilian rule by March 2024 [File: AP Photo]

Cambodia

Cambodia, Thailand urged to engage in dialogue, rebuild trust

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Thursday that Cambodia and Thailand are capable of managing their specific disputes and joining hands to address global challenges, adding that such moves would be welcomed by their peoples as well as regional countries.

Wang, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks while having a chat over tea with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn and Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa.

The talks were held on the sidelines of the two-day 10th Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting that opened on Thursday in Anning, Southwest China's Yunnan province.

According to a news release issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the foreign ministers of China, Cambodia and Thailand "had a friendly and candid communication over the conflict along the border between Cambodia and Thailand in a harmonious atmosphere", and they "agreed to keep communication channels open through a flexible approach".

Last month, a border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand escalated into intense fighting, resulting in casualties on both sides.

On Aug 7, during the Extraordinary Meeting of the Cambodia-Thailand General Border Committee, the two sides agreed to de-escalate tensions by reaching an understanding on the monitoring mechanism of a ceasefire and its follow-up arrangements.

Noting that Cambodia and Thailand will always be neighbors and brothers, Wang said the LMC foreign ministers' meeting provides an opportunity for the two countries to restore dialogue and improve relations, as neither of them wishes for the border conflict to continue.

It is hoped that the two countries will send out "the voice of Anning" in a city the name of which represents peace, goodwill and harmony, he said, adding that old grievances should always be resolved, not deepened.

Wang said that China supports Cambodia and Thailand in engaging in dialogue, clearing misunderstandings, rebuilding mutual trust and restoring normal exchanges and cooperation. He expressed Beijing's support for the two sides to fully implement the consensus reached on Aug 7 and consolidate the momentum of the ceasefire.

China supports the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in playing its due role in appropriately resolving the issues "through the ASEAN



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (center) poses for a photo with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn (left) and Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa on Thursday in Anning, Yunnan province. Feng yongbin/CHINA DAILY

Way", Wang said, noting that China also backs the two countries in addressing the needs of their peoples and reopening border crossings as soon as possible.

In light of the two countries' wishes, China is willing to provide support and assistance, including demining in the border areas, Wang added.

Sokhonn and Maris expressed their sincere gratitude to China for providing an opportunity for dialogue,

and they highly commended China's constructive role in easing tensions and promoting discussions.

The two sides emphasized the value of peace and the importance of good-neighborly relations, reaffirming their commitment to actively implement the ceasefire agreement and make full use of dialogue mechanisms to manage and resolve disputes peacefully.

Since the Cambodia-Thailand bor-

der conflict started, China — as their friendly neighbor — has actively made diplomatic efforts for de-escalation, including convening an informal three-way consultation in Shanghai on July 30.

For more visit China Daily

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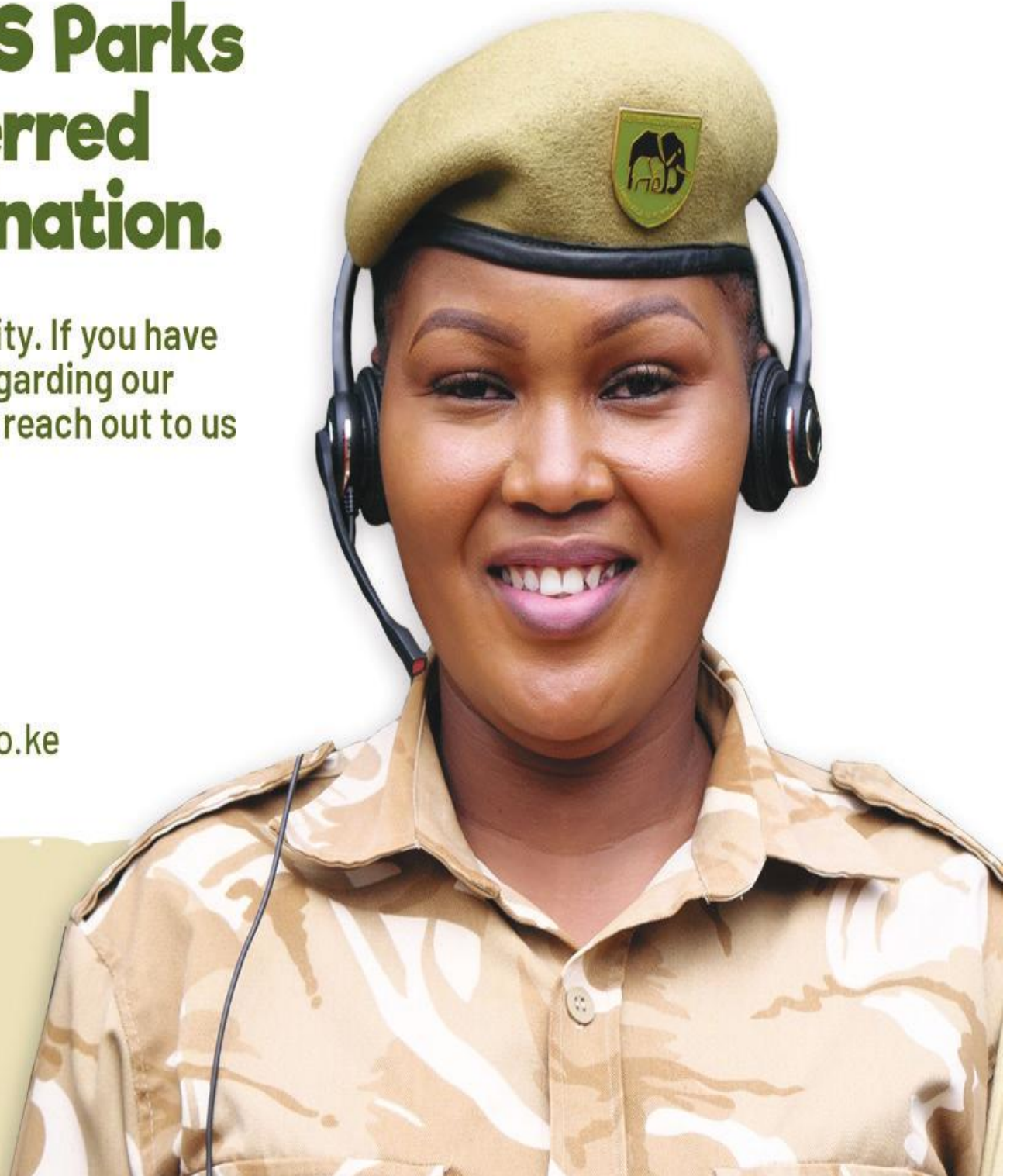
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Diaspora

Prose Writers Abdulla Kodiriy and Said Ahmad

This article discusses the strength of prose in the works of Abdulla Kodiriy and Said Ahmad, who made significant contributions to the development of Uzbek literature in the 20th century.



By: Normurodova Dilshoda
Jo'rayevna
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Abstract. This article discusses the strength of prose in the works of Abdulla Kodiriy and Said Ahmad, who made significant contributions to the development of Uzbek literature in the 20th century. It examines how their works, cherished in the hearts of our people, possess the charm of poetic expression, as well as the artistic beauty of language.

Keywords: literature, epic, prose, fiction, verse, narrative, novel, story, novella, poem, essay, feuilleton, memoir, short story, anecdote, ballad, prose poem.

Introduction. The 20th century saw the emergence of many notable authors in Uzbek literature. Their works not only found a place in the hearts of the Uzbek people but also resonated with readers from fraternal nations. The sharpness of their pen and the uniqueness of their style stand as vivid proof of this.

The term *adabiyot* (from Arabic *adab*) is derived from the word meaning "manners" or "etiquette." Morality is the core of a society's spiritual culture, and a reflection of a person's humanity. Ethics is the practice of spirituality, and spirituality itself is the awareness of one's identity. To study it is to polish the human heart. Literature channels the boundless waves of human emotion toward the creation of goodness.

Different nations have different names for literature. For example, in Russian, it is *literatura* (from Latin *litera* – letter), in German *Wortkunst* (word art), while in Uzbek and Tajik it is *adabiyot*. Regardless of the language, the term "literature" is used in three senses:

1. The collection of artistic, scientific, philosophical, and other works of a people or an era: Uzbek literature, ancient literature.
2. A branch of art that creates artistic imagery through words and language, along with the works created in this field: poetry, prose, drama.
3. Books related to a specific field or subject: political literature, books on literary studies, works dedicated to the fight against terrorism.

Thus, in its broad sense, the

term literature encompasses all written works, while in its narrow (professional, specialized) sense, it refers only to artistic works – novels, ghazals, epics, ballads, comedies, and the like.

In literature, prose and verse each have their own place. *Nasr* (Arabic for "support, victory") – prose – is a literary form that lacks the meter and rhyme characteristic of poetry. In European literature, prose emerged later than poetry. The *Orkhon-Enasoy* inscriptions (5th–8th centuries) are considered the earliest examples of prose in the literature of Turkic peoples. In the early 14th century, *Rabguzi's Kissasi Rabguzi*, *Navoi's Mahbub ul-qulub*, and especially the creation of *Baburnoma* revealed the main features of national prose in Uzbek literature.

Epic Works (Epos or Prose) – one of the main types of literary creativity. Artistic literature is the art of words,

and words serve as the primary material in prose as well. Prose can take the form of an unrhymed narrative, short story, essay, fairy tale, or novel. In such works, reality is depicted mainly through the author's narration, showing the actions and emotions of various characters involved in the events.

There is also another type of artistic work in which storytelling is combined with the expression of emotional attitudes. These are called *lyro-epic* works. This category includes several genres such as epics, ballads, verse novels, and fables.

Essay (ocherk, from Russian *chertit*, *ocherchivat* – to draw, outline, describe) is an artistic-publicistic genre that briefly, concisely, and cohesively depicts the main features of a specific real-life event or the essential traits of people's characters.

Feuilleton (from Italian

feuilleton – leaflet) is often a satirical genre that studies flaws existing in real life, exposing their social nature by portraying the faults of specific individuals who embody those flaws.

Memoir (from Arabic, meaning: 1) memory; 2) an impression remembered about someone or something; 3) name) is also a documentary genre. A memoir is not just the recounting of personal experiences, but rather a cohesive and impactful depiction of a significant event. Often, memoirs contain recollections about the life and creativity of a particular artist. These narratives are based on facts and evidence, requiring deep analysis and research. For example, *Habibulla Kodiriy's About My Father*, *Olmos's Tazim*, *Said Ahmad's What I Lost and Found*, *Zarifa Saidnosirova's My Oybek*, *Kibriyo Kahhorova's A Quarter of a Century Together*, and *Shukrullo's*

The Casket of Jewels help us better and more deeply understand the creative and human qualities of artists such as Abdulla Kodiriy, Gafur Gulom, Oybek, and Abdulla Qahhor. They allow us to grasp their characters more fully, enter the process of their creative work, learn about the creation of their famous works, and draw lessons and inspiring conclusions from their creative experiences.

Short Story (from Arabic, meaning: 1) an oral narrative, description; 2) a small prose work) – As *Izzat Sulton* rightly notes, a short story depicts an adventure larger in scope than an anecdote but smaller than a novella, often focusing on a single episode from a person's life.

Anecdote (from Arabic *latifa*, meaning delicate, pleasant, graceful) is the smallest and rarest form of "story" based on the sharp wit of the people. It is a brief prose



Prose Writers Abdulla Kodiriy

Worth Noting:

- **Epic Works (Epos or Prose)** – one of the main types of literary creativity. Artistic literature is the art of words, and words serve as the primary material in prose as well. Prose can take the form of an unrhymed narrative, short story, essay, fairy tale, or novel. In such works, reality is depicted mainly through the author's narration, showing the actions and emotions of various characters involved in the events.

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Diaspora

Prose Writers Abdulla Kodiriy and Said Ahmad

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By: Diaspora Times Team
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narrative of a humorous event, usually one episode, enriched with an amusing generalization, important idea, and vivid expression. If crafted with wit and skill, it remains long in memory. At the same time, anecdotes spread quickly from person to person, becoming more refined in the process.

Fable (from Arabic *masal*, meaning example) is an epic genre that expresses reality through allegorical and symbolic imagery, revealing aspects of real life and human character traits through irony, satire, humor, or anger. Regardless of whether it takes the form of a fable-story, fable-tale, fable-feuilleton, fable-pamphlet, or fable-epigram, it aims to deeply reveal the essence of life's phenomena and, in doing so, to guide people toward purity and goodness through moral and didactic lessons, advice, and guidance.

Ballad (from Greek *bala-*, later from French *baller*, meaning: 1) "to imitate a sound, e.g., a murmur"; 2) "to dance") – the key feature of this genre is an unexpected plot that ends with an unforeseen conclusion, dedicated to the dramatic expression of the hero's emotional and spiritual state. More precisely, a ballad is born when these two aspects – epic (story) and lyric (emotion) – merge into a discovery of both the era's and the heart's drama, becoming an outcry of the soul. In a ballad, the balance between epic depiction (as the leading element) and lyrical expression (as the inner emotional flow, secondary but essential) must not be disrupted; lyricism should live within the event itself. This is the fundamental law of this epic type.

Poem (from Greek *poiema* – creation) reveals life and the human soul through both epic (events) and lyric (feelings, emotions) modes. In a poem, epic and lyric elements are united to form a coherent lyro-epic stream, which uncovers, analyzes, and vividly expresses the spirit (soul) of real-life events and the strength of a character's nature.

Novella (from Russian,

meaning "story, narration") is characterized by "a life scope narrower than that of a novel but broader than that of a short story; accordingly, its plot and composition are simpler than in a novel but more complex than in a short story" (N. Hotamov, B. Sarimsoqov, p. 235). While a novel is required to present a holistic philosophical conception of the world, a novella suffices to resolve a part of this – an episode – through the fate of one or two characters.

Tale (from Arabic, meaning "an epic work recounting a real event or legend; a work whose plot is simpler than that of a novel") – one of the oldest genres, typically dominated by romantic themes. In literature, prose and poetry appear in harmonious combination. The main factor that reveals a writer's highest talent and ability is precisely the mutual influence of prose and poetry.

Prose Poem – poems in which lyrical emotions are expressed in prose form but with an impassioned rhythm resembling poetry. Under the influence of Nazim Hikmet, Mirtemir introduced this "prose" form into Uzbek poetry. A prose poem contains features of both prose and poetry, with the following main characteristics:

- absence of a specific meter or rhyme;
- dominance of symbolic imagery and strong conceptual generalization;
- high intensity of emotion and frequent rhetorical repetitions;
- unique rhythmic structure and frequent pauses (rests).

Beautiful examples of prose poetry in Uzbek literature can be found in the works of Fitrat, Oybek, Mirtemir, Omon Matjon, Ibrohim Gofurov, and Omon Muxtor.

In the field of prose, the works of Abdulla Kodiriy, Said Ahmad, Utkir Hoshimov, Chulpon, Pirimqul Kodirov, and other writers show a harmonious fusion of prose and poetry. In their creations, the inner experiences of the characters, their imaginative thoughts, and symbolic imagery are expressed with a vividness akin to that of a prose poem. In Abdulla Kodiriy's *O'tkan*



Said Ahmad (1920-2007)

kunlar (Bygone Days), we can see the powerful use of descriptive tools by this "poet of prose":

"Heavy in nature, tall and stately, handsome and fair-faced, well-proportioned with black eyes, harmonious black eyebrows, and a faintly sprouting mustache – such was the young man. The room itself, in its construction, furnishing, and ownership, was enough to attract attention. Sitting within, lost in some thought, was the young man – Otobek, the son of the well-known Tashkent notable, Yusufbek Hoji. When two men entered through the palace gate, one asked someone standing nearby: 'Is Otobek in this palace?' When they were shown the familiar room, they walked toward it." (O'tkan *kunlar*, p. 1)

This portrayal of Otobek demonstrates the sharpness of the author's words and his literary skill.

In Said Ahmad's *Jimjitlik* (Silence), the depth of his style is also evident:

"It is difficult when tears do not fall from a human's eyes. The pain burning in the heart is released with tears. Those who cannot cry out loud, whose tears will not fall, but who swallow their

sorrow – they fall ill from grief. That is why elders tell a person overcome with pain: 'Cry, free your heart.' There is much wisdom in this. Unfortunately, Tolibjon could not cry with tears. He wept silently, without a sound. It was this soundless weeping that broke Tolibjon. In just a few days, his jet-black hair turned as gray as a dove's feathers. Nervous illness is a terrible affliction. Tolibjon became unable to tolerate noise, unable to bear conversation. He thought and thought, and remembered his stepsister who remained in a distant village. Tolibjon had not seen her for many years. He did not know what her husband did for a living, nor how many children she had. Still, it was the village where he was born and raised." (Jimjitlik, p. 3)

In all his works, Said Ahmad stands out with his unique style. His writing gives great importance to the pursuit of justice and truth, and to speaking frankly. The emotional force of his works penetrates the heart like poetry.

a writer devotes their entire heart, strength, knowledge, talent, and ability to a work – whether a novel or a poem – the reader, under its influence, discovers yet another work. Even a short poem or brief story can attract the reader, broaden their worldview, increase their intellectual level, enrich their vocabulary, and teach them humaneness and the feelings of love and compassion. Indeed, poets and writers play a great role in this.

Termiz State University, Faculty of Uzbek Philology, Applied Philology direction, 2nd-year student Dilshoda Normurodova.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the 20th century – and perhaps even today – has a great need for such works. When

Writing Is The Highest Form Of Indiscipline

Today, our guest is the distinguished Azerbaijani writer, poet, prose author, and translator, member of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union, and recipient of the Nizami Ganjavi Award, Seyran Sakhavat.



By: Jakhongir NOMOZOV
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Seyran Sakhavat

Today, our guest is the distinguished Azerbaijani writer, poet, prose author, and translator, member of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union, and recipient of the Nizami Ganjavi Award, Seyran Sakhavat.

— As a writer who worked as a translator during the Soviet era, how did the na-

tion, culture, and spirit appear to you behind the text? How did translation shape you as a writer?

— You know, back then, everything seemed very clear, even if it was painful. It felt as though Azerbaijanis lived for others, worked for others. Deep down, it was as if this people were nurturing

someone else, not themselves. We carried an inner sense of incompleteness. Naturally, as children, we could not fully understand this. But as we grew older, we began to feel it, and with age, we realized that we were right.

Translation did not influence my writing. In fact, I think it could not have. Writing is a matter of character for me; it is part of who I am.

— Childhood can sometimes be the most sacred source for a writer. Which of your childhood memories have inspired your works into spiritual creations?

— There is the concept of autobiographical work. But for me, whatever a writer writes, in essence, they are writing themselves. Sometimes they write about their surroundings, their observations. A writer spends a lifetime writing themselves.

In geometry, there is a concept called "concentric." You throw a stone into a lake; a small circle forms where it lands, then that circle expands. The concentric center is where the stone falls—the starting point for a creative person. Childhood is that point where the stone is thrown. Larger circles feed from the smallest one. Childhood is the primary stage of human life.

From the moment of birth, a person experiences a unique event and never encounters a second one like it throughout life. Death is similar—irreproducible. Everything between birth and death is repetition.

— What is most important for a writer: to write for the contemporary era, or to leave a mark in history?

— A writer should bow their head and do their work. Time will put everything in place. Even the contemporary will one day become history. The question is how you present it.

— Your novel *Stone Houses* was published multiple times. What motivated the need to rewrite or expand this work?

— The novel was published three times. At the time, it was a bestseller. The first edition came out during the Soviet era and was reduced by about 200 pages. When it was republished the second time, the Soviet Union still existed, but was nearing collapse. At that time, we republished the work in a slightly more open form. Later, it was also published in Russian. Readers, especially my contemporaries, loved this novel very much.

— Do you feel that writing is a moral service?

— I generally dislike the word "service." It is an unfair invention. For example, a singer performs for forty years and says, "I have served my people." That is incorrect. I have been writing for over sixty years, given thousands of interviews, yet I have never said, "I served my people." Whoever says that is lying. Everyone, in truth, serves themselves. If you go to a wedding to sing and take money for it—that is not service to the people.

People owe nothing to society, and society owes nothing to the individual. But sometimes both—the individual and society—contribute to each other's good. Declaring, "I will serve my people," is meaningless. That concept does not exist for me.

Once on a television show, we were discussing moral duty. The host scrutinized the matter so much that I got scared. I said, "Girl, don't tell me we are buried in debt up to our necks." There is no such thing as debt. There is communication, humanity. If you care for your parents, it is not duty—it is human nature.

— In today's globalized society, how should a writer protect their nationality?

— All of humanity is not on the right path. Our path is circular. Humanity has already experienced globalization once—in the era of primitive communities. Now we are revisiting that circle and returning to the starting point. It is a natural process and cannot be stopped. Will you ride a tank to protect your nationality? It is difficult.

— So, time rotates, and humanity returns to its origin. Is that correct?

— Yes. Wherever we started, we will return. We came from the earth, and to the earth we shall return. We go to work, and in the evening return home. The essence of our movement is return. Humanity's mother also gave birth to humans to return.

— You have served literature since 1962. What differences do you feel between the day

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Contd Page 23

Worth Noting:

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Contd from Page 22

you wrote your first verse and today?

— I don't remember the day I wrote my first verse. Someone once asked me this. You can't expect Seyran Sakhavat to remember his own birthday either... it's impossible.

— In many of your works, the motifs of human and time, spirituality and oblivion are reflected. What moral responsibility does today's writer carry?

— A writer bears no responsibility to anyone. Perhaps, it is the opposite—all humanity bears responsibility to the writer. A writer is not accountable to any head of state. On the contrary, leaders are responsible to those who wield words. Where there is conscience and justice, responsibility is already present. It is like a falcon. For a person who lives with conscience, responsibility is an inherent concept.

— In Sufism, it is said that "silence is higher than words." What is your philosophical perspective on the boundary between silence and speech?

— In the past, when people dug wells, they would stop when water appeared, because they did not need more. Rarely do words arise from silence. If we take one hour as a unit of measure, perhaps only half a minute becomes words; the remaining fifty-nine minutes are in the air. I am a realist; I prefer things that can be touched. I trust my eyes more than my ears. When I listen to music, I trust my ears, but overall, I rely on my eyes.

— You have had a literary career spanning over 60 years. How have creative discipline, patience, and thought developed over this period? What are your views on the labor of knowledge and creative dedication?

— Writing itself is the highest form of indiscipline. Only a tiny fraction of humanity engages in writing in this way. That means you are different. I have never lived by the notion of discipline. A writer sets their own rhythm. Some say, "I write on a plane," others say, "I write an hour a day." That is impossible. Even when you take a portrait, that image is not you. At that moment, you were someone else.

A woman once asked Victor Hugo, "Are you Victor Hugo?" He replied, "Sometimes, occasionally."

Our singer Yagub Mammadov may have spent ten percent of his life singing a single segah. If he sang it daily, he would have died long ago. A writer cannot write whenever they want. Once writing becomes a habit, it loses significance.

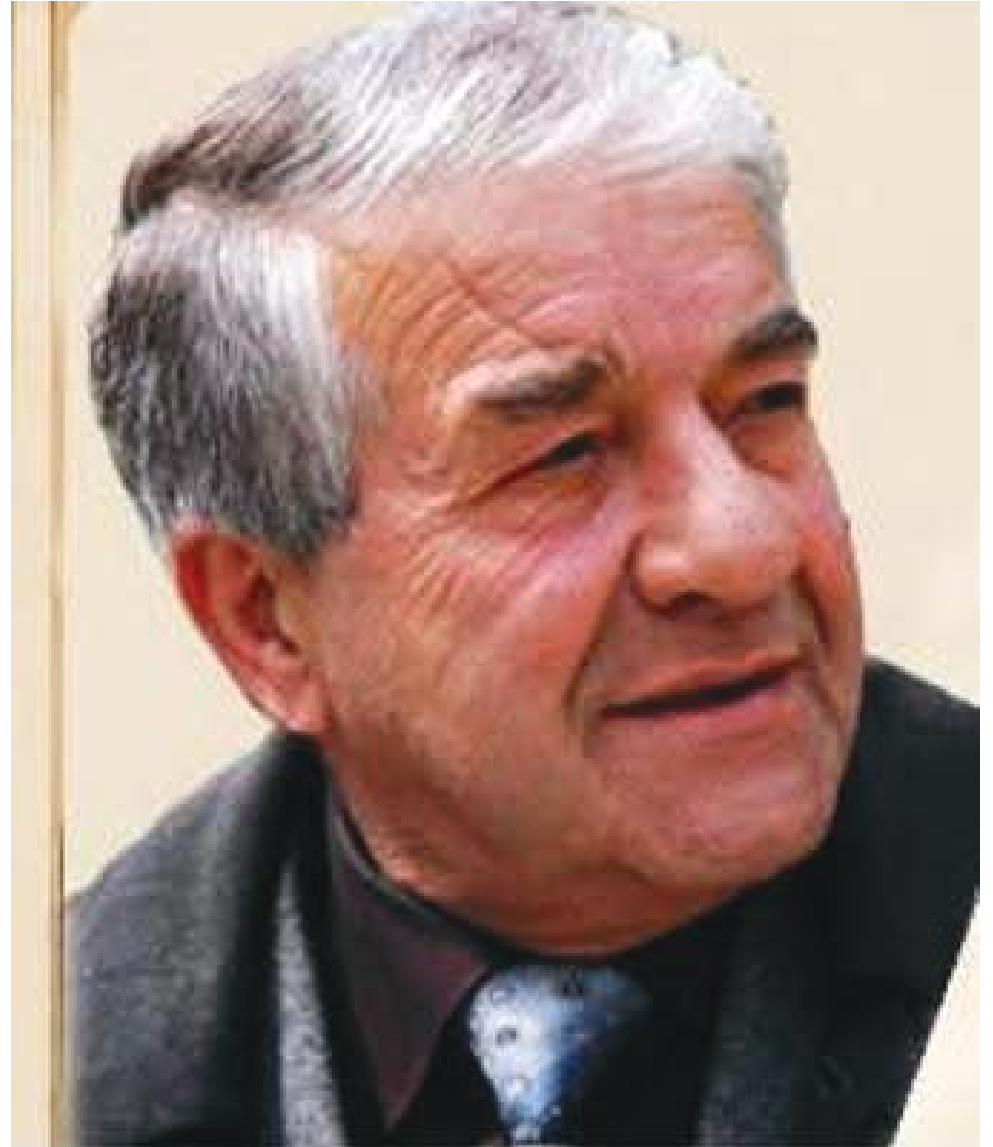
— As a writer who has lived at the intersection of Azerbaijani and Persian cultures, what connections do you see between the two peoples?

— Culture is a universal concept, and its author is human. Cultures cannot be compared. You cannot compare two talented people—talent either exists or it does not. Culture is created by the chosen individuals of all peoples.

— You have written numerous works and received awards. But as a human being, what has been Seyran Sakhavat's heart's desire—and has this desire been realized through creativity?

— Creativity is not about achieving what you want in life. Now I sit in my room, looking at portraits of my father and mother. I say, "Oh God, what wonderful parents I had." Sometimes I also say, "I could not reach you... my hands did not reach." When I achieve something, you are no longer there. If possible, forgive me. If not, you have the right to forgive. Why did I not grow up faster, so that you could have reached some of what I reached?

Jakhongir NOMOZOV, is a young poet and journalist from Uzbekistan. He is also a Member of the Union of Journalists of Azerbaijan and the World Young Turkic Writers Union.



Seyran Sakhavat



Worth Noting:

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China's industrial production posts steady 5.7pc year-on-year growth

China's industrial production maintained its solid growth momentum in July, with value-added output from major industrial enterprises rising 5.7 percent year-on-year and 0.38 percent month-on-month, driven by strong performances in equipment manufacturing and high-tech sectors, which expanded by 8.4 percent and 9.3 percent respectively, official data showed on Friday.

Figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics showed that China's industrial output, which includes manufacturing, mining and utilities, rose 5.7 percent year-on-year in July, following a 6.8 percent increase in June.

Retail sales, a key measure of consumer spending, grew 3.7 percent year-on-year in July compared to a 4.8 percent rise in June.

Fixed-asset investment rose by 1.6 percent during the January-July period, compared to a 2.8 percent rise in the first half of the previous year. The surveyed urban unemployment rate stood at 5.2 percent in July, up from 5 percent in June, according to the NBS.

The NBS highlighted that the data reflects China's steady economic momentum, demonstrating significant resilience and vitality despite



the complex and volatile external environment and the adverse impacts of extreme domestic weather conditions.

Recognizing that challenges and risks persist in the external environment, the NBS reaffirmed its commitment to promoting the effective

implementation of policies aimed at maintaining stability in employment, business activity, markets and expectations.

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Young Science Talent

China rolls out new visa category for young science talent

China announced on Thursday that it will introduce a new type of visa — a K visa — for young foreign talent in science and technology.

The new visa type was unveiled after Premier Li Qiang signed a State Council decree to promulgate a decision amending the country's regulations on the administration of foreigners' entries and exits.

The decision came as China puts a greater emphasis on building a more proactive, open and effective talent policy.

The K visa is a new addition to the ordinary visa categories and the new rules will take effect on Oct 1, according to the decision, which was drafted by the Ministry of Justice, along with the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Public Security and the National Immigration Administration.

Applicants for the K visa should be young international professionals in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics who have earned a bachelor's degree or

higher from prestigious universities or research institutions. In addition, it will be available to individuals involved in educational or research activities at prestigious universities or research institutions, according to a joint statement released by the four departments on Thursday night.

K visa holders are permitted to engage in activities in fields such as education, science and technology, and cultural exchanges, according to the joint statement.

Multiple entries

Before this addition, there were 12 visa types classified based on the purposes of visiting China, including the L visa for sightseeing and tourism, the D visa for permanent residence and the G visa for transit through the country.

Compared with other visa types, the K visa will offer holders more convenience in terms of the number of entries, validity period and duration of stay. The eligibility criteria for the K



visa are set based on applicants' age, educational background and work experience, without requiring them to have an employer or inviting organization within China, according to the statement.

The application process for this visa is designed to be more convenient,

streamlining the steps for eligible applicants, it added.

The Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Public Security, along with embassies and consulates abroad, will step up collaboration in management of the issuance, extension, renewal and replacement of K visas,

as well as the residence and stay of K visa holders. They will provide appropriate assistance to applicants and holders of K visas in accordance with the law, the statement said.

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