



ASIAN JOURNAL

Volume: 15, Issue: 35 | Ph: 604-507-8009, Fax: 1-855-796-3342 | Email: connect@asianjournal.ca, www.asianjournal.ca

Aamir Khan locks his next project, sets Christmas 2024 as release date Page 26

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B.C. PREMIER EBY WRITES TO BANK OF CANADA GOVERNOR, URGING HIM TO HALT RATE HIKES

Victoria: British Columbia Premier David Eby has called on the Bank of Canada to halt further interest rate hikes, saying people are "hurting," and another rate increase next month might worsen, and not reduce, inflation.

In a letter Thursday to Bank of Canada governor Tiff Macklem, Eby urged him to consider the "human impact" of rate hikes, which the bank has employed as an anti-inflationary measure, before making a decision next Wednesday.

Asked why he reached out to Macklem when the Bank of Canada is an independent entity, Eby said he's hearing every day from B.C. residents "crushed by the cost of daily life," and it's his job to speak up for them.

"I think it is critically important to go on the record? to point out to the Bank of Canada that Statistics Canada is saying that the biggest driver of inflation in our country right now is rising mortgage rates," Eby said Thursday during an unrelated press conference.



Eby acknowledged that he is the first premier to raise the issue with the Bank of Canada and said he also wrote to the federal government to suggest ways they could "work together to bring down costs that don't involve inflicting this kind of pain on families." He highlighted the effects of rising rates on housing in particular, saying much-needed rental housing projects are being put on hold as a result. "We need all hands on deck to deal with the housing cri-

sis and rising rents," he said. "We need to build a lot of housing, we need to keep the cost of housing down to address inflation."

The Bank of Canada had raised rates 10 times since March last year, with the current lending rate at five per cent, the highest in 22 years, Eby's letter said.

"People in B.C. are already hurting," he wrote. "In your role as governor, I urge you to consider the full human impact of rate increases and not further increase rates at this time."

Jagmeet Singh, the federal New Democrat leader, was asked about Eby's letter and said Thursday that he shares the premier's concerns.

"The Bank of Canada increasing interest rates has not improved the material conditions of Canadians," Singh said during a stop in Sooke, B.C., as part of a summer cost-of-living listening tour.

Grocery prices are a major factor in the rising cost of living and "no domestic interest rate is going to bring down the

price of groceries," he said.

The rate hikes have meanwhile made housing even more expensive, he said.

It's harder for developers to build more homes, rents are increasing, and people with mortgages are fearful when they come up for renewal, said Singh.

Sean Gordon, a Bank of Canada media relations consultant, said in a statement the bank has no comment on Eby's letter "as we are currently in the blackout period ahead of our next interest rate decision."

The Bank of Canada announces its key policy decision, the setting of interest rates, eight times a year.

Members of the bank's Governing Council observe a blackout no-comment period around the time of the decisions, says the bank's website.

Eby also wrote Thursday to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau calling for a targeted approach to fighting inflation, focusing on housing and infrastructure improvements.

The letter to Trudeau said a focus on such key sectors will

have long-term anti-inflationary benefits while growing the economy and improving productivity.

"There are other ways for us to achieve cost stability, but they do require diligence and co-ordination," said the premier's letter to Trudeau. "The time is overdue for such an effort. Ahead of September's rate decisions, I suggest a robust and targeted approach focused on the largest contributors to inflation."

Eby's letter to Macklem said "unnecessary" further interest rate increases pose a danger not just to homeowners looking to renew mortgages but to renters, students, seniors, families and small business owners looking to pay bills, just as they start to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Wal van Lierop, a Vancouver-based venture capitalist, said further interest rate increases would hit most Canadians and affect future growth and investment plans of businesses and governments.

By Dirk Meissner
The Canadian Press

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Universities pull course info from public sites for safety, faculty want more say

Several Ontario universities are removing course location and other information from their public websites as a safety measure, as faculty representatives look to be more involved in efforts to prevent harassment and hate crimes on campus.

The move to pull some information from public pages comes after a triple stabbing at a University of Waterloo gender studies class in June, which police described as a hate-motivated attack.

The school removed class locations and instructor names from its public websites after the stabbing and several other post-secondary institutions have either done the same or are considering the measure. In Toronto, York University and the University of Toronto said they were taking down course room locations from the public domain, while Toronto Metropolitan University said it does not publicly post any class scheduling information.

"Based on consultations this summer and with security in mind, room information has been removed from the University's publicly avail-



able undergraduate timetable builder tool. Given the size of our campuses, buildings continue to be identified to help students plan their schedules to account for travel time between classes," a spokesperson for the University of Toronto wrote in a statement. The University of Guelph, meanwhile, said it is in the process of removing identifying information such as room locations and instructor names from public web pages.

"Community members will also be encouraged to access the university's training and resources around fostering safe and inclusive spaces in-

cluding anti-oppression and anti-racism training, sexual and gender-based violence training and our positive spaces project," Deirdre Healey, a spokesperson for U of G, said in a statement.

McMaster University in Hamilton said course instructor names are not visible to the public while course room numbers and locations for all classes in the gender and social justice program have been removed from public pages.

"Any instructor from other departments may make a similar request," the university wrote in a statement.

Western, Queen's, Carleton, Trent and Laurier universities

all said they were reviewing current safety practices, including considering the removal of certain information from public domain.

"We are consulting with our faculties and security experts about safety and security measures in place on our campus and carefully considering additional enhancements," Western's statement said.

The University of Waterloo attack that injured a professor and two students prompted wider discussions about campus security, threats and harassment.

The president of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, which represents 17,000 university faculty and academic librarians, says safety consultations must involve faculty members and marginalized groups who experience online threats and harassment firsthand.

Nigmendra Narain says racist, anti-feminist, anti-LGBTQ and other hate-motivated online extremism is being seen on university campuses and classes that explore social and gender issues.

"These classes themselves

have become a lightning rod in terms of hate and online extremism, in particular," Narain said.

Narain said faculty, staff, students and members of equity-deserving groups who are most targeted have first-hand knowledge to contribute to conversations around underlying issues of extremism and targeted hate crimes on campus.

"We need to have a better and broader conversation about campus safety overall, to protect the mission of the university which is to discuss, talk, collaborate, do research and give students a strong learning environment.

"Staff and faculty associations have an important role to play here," said Narain, who is also a professor at Western. "They understand and get information from their faculty members as to what are the issues that they are facing."

While removing course information from public-facing websites is a good start, Narain said more "robust solutions" are needed, including increased funding for universities in general, including for safety programs.



AgSafe is the non-profit health and safety association for agriculture in British Columbia. AgSafe provides site-specific safety education, consultation and materials, as well as online workplace safety resources.

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Canadian Armed Forces doing away with mandatory duty to report policy

Ottawa: The Canadian Armed Forces will end its “inflexible and inhuman” mandatory reporting policy this winter, its chief of professional conduct and culture said on Wednesday. Lt.-Gen. Jennie Carignan said military members will still be able to report misconduct, but they will no longer face possible penalties for failing to report something they experience or witness. “The repeal of duty to report will not limit a member’s ability to report incidents,” she said. “The intention is to remove the obligation to report.” The change is meant “to create space for members to exercise discretion” when it comes to incidents of an interpersonal nature. “In many cases (the duty to report) has caused survivors additional harm by taking away their agency and control over the reporting process,” Carignan said. Carignan said there have been lengthy discussions and consultations aimed at ensuring the changes don’t inadvertently make things worse. “I’m absolutely convinced that we have the solution now, and much more comfortable implementing than maybe I was a year ago,” she said. Repealing the duty to report was one of the 48 recommendations made by former Supreme Court justice Louise Arbour in her May 2022 review of military culture. The current rules state that



Armed Forces members must “report to the proper authority any infringement of the pertinent statutes, regulations, rules, orders and instructions governing the conduct of any person subject to the Code of Service Discipline.” This was first implemented in the 1930s. In 2015, in response to a separate report on sexual misconduct that found victims under-reported incidents because of a fear of reprisal and mistrust of the investigation process, the military re-emphasized that its members are obligated to report incidents. Arbour noted that subsequent reports by the auditor general in 2018 and by a House of Commons committee in 2019 found that

the rules needed clarity, but that attempts to create change fell short. “Failing to report sexual misconduct did not come from any notion that reporting was optional quite the opposite,” Arbour wrote. “The factors causing under-reporting were well-documented. Even worse, it rapidly became apparent that this new order not only did nothing to fix the problem of under-reporting, it instead created its own set of problems.” She found that the duty to report was not being enforced – just four charges had been laid since 1999 related to failing to report sexual misconduct – and that CAF members widely said they would not report such incidents against the victim’s wishes. But she found victims were sometimes uncertain if they could confide in someone else, including health-care providers and chaplains, without triggering their duty to report. The provision “creates considerable fear and anguish, and has obviously never achieved its intended purpose of ensuring an appropriate response to sexual misconduct by the chain of command,” Arbour wrote, in concluding that the duty to report should be abolished when it comes to sexual misconduct.

By Sarah Ritchie
The Canadian Press

Canadian Food Inspection Agency recalls more than 20 brands of energy drinks

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is expanding its recall of energy drinks to include more than 20 brands. The agency began recalling the drinks in July because they do not comply with various caffeine content and bilingual labelling requirements. Sonic the Hedgehog, Toxic Rick and Liquid Rage are among the brands added to the list in recent days. Other caffeinated energy drinks, including Monster and Prime, were part of previous recall notices. Tuesday’s notice says people



should not consume, serve or sell the recalled drinks. Health Canada warns that high

levels of caffeine may have adverse health effects, especially for children, people who are pregnant or breastfeeding, people who are sensitive to caffeine and people who are exercising while consuming it. It says side effects of caffeine can include insomnia, irritability, headaches and nervousness. The recall notice says there have been no reported illnesses from the energy drinks. A list of the problematic energy drinks is on the Government of Canada’s recalls and safety alerts website.

Less than one in five federally funded EV charging stations are operational: new data



Ottawa: Two different federal infrastructure programs have provided funding for more than 43,000 electric vehicle chargers since 2016, but fewer than one in five of them are actually operational, new data show. The information provided by Natural Resources Canada came as Energy Minister Jonathan Wilkinson visited Quebec City Wednesday to announce another \$25 million to fund 1,500 EV chargers in Quebec. That announcement is the latest in a constant stream of EV charging announcements in local communities across Canada, as the government aims to help build 84,500 chargers by 2029. Natural Resources Canada launched an initial program to fund up to half the cost of installing public fast EV chargers, natural gas stations and hydrogen refuelling centres in 2016. Three years later, it introduced a second program expanding the scope to include additional types of chargers. Data supplied by the department upon request say 43,046 chargers have been funded through both programs, but only 7,644 are working. The first program, which ended in 2020, provided funding for 1,096 EV chargers, and almost 20 per cent are still not operational. It also funded 22 natural gas stations and 15 hydrogen stations, with about 40 per cent of each yet to begin working.

By Mia Rabson
The Canadian Press

‘Persistent’ bears force 160 firefighters to pull out of B.C. Interior camp

Gold Bridge: About 160 firefighters battling a blaze in the British Columbia Interior have had to pull out of their camp after they were subjected to what the BC Wildfire Service calls “persistent bear activity.” The wildfire service says the bears threatened the safety of staff “within and around” the camp near Gold Bridge, about 100 kilometres west of Lillooet, prompting the decision to quit the camp Wednesday evening. It says conservation officers are “assessing and advising” on plans to safely return the firefighters to continue their battle against the Downton Lake wildfire. Scavenging bears have been a problem in other B.C. wildfire zones, with authorities in the Shuswap region in the Interior collecting refuse and refrigerators in hopes of keeping the animals at bay.

B.C. posts \$704 million budget surplus after multi billion dollar swings in forecasts

Victoria: British Columbia finished last fiscal year \$700 million in the black, after forecasts swung between multi-billion-dollar deficits and surpluses.

Finance Minister Karine Conroy said despite global uncertainty and inflation the province's bottom line showed a surplus due to economic and job growth and increased revenue from income taxes and natural resources.

She acknowledged the government's forecasts for 2022-2023 had been on an up-and-down ride for the past two years. A \$5.5-billion deficit was predicted in February last year, before that was revised to a surplus of almost \$6 billion, then downgraded to a \$3.6-billion surplus.

The final audited public accounts for the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023, released Wednesday, show a surplus of \$704 million.

Conroy had forecast three years of consecutive deficits last March, with the current 2023-2024 budget projected to bring a deficit of \$4.2 billion.

The minister said the government's most recent financial data will be released next month during a quarterly update.

"At that time, I'll be talking to you about some of the challenges



B.C. continues to face, including our record wildfire season, global inflation, higher interest rates and slower global economic growth," Conroy said. "We know the challenges are not over. There are more to come. The brutal wildfire season is a reminder of that."

She said the audited public accounts show B.C.'s economy grew by 3.6 per cent, tied for fourth highest among the provinces and equal to Canada's national growth.

The province's debt had been reduced from \$90.6 billion to \$89.4 billion and operating debt had been "eliminated," said Conroy.

She said provincial revenue was almost \$13 billion, with the government spending \$7.8 billion on targeted investments to reduce costs for people and strengthen long-term services.

"What's the alternative, to make cuts and not

support people?" Conroy said. "We're just not going to do that."

Additional spending included \$1.5 billion in cost-of-living supports, \$1.23 billion in housing initiatives and \$1.5 billion on contract settlements for public service employees, she said.

Conroy said the public accounts represent a "high-level view" of how B.C. ended the year. The government also spent \$6.8 billion on infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, hospitals and schools, said Conroy, adding supply chain issues and labour shortages continue to affect some projects.

"We know it's people who build our province," said Conroy, adding government investments in infrastructure, as well as health and climate initiatives, make the economy "stronger and more resilient."

By Dirk Meissner
The Canadian Press

Canada's first case of new COVID variant is detected in B.C.

The BC Centre for Disease Control has detected Canada's first known case of a new COVID-19 variant that has swiftly circled the globe, in what one expert says is a reminder the virus never went away.

The centre said the BA. 2.86 variant of the Omicron strain was identified in a person from the Fraser Health region who hadn't recently been outside the province.

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister of Health Adrian Dix said in a joint statement that there doesn't seem to be increased severity with the strain and the infected individual is not in hospital.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control says the new strain may be more capable of infecting people who have previously had COVID-19 or have received COVID-19 vaccines, compared to previous strains.

The World Health Organization says it's monitoring the variant due to its large number of mutations. It was first detected in Denmark on July 24, and has since turned up in Israel, South Africa, Britain and the U.S.

Dr. Brian Conway, an infectious diseases specialist and medical director of the Vancou-

ver Infectious Diseases Centre, said in an interview Thursday that the variant has likely been in circulation for weeks if not months.

"It's the evolution of COVID," he said. "It doesn't surprise me."

Conway said BA. 2.86 may not cause more severe illness but transmits more easily than other strains of the disease.

"That's why new variants emerge and take over, they just crowd out the old variant," he said.

A new vaccine, he said, will be the most important way to protect against new variants, adding that it's a reminder that "COVID never went away completely."

COVID-19 is still killing roughly four people a day in Canada, Conway said, pointing to Health Canada data showing 30 COVID-related deaths in the past week.

Conway said as fall approaches and people spend more time indoors and viruses replicate more easily, "we should, be prepared for an increase in COVID illness, COVID hospitalization and COVID mortality."

"To me the new variant is just a reminder that COVID is still around," he said.

Henry and Dix also said

it wasn't unexpected for the strain to show up in B.C. and Canada, and the risk to people in B.C. "has not changed."

"COVID-19 continues to spread globally, and the virus continues to adapt," they said.

"Reducing transmission and having high levels of protection through vaccination continue to be our best defence against all variants of COVID-19."

They said people should "stay home when sick, wear masks when appropriate, follow respiratory etiquette, wash hands frequently and, most importantly, stay up to date on your vaccinations."

Their statement said the detection of the variant reflected ongoing data monitoring and surveillance in B.C., including testing of people with COVID-19 symptoms and "innovative new wastewater surveillance."

"The latest wastewater surveillance with whole genome sequencing shows no other detections of this strain of the virus so far," it said.

The XBB 1.5 strain was still the most common subvariant reported in B.C., the statement said.

By Darryl Greer
The Canadian Press

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Man in mass stabbing at B.C. library gets life sentence with no parole for 15 years

New Westminster: A Crown attorney says the motives behind a deadly mass stabbing at a library in North Vancouver, B.C., two years ago may never be known, after the man who wielded the knife was handed a life term with no chance of parole for 15 years.

Yannick Bandaogo's attack at the Lynn Valley public library left one woman dead and several other people with permanent injuries. On Thursday, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Geoffrey R.J. Gaul said Bandaogo had acted in "murderous rage," as he handed down the mandatory life sentence for second-degree murder.

Bandaogo, 30, was also sentenced to an eight-year prison term for each of six attempted murder charges, as well as a three-year term for one count of aggravated assault. All terms are to be served concurrently, Gaul said.



The non-parole period of 15 years matched the amount jointly suggested by prosecutors and Bandaogo's defence. Second-degree murder carries a life term, with a non-parole period of 10 to 25 years.

Prosecutor Daniel Loucks said outside court that he hoped the sentencing brought some closure for victims, families and the community.

"In a senseless crime like this, it's difficult or impossible to make sense of it," Loucks said. "That is at the heart of this particular

matter. "Getting an answer to that is something which the media has wondered about — I know the victims have wondered about — and unfortunately, an answer is not forthcoming and isn't available to us."

During sentencing, conducted in French, Gaul sharply rebuked Bandaogo for his "irreversible" actions.

"During your murderous rage on March 27, 2021, you caused the death of (the murder victim), a young woman who had her life in

front of her," Gaul told Bandaogo. "Then you caused a number of serious injuries and severe psychological trauma to others."

Neither the murdered woman nor her relatives can be named because of a publication ban.

Bandaogo, who appeared at the sentencing in a red jumpsuit and did not speak during Thursday's proceedings, did not know his victims and has offered no explanation of his motives.

Defence lawyer Georges Rivard said Thursday that his client "accepted his responsibility" in the attack, although Bandaogo himself cannot explain why he did it.

"It's a tragic case," Rivard said. "And it's come to a conclusion. Whether or not people find closure, I can't comment on that. It remains something very tragic."

By Chuck Chiang
The Canadian Press

'Persistent' bears force 160 firefighters to pull out of B.C. Interior camp

Gold Bridge: About 160 firefighters battling a blaze in British Columbia's Interior have pulled out of their camp after they were subjected to what the BC Wildfire Service calls "persistent bear activity."

The service says the bears threatened the safety of personnel "within and around" the camp near Gold Bridge, about 100 kilometres west of Lillooet, B.C., prompting the decision to move everyone Wednesday evening.

Nic Kokolski, an information officer with the service, says the animals had been moving around tents and other camp infrastructure.

Kokolski says no one has been injured and no animals have been harmed, but conservation authorities felt it would be safest if the firefighters left the

area.

A social media post by the wildfire service says its personnel are being hosted at T'it'q'et First Nation and Lillooet municipal facilities for the time being.

It says conservation officers have been "assessing and advising" on plans to safely return crews as they battle the Downton Lake wildfire.

Scavenging bears have been a problem in other B.C. wildfire zones, with authorities in the Shuswap region in the Interior collecting refuse and refrigerators in hopes of keeping the animals at bay.

The Downton Lake fire has scorched 95 square kilometres of land and prompted evacuation orders and alerts.

The wildfire service says the fire's activity remains low after rain fell in the area.

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Face ਚਿਹਰਾ: ਕੀ ਚਿਹਰਾ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਢਿਲਕ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ?

Arms ਬਾਹਵਾਂ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਬਾਹਵਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਨੂੰ ਚੁੱਕ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ?

Speech ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਅਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ?

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'Had his whole future in front of him': Inquest into death of disabled teen begins

Toronto: In the aftermath of Samuel Brown's sudden death, a coroner said an autopsy wasn't necessary for the Ontario teen because he had disabilities, his mother told jurors at an inquest that began Monday.



Despite only 12 hours passing between the family getting a call from the school for blind children Brown attended, indicating he was slightly unwell, and the teen being pronounced dead in hospital, Andrea Brown said she and her husband were told to consider their son's disabilities. "(The coroner) said 'We don't have to do an autopsy,' and I said 'Pardon me.' He said, 'You don't have to do an autopsy because he was born with a chromosome deletion,'" Brown said, fighting back tears.

"The coroner said ... I must remember that he was a kid with a disability. I said 'Yes, I remember that because I was the one who gave birth to him.'"

Samuel Brown, who was born with a genetic condition that left him blind, deaf and non-verbal, died five years

ago at the age of 18 while attending the W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind in Brantford, Ont.

His family has said he was in good health the weekend before he died and have said medical officials reached conflicting conclusions about his cause of death.

The inquest that began Monday will examine the circumstances around Brown's death, look at the heightened risks he faced when it came to food and liquid entering his airway, explore safeguards to respond to those risks and analyze the school's policies for students with barriers to communicating their needs

and symptoms.

Brown began attending W. Ross Macdonald, the province's only dedicated school for the blind and deafblind, at the age of four and experienced no problems for most of his tenure, other than occasional visits to the hospital for minor illnesses while lodging there during the week, the inquest heard.

Andrea Brown said she heard no reports of illness until the evening of Feb. 8, 2018, when a staff member called to say her son was "a bit fussy" and unwilling to get up for dinner. The lack of urgency in the caller's voice indicated to her that the situation was

not a major concern, she testified.

The next morning, she received another call that her son had been taken to hospital because he was unresponsive. It wasn't until the parents got to the hospital themselves that they learned their son had died, she said. The Browns said the investigating coroner produced a report saying their son had died of natural causes.

In an attempt to get more answers, the family pushed for an autopsy, which was eventually carried out and concluded that Samuel Brown died of pneumonia—a finding his mother said only deepened the family's confusion. Inquest counsel Maria Stevens said an area the inquest will explore is how cause of death statements are framed when disability is a factor.

Andrea Brown also told the inquest about an ambulance call report, which will be examined in more detail later in the inquest, that stated school staff were doing hourly checks on Samuel the night before he died because he was reported to have "laboured

breathing" and was "sick and lethargic" all evening.

She said she was not told of those details that night, despite calling and leaving a voice message that went unanswered.

She stressed that Samuel's disabilities and medical conditions did not prevent him from living a full, happy life and being loved by the community around him.

Sometimes, she said, Samuel would just sit, cross his legs and laugh and smile "enjoying every minute."

"Samuel taught you how to love, how to care, how to be patient ... Samuel was a teacher in his own ways of not speaking or (being) visually blind or not hearing," she said. "He had his whole future in front of him."

The inquest is expected to hear from a number of witnesses over 10 days, including school staff, the pathologist who conducted a post-mortem examination of his body and an expert on medical ableism.

The Canadian Press

Ottawa man faces dozens of charges after 28 handguns found in Toronto hotel room



An Ottawa man is facing more than 130 charges after police seized 28 handguns from a Toronto hotel room.

Toronto police say cleaning staff reported finding three guns at the hotel near Don Mills and York Mills roads on Aug. 21.

Police say a search warrant executed the same day found 25 prohibited handguns and three restricted handguns in the room, as well as over-capacity gun magazines.

A 30-year-old man is facing 136 charges and all but one of them are for firearms-related offences.

Supt. Steve Watts of the Organized Crime Enforcement unit says a portion of the handguns has been traced to the

southern United States. Watts says police are investigating the handguns' intended destination in Toronto and the possible involvement of

organized crime. He commended the hotel staff for tipping police off about the guns, which he says were otherwise destined to cause harm.

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Ongoing cost of living crisis should trigger another housing benefit payment: Singh

Ottawa: The federal government needs to issue another \$500 benefit payment for low-income families struggling to keep a roof over their heads, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh said on Thursday.

Singh was in Sooke, B.C., on a cross-country summer tour where the national housing crisis and ongoing anxiety about the cost of living is taking centre stage.

In an interview, he said the federal Liberals have done an "abysmal" job dealing with the housing crisis and he intends to make the upcoming fall sitting of Parliament all about getting more housing built.

"They're a failure," he said bluntly of the Liberals.

He said the NDP have a long list of policies they want the government to implement, but chief among them is a second top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit targeting low-income Canadians who spend more than a third of their income on rent.

The first \$500 top-up, which was announced in September 2022 alongside a temporary boost to the GST rebate, was rolled out just before Christmas.

The government budgeted \$475 million for the program. Statistics reported by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. say 815,190 individuals and families applied for the benefit for a total cost of \$402 million.

The one-time housing benefit payment was among the items in the supply-and-confidence

agreement reached between the Liberals and NDP in March 2022. The agreement lists policy items the two will collaborate on in exchange for the NDP supporting the Liberals on key votes to prevent the minority government from being defeated.

The agreement says the government should consider a second round of the housing benefit payment if cost-of-living issues continue.

When asked if he thinks that applies now, Singh said: "Yes, absolutely."

Singh said the agreement has worked the way he had hoped it would, allowing for progressive NDP policies to be implemented, including a dental care benefit for children in low and middle-income families. He also agreed that the recent trouble the Liberals have had in the polls increases the leverage the NDP have to push for even more than was spelled out in the deal.

The Liberals have fallen below the Conservatives in most polls, and some have the Conservatives verging on majority territory. The change would suggest the Liberals have more at stake such as losing their governing status altogether if they don't keep the NDP onside.

Singh said the deal was never meant to be a complete list of what the NDP would demand, and he does anticipate pushing for more in the months to come.

He said he wants more co-operation between Ottawa, provinces and post-secondary schools to build student hous-



ing, as well as a fund to buy-up affordable homes that are at risk of being sold to developers and builders who won't keep them affordable.

Singh said the "housing acquisition fund" would "prevent us from losing the affordable homes that we do have."

"That would prevent a building being bought up by a developer and then the tenants being re-novicted," he said.

"Instead, that building that does have affordable rent could then be kept in the hands of the community with this fund, and that would allow for a community group, a not-for-profit or even the residents to turn it into a co-operative."

The Liberals have said housing is their chief priority right now, as millions of Canadians face rising rents and increased mortgage costs on top of a housing market that has seen house prices soar in the last few years.

A recent cabinet retreat in Charlottetown was heavily focused on the issue, but the government did not announce any new policies there.

Many housing experts and economists say the

Singh said he recently spoke to a family in Alberta with two good-paying jobs who were going to lose their home because they could not afford the rising rent.

He said for the Liberals to leave their cabinet retreat without any solutions on the table is not acceptable.

In an emailed response, a spokesperson for Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's office said the housing accelerator fund is "incentivizing municipalities to build more homes faster," and cited the new tax-

free first home savings account program introduced in the federal budget.

"We knew we needed to provide important relief to the most vulnerable, particularly last year when inflation was elevated," said spokesperson Jessica Eritou.

"While inflation has fallen to 3.3 per cent, down from its peak of 8.1 per cent in June of last year, we remain focused on making housing more affordable for Canadians."

By Mia Rabson
The Canadian Press

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South Asian

CHOICE

Pakistan: Mother of 4 dies by suicide due to high electricity bill In Punjab province



As Pakistan is reeling from inflation and high taxes, a woman in Punjab province committed suicide after electricity was not restored at her home despite paying a bill of 10,000 PKR, a media report said on Tuesday.

Sold household items and taken a loan to pay the bill. According to victim's husband, he had sold household items and taken a loan to pay the bill but the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) had not restored the supply that had been disconnected because of non-payment, The Express Tribune reported.

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Who Is Geetika Srivastava? First Woman To Lead Indian Mission In Pakistan

In a historic first, Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Geetika Srivastava will become the first woman charge d'affaires in Indian mission in Islamabad, Pakistan. She is currently serving in the capacity of joint secretary at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

According to the officials aware about the development, Srivastava will take assume the charge and post in Islamabad shortly. On the assignment, she will be succeeding Suresh Kumar as the latter is expected to return back to New Delhi.

Who is Geetika Srivastava?

Geetika Srivastava is a



2005 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. Her current role is that of a joint secretary in the MEA - Ministry of External Affairs' in the Indo-Pacific wing.

Has completed two-year tenure in Indian Embassy In China

IFS Geetika Srivastava

has a two-year stint in the Indian Embassy In China from 2007-2009. She also learnt Mandarin as part of the foreign language training. She was also at the Regional Passport Office in Kolkata. She also served as Director of the Indian Ocean Region division

(IORD) in the MEA. No high commissioners in missions in Islamabad and New Delhi since August 2019

The Indian and Pakistani missions in the capital cities of Islamabad and New Delhi have been without high commissioners since August 2019, when Article 370 was abrogated by the government of India, ending Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

Bilateral ties between India and Pakistan at an all time low

Bilateral ties between the neighbouring countries - India and Pakistan - has been cold for years now, following terror attacks and infiltration bids from Pakistan.

Chandrayaan-3 Rover Pragyan Finds Sulphur, Oxygen On Moon's South Pole

The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy instrument onboard 'Pragyan' rover of Chandrayaan-3 has unambiguously confirmed the presence of sulphur on the lunar surface near south pole, through first-ever in-situ measurements, ISRO said on Tuesday.

It also said the instrument also detected aluminium, calcium, iron, chromium, titanium, manganese, silicon and oxygen, as expected.



Unveiling Elemental Composition

"The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument

onboard Chandrayaan-3 Rover has made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of

the lunar surface near the south pole.

"These in-situ measurements confirm the presence of Sulphur (S) in the region unambiguously, something that was not feasible by the instruments onboard the orbiters," the space agency said in a statement.

According to ISRO, LIBS is a scientific technique that analyses the composition of materials by exposing them to intense laser pulses.

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Age: 31 Height: 5'11" ft
Weight: 144 lbs
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Parole Jurisdiction: Chilliwack, B.C.



Name: BAPTISTE, Derek Ryan

Age: 39 Height: 5'6"
Weight: 161 lbs
Hair: Bald
Eyes: Brown
Wanted: Unlawfully at Large Including Weapon Offences
Warrant in effect: August 10, 2023
Parole Jurisdiction: Vancouver, BC

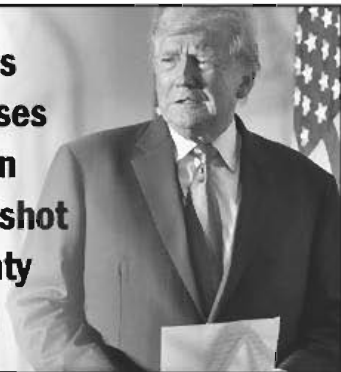


Name: NIEDZIENSKI, Kory

Age: 38 Height: 6'1" ft
Weight: 175 lbs
Hair: Brown Eyes: Green
Wanted: Fail to Comply with Probation Order
Warrant in effect: August 29, 2023
Parole Jurisdiction: Chilliwack, B.C.



Donald Trump's Campaign Raises USD 7.1 Million Since His Mugshot At Fulton County Jail In Georgia



Washington DC, August 27: The Trump 2024 presidential campaign has raised USD 7.1 million since former President Donald Trump's mugshot was taken at the Fulton County jail in Georgia after surrendering himself in the Georgia election subversion case, CNN reported. Over the last three weeks, Trump's campaign raised around USD 20 million, following his indictment and arraignment in Washington related to the federal January 6 case and then his surrender and processing at the Fulton County jail in Georgia.

The source further revealed that the campaign had raised USD 4.18 million after his arrest in Georgia. It is the highest-grossing day of the entire campaign, as per CNN. The fundraising figures were first reported by Politico. Following Trump's arrest, his 2024 presidential campaign started selling merchandise featuring the first mug shot of a former US president, The Washington Post reported. In the mug shot, Trump has throughout tried his best to appear "unfazed and unbowed" by having been indicted four times since March, as per the New York

Times. "It is not a comfortable feeling — especially when you have done nothing wrong," he told Fox News's website in an interview. However, Trump has been able to make the most of his mug shot, according to The Washington Post. The merchandise, including T-shirts, mugs, koozies and bumper stickers of Trump's mug shot, was for sale about 90 minutes after he was released from an Atlanta jail on Thursday. The merchandise, which includes USD 34 shirts, is accompanied by the words "NEVER SURRENDER!" Trump's legal troubles have mounted in recent weeks, with prosecutors bringing two indictments related to his attempts to overturn the 2020 election results, reported CNN. Jack Smith brought four federal charges against the former president. Earlier this month, special counsel Jack Smith brought four federal charges against the former president. The indictment alleges that Trump "was determined to remain in power" and, along with his allies, orchestrated a plot to overturn the results on and leading up to the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol.



American Wrestler 'Bray Wyatt' dies at 36

Windham Rotunda, better known by his ring name 'Bray Wyatt' passed away on Thursday after suffering a heart attack. The unexpected death of the American wrestler has left the world experience a wave of sorrow. People extended their condolences to Rotunda's family, while the WWE also acknowledged the sad news.

"WWE is saddened to learn that Windham Rotunda, also known as Bray Wyatt, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 24, at age 36. WWE extends its condolences to Rotunda's family, friends and fans," they tweeted while confirming the demise of Bray Wyatt.

After BRICS summit 2023, Russian Prez Putin to skip G20 in India

Russian President Vladimir Putin will not visit India for the upcoming G20 summit in India. The news comes at a time as Putin risks of getting arrested after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a warrant against him over war crimes allegations in Ukraine. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed to Russia's state-owned TASS news agency on Friday that President Putin will not make an in-person visit to India for G20 summit that will be held in New Delhi on September 19 and 20.

On 17 March, ICC issued the arrest warrant against President Putin for the "deportation of population (children) and that of unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation". The crimes were allegedly committed in Ukrainian occupied territory at least from 24 February 2022. There are reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Putin bears individual criminal responsibility ... for



his failure to exercise control properly over civilian and military subordinates who committed the acts, or allowed for their commission, and who were under his effective authority and control, pursuant to superior responsibility (article 28(b) of the Rome Statute)," ICC said in a statement at the time. President Putin had not visited South Africa for BRICS Summit this month and attended the meeting through a video call. While being an ICC signatory, South Africa would have helped in Putin's arrest if he visited the country; India has never signed its core

treaty, the 'Rome Statute'. India is also not a member state of the ICC. India has previously hosted individuals that face action from the ICC, including Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, who had arrest warrant against him from the Hague-based international tribunal over charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in connection with the Darfur conflict. On Thursday, President Putin condoled the death of Wagner mercenary group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who died in a plane crash in Moscow on Wednesday night. "Prigozhin was a man

with a complex fate, and he made serious mistakes in his life. And he achieved the results he needed, both for himself and, when I asked him, for the common cause," President Putin said on Thursday.

Often regarded as the Russian president's close aide, Prigozhin commanded units of the private military company to advance towards Moscow, urging for an armed uprising to topple the leadership of Russia's military. Consequently, Wagner fighters took over main military sites in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, which is an important command and logistical hub for the Russian army and its invasion of Ukraine. Following this, President Putin vowed of brutal implications for Prigozhin's "betrayal" and "treason". However, Kremlin spokesman Peskov later announced that the Wagner chief agreed to a deal to go to Belarus, Russia's neighbouring country that supported Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

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At least 198 lost to toxic drugs in July as public health emergency continues

For the 13th consecutive month, more than 190 British Columbians have lost their lives to the toxic, unregulated drug supply, according to preliminary data released by the BC Coroners Service.

"I am saddened to once again report that British Columbia's toxic drug crisis shows no signs of abating," said Lisa Lapointe, chief coroner. "We are continuing to experience record numbers of deaths provincewide because of the toxic drug supply. The unregulated illicit market is highly unpredictable and continues to put thousands of lives at risk each month. Despite recommendations for the urgent expansion of a safer drug supply, very few have access to a stable, lower-risk alternative." Between January and



July 2023, at least 1,455 deaths were attributed to toxic drugs, the largest number ever reported by the BC Coroners Service in the first seven months of a calendar year. The provincewide death rate stands at 46.2 per 100,000 residents, with the Vancouver Coastal (56.7), Island (52.4) and Interior (50.7) health authorities all posting death

rates higher than ever previously recorded. The Northern Health Authority (59.8) continues to report the highest rate of death in the province. People who use drugs in communities throughout B.C. face an extreme risk of significant injury or death. While the highest number of deaths have occurred in urban centres like Vancou-

ver, Surrey and Greater Victoria, the most impacted health service delivery areas in 2023 also include Central Vancouver Island, Northern Interior, Northwest and Greater Nanaimo. Unregulated drug toxicity is the leading cause of death in British Columbia for persons aged 10 to 59, accounting for more deaths than homicides, suicides, accidents and natural disease combined. The lives of at least 12,739 British Columbians have been lost to unregulated drugs since the public health emergency was first declared in April 2016. "In just two days, we'll recognize International Overdose Awareness Day," Lapointe said. "This most sombre of occasions is an important opportunity to

recognize all our family members, friends, colleagues and neighbours who have been lost to unregulated drugs. While we honour their memory and grieve alongside their loved ones, we must urge decision-makers to do more to stop these preventable deaths from occurring. The critical risks and losses of life resulting from this public health emergency deserve an urgent response. We must not accept the continued loss of six lives each and every day." Additional key preliminary findings are below. Data is subject to change as additional toxicology results are received:

- The 198 suspected unregulated drug deaths represent a 5% decrease

from the number of deaths in July 2022 (208), and a 4% increase over the number of deaths in June 2023 (191).

- The number of unregulated drug deaths in July 2023 equates to about 6.4 deaths per day.
- In 2023, 69% of those dying were aged 30 to 59, and 77% were male.
- By health authority, the highest number of unregulated drug deaths are in Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health Authorities (423 and 397 deaths, respectively), making up 56% of all such deaths to date during 2023.
- There is no evidence that prescribed safer supply is contributing to unregulated drug deaths.

Canadian anti-crime researcher sentenced to two years in prison in Algeria

MONTREAL — A Canadian researcher detained in Algeria since February was sentenced on Tuesday to two years in prison, according to his lawyer. Kouceila Zerguine said Raouf Farrah has also been fined 200,000 Algerian dinars, around C\$2,000. "An appeal has been filed against this decision," Zerguine wrote in a text message Tuesday. Zerguine said Farrah's father, Sebti Farrah, a Montreal-area resident, was given a one-year suspended sentence by the same court in the eastern Algerian city of Constantine. Farrah, who studies migration and criminal economies for an international anti-crime non-governmental organization, had been charged with publishing secret information and being paid to commit offences against public order. Farrah's employer, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, condemned the sentence, saying the charges were proven to be without merit during a one-day trial earlier this month. "Although we were being realistic about the potential trial outcomes, today's result is particularly difficult to accept, given that the prosecution

failed to present any legal case against Raouf and Sebti," Mark Shaw, the organization's director, said in a news release. "Any free and fair trial would have found Raouf and Sebti, as well as the other co-defendants, innocent. Instead, we are facing a scenario where Raouf faces more jail time on top of the almost six months in custody that he has already unjustly served, while his 67-year-old father, a respectable law-abiding citizen, now has a criminal record." Eric Goldstein, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa division, said the fundamental problem with the charges faced by the Farrahs and Algerian journalist Mustapha Bendjama, who was tried and sentenced alongside them, is the nature of the charges themselves. "You can tell by looking at the nature of the charges that these are manifestly political charges that can be used to fit any occasion when the government wants to punish anyone," Goldstein said in an interview. "We are looking at a researcher for an internationally-known NGO and a journalist, both of whom are now facing two years in prison for doing their jobs."

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Review by Veeno Dewan

This is the first time I have actually come across the Kia Seltos even though it has been around since 2021. The proportions are good and it looks great from any angle and I think will age better than some of the more swoopy looking competition. For now, it does not have a hybrid or full EV version.

The 2024 Kia Seltos has a new eight speed transmission option, new acoustic glass windshield and arrives in five trim levels, and it is available in front-wheel or all-wheel drive, and with two engine choices. All versions include such items as heated front seats, a touch-screen infotainment display with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration, smartphone connectivity, blind-spot monitoring with cross-traffic alert, tire pressure monitoring system, ample technology features and a high standard of safety and driver assist equipment. In terms of powertrains, there are two options. The base LX and EX models use a 2.0L four-cyl-

inder engine with 146 horsepower and 132 lb-ft of torque hooked up to intelligent continuously-variable, (IVT) variable transmission. The SX Turbo has the more powerful 1.6L turbo-charged four-cylinder engine that makes 175 horsepower and 195 lb-ft of torque. The transmission with this unit is a new more efficient automatic eight-speed unit. The base LX is front-wheel drive with all-wheel drive (AWD) as an option. While the EX, EX Premium and SX Turbo - are AWD.

The 2024 Kia Seltos in LX trim is \$27,095 and continues Kia's philosophy of offering value and features. The EX has a few more toys at \$32,095, while the EX-Premium is \$35,295. Excellent value for money with LED lighting, power driver and passenger air-cooled seats, heated rear seats, 10.25-inch infotainment screen with built-in navigation, wireless phone charger, adaptive cruise control with lane centering, and more. The SX Turbo as tested at \$37,695 ups the ante with a peppy 175hp turbo engine and 8-Speed transmission. Buyer



also gain: 18-inch alloy wheels, Sofino leather seat trim, premium stereo, head-up display, Kia Connect Telematic, flat-bottom sport steering wheel and much more. The SX is also superb value for the price with upmarket materials and comfort features. You even get as standard items such as interior ambient lighting that can pulse along with the

music like in the funky Kia Soul. Another smart feature is the cool way you can unlock, start or share access to your Kia via a smartphone with the available Digital Key 2 Touch system. There is also a new-for-2024 X-Line version with performance and cosmetic upgrades at \$40,295.

The cabin design is a standout with a choice of interesting materials, textures and innovative design quirks such as the sleek geometric 3D pattern on the speaker grilles, the abundance of sleek satin metal and silver metal trim around features such as around the con controls, console, air vents and other surfaces - such a refreshing contrast to the drab all-black cabins seen in many competitors. The Seltos is surprisingly roomy inside, besting most of its competitors with more passenger legroom and headroom. Diver ergonomics are fine and there is the

smart It seat four in comfort and five at a squeeze. REAR Cargo volume is 752 litres with the rear seats up, and they fold 60/40. There is a clever two-tiered storage set up and a rear power hatch release depending on model.

On the road, the SX Turbo 1.6 engine is paired with a new automatic eight-speed transmission which offers faster and smoother up and downshifts. The turbo is also quicker than the 2.0L engine option with the CVT. The Seltos also exhibits good handling characteristics. Its nicely weighted steering makes the SUV feel responsive and light in turns. The suspension setup handles bumps and potholes well. The AWD system automatically transfers power to the rear wheels when needed and can be locked into all-wheel mode to deal with difficult terrain and conditions. Overall, the combination of a will-

ing engine and the new transmission makes for a more entertaining drive that compares well with top rivals in its field. Fuel economy is rated at L/100KM: 9.4 City/ 8.7 Highway and 9.1 combined.

To sum up, the Kia Seltos comes very well equipped at its various price points, has excellent technology, versatility, spaciousness, and high safety ratings. The cons are few, mildly a surplus of hard plastics and a sometimes-noisier cabin at speed. There is no EV or Hybrid version as yet. Kia provides a top of the class 5-year/100,000-km comprehensive and full powertrain warranty that is hard to beat. A worthy perfectly sized family CUV in this sector and to be considered. Highly recommended.

2024 Kia Seltos: SX model as tested - \$38,045 including freight
More info at www.kia.ca



Travel

A TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO MOBILE PHONES BEFORE FLYING OFF

A guide for travelers who always travel and need to have their phones with them. But how to be safe using a mobile phone when travelling?

We all agree that when traveling, a Traveler's Guide to Mobile Phones Before Flying Off Articles one of the first things that we have in our pocket or bag (besides passport and air ticket) is our mobile phone. Your phone is like your lifeline for keeping in touch with people and the world, wherever you may be. You can use it in case of emergencies, get in touch with family and friends back home, post your latest adventure on social media, check your emails, do a google search, and so much more! It is simply convenient to have a phone to rely on whenever you are abroad.

However, activating your phone's roaming service can get pretty pricey; nobody wants to go home and find a huge bill waiting for them at the end of the month. Other scenarios that you should consider are not being able to even use your phone or even worse, it gets lost or stolen. The following are some things that you should know before taking your mobile abroad.

Questions to ask your provider when taking your phone abroad

If you are planning to use your phone a lot, the first thing that you should do before getting to the airport is to get in touch with your provider and ask about their roaming service. By doing this, you will know if you can or cannot use your phone abroad. Here are questions that you should ask your carrier:

Will my phone work abroad? Most of the providers today do have roaming services but they require activation, so you can opt to do so. If you don't want to use service abroad, some carriers can opt to temporarily deactivate your service if you want to save on roaming charges.

How much will I be charged for roaming? If your provider does offer roaming service, then you should ask how much it costs



to make international calls, use the Internet, make local calls, etc.

Is my phone locked? If the answer is yes, then you might want to unlock your phone or use an R-sim. Some carriers do lock their phones. If you are to insert a new SIM card (subscriber identity module), it wouldn't work especially if your phone is included within your mobile plan. Alternatively, you can buy a disposable phone, where you can still call and text. If the answer is no, then you can buy a local SIM card once you reach your destination.

Some tips when taking your phone overseas

Traveling abroad without your phone is like crossing a bridge, without an actual bridge. Many travelers today rely on their phones for finding tourist destinations, affordable hotels, restaurants, checking reservations, posting on social media, getting in touch with people back home, maps, translating, and so much more! So whether you can use roaming service or not, here are great tips to maximize your phone's usage abroad:

Turn off everything that needs cellular data

If your provider doesn't provide roaming service or you simply don't want to, then it is advisable to turn off your cellular data, data roaming service or any such apps. It would also be helpful to turn off any automatic features that would require apps to connect to the internet such as emails, social media, automatic updates, etc. While abroad, you can also

make great use of your phone's airplane mode feature or call your provider to temporarily deactivate your SIM and reactivate it once you are back.

Use ONLY WiFi to connect to the Internet

Your phone is a tool to help you search and explore information from the Internet. It allows you to stay connected with friends and to find out about a certain place or a destination. Even without cellular data, you can still access the Internet via WiFi. Before you travel, download all the apps that you use frequently or your favorite social media apps (though using this requires you to connect to the Internet, you would be surprised at how not getting notifications every minute is simply refreshing and therapeutic). You can also download offline travel apps and interactive maps so that you don't have to rely too much on the Internet. In doing so, there is no need to worry about finding a hotspot if you want to get connected. Most hotels, restaurants, and other facilities have free WiFi so that you can access everything that you need.

Maximize using apps to communicate

Apps are simply heaven sent for travelers to stay connected. If in the event you can't use your phone or simply don't want a huge bill filled with data roaming charges, all you need to do is maximize your using WiFi. Skype, WhatsApp, Messenger, etc., which are useful ways to communicate to your loved

ones while you are abroad. It is also a great way to communicate with your friends locally. You don't need to have cellular service to receive a message. All you need to do is connect to the Internet via WiFi and you can instantly chat, send and receive messages in no time.

Buy a disposable SIM card abroad

Perhaps one of the most popular option for travelers is using a disposable SIM as it is convenient. Not only will you have local service, enable cellular data, you can also make calls both locally and internationally, and send text messages. However, some providers do lock their phones as mentioned above. You need to unlock your phone or use an adapter or R-sim to be able to use the local SIM. At the end of your trip, you can simply deactivate the service and be on your way.

Worst case scenario - stolen phone

Probably the worst thing that could happen to you abroad is losing your phone. You should be extra careful when taking out your phone in unfamiliar places as pickpockets, thieves, and swindlers often target unassuming tourists. As much as possible, never let anyone carry your phone or let it out of your sight. Not only will you lose your contacts and information, unauthorized use of your phone can result to hundreds of dollars' worth of charges made to your phone bill. On top of that, personal photos, passwords, and emails might also be compromised. So, never lose sight of your phone while you are traveling.

If in the event that your phone is lost or stolen, do contact your provider immediately to deactivate the service, even if there is still a chance to finding it. You can opt to temporarily deactivate it just in case. You can also ask your provider to further block anyone from using your phone by blocking its IMEI (International Mobile Station Equipment Identity). To know your phone's IMEI, you can dial #60# or simply look behind

its battery. Along with your phone's model number, take note of these set of digits in case your phone goes missing. Phone locating apps downloaded earlier into your phone are handy as they can be used to trace your phone and remotely wipe all information in it such as findmyiphone and Android Device Manager. This way you can fully remove all the sensitive information, lock your phone, and make your phone ring remotely. Make it a point to check your mobile insurance policies to see if they cover lost or unauthorized use of your phone.

Conclusion

Your phone is one of the most important gadgets that you must always have with you at all times while you travel. It is a great tool for many travelers to quickly do a search, stay connected, and communicate through the Internet. If you are travelling abroad with your phone, it is important to get in touch with your provider about roaming service and charges before you fly off. If you don't want to wind up with a huge phone bill at the end of the month, turn off your cellular data and roaming service, put your phone on airplane mode and simply use WiFi. You can also opt to temporarily deactivate your phone and use a local SIM card throughout the duration of your trip. Make it a point to have your important and personal information and contacts either written down or saved into another device. If you accidentally lose your phone abroad, get in touch with your provider immediately, block call-making services and wipe out all the information on your phone. When planning to travel, iprice recommends that you also bring along an international travel adaptor so that you can charge your phone wherever your destination.

With a bit of time and effort upfront, you'll know exactly what options you have when you are abroad and still have an affordable, connected trip with smartphone in hand. Bon voyage!



Intercultural Supports for Student Learning Program (ISSLP)

Program Eligibility

- ✓ Residents of Surrey, Langley and Delta
- ✓ Youth between 15-30 years
- ✓ Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents or Protected Refugees

Program Description

ISSLP is a 6-week program that meets the unique needs of diverse youth population to return to school, complete high school, upgrade high school credentials, and/or enter into post secondary education or skills training to continue their studies and prepare for future success.



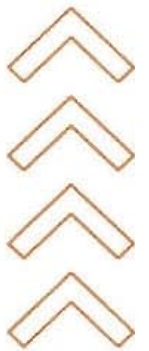
Program Benefits

Trainings and Certification

- ✓ Digital literacy (MS Office Suite)
- ✓ Online/Digital marketing (social media marketing)
- ✓ Short Term Occupational Certifications (STOC) - WHMIS, SuperHost, First Aid, Food Safe, Serving it Right
- ✓ Diversity & Inclusion, Self-Image and Self-Esteem, Personality Development Training
- ✓ Customer Service, Email & Telephone Etiquettes, LinkedIn Training
- ✓ Skills Training - Resume & cover letter, conflict resolution, networking skills etc.

Additional Benefits

- ✓ Daily Allowance
- ✓ Educational Bursaries
- ✓ Educational Coaching & Counselling
- ✓ Career Counselling & Exploration
- ✓ Transportation support
- ✓ Adaptive technology support & disability related support for persons with disabilities
- ✓ Individualized and customized action plan
- ✓ Access to WiFi, printer & computer
- ✓ Other supports in terms of text books, school supplies, work clothes or so on



Surrey Location :

Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society
#205 12725 80th Ave,
Surrey BC, V3V 3A6
6045967722 ext: 218

Delta Location :

Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society
#3 - 7953 120th St.
Delta BC V4C 6P6
6045967722 ext: 218

Langley Location :

Langley Community Services Society
#100 6470 201st,
Langley BC, V2Y 2X4
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Canada considers foreign student cap over housing crisis

Canada is considering a first-ever cap on international students as it tries to solve its housing affordability crisis. Could the measure make a difference? This week, Canadian Housing Minister Sean Fraser floated the idea of capping how many students Canada lets in from abroad as a way to help tackle the country's inflated housing costs. He said it was "one of the options that we ought to consider".

His remarks come as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau faces growing criticism for failing to solve the housing crisis. The reaction to Mr Fraser's remarks was swift, with the idea criticised by universities, as well as the province of Quebec, who says it would reject efforts to limit international students. Canada accepted a record number of international students in 2022 - more than 800,000, a 75% increase

from five years ago. On the heels of Mr Fraser's remarks, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said Canada would also take a look at its immigration targets to see whether it has an impact on the housing crunch. But experts say limiting new arrivals will do little to address the problem. For many in Canada, the struggle to pay their mortgage or rent is a persistent reality.



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<p>NEW LISTING Starting at \$979,000 RICHMOND 22811 Mclean Avenue</p> <p>Introducing Another Award Winning Community by Infinity Living "Richtone Hamilton" nestled in the quiet rapidly growing Richmond Suburb of Hamilton. 25 Farmhouse inspired townhomes with gorgeous finishes estimated for completion in May 2025. These 3 Bedroom townhomes boast designer kitchens, Fisher & Paykel appliance package, authentic imported European tiles, Quartz countertops, custom wood work, Air Con/Heat Pump/HRV and double tandem/side by side garages. These units are very well appointed. Walking distance to Shopping, schools, parks, childcare and transit. Please contact us for more details and information.</p>	<p>NEW LISTING LOTS FOR SALE \$6,300,000 RICHMOND 10660/10680/10700 River Drive</p> <p>Builder Alert! This is a Great Opportunity to purchase this land assembly of three homes, in an unbeatable location close to all levels of schools, close to transit and shopping. The Subdivision application has been approved by the City of Richmond, Preliminary Land Approval (PLA is in Hand) to develop 4 Lots. Each lot is approximately 50 ft x 160 ft which gives you total size of 8110 SF Lots (approx.) Each new home on the newly created lots can be approximately 3683 sq ft. These properties are very rare as the road has been recently upgraded with New curbs, Sidewalks and Gutters and they do not come up very often. Please note 3 homes in the Land Assembly need to be sold in conjunction of one another, 10660/10680/10700 River Dr.</p>	<p>NEW LISTING \$1,399,000 ABBOTSFORD 33877 Mayfair Avenue</p> <p>Great opportunity to purchase a fully-cleared 13,800 sq.ft lot in central Abbotsford! Nestled on Mayfair Ave, it also has potential for rezoning to two single-family lots or a duplex. With proximity to the TransCanada highway, University of Fraser Valley, schools, shopping, and restaurants, the location is unbeatable. Amidst a rapidly redeveloping area, the lot includes an approved city permit for a 6900 sq.ft home. Ready for construction now!</p>	<p>NEW LISTING \$2,388,888 RICHMOND 2255 E 30th Avenue</p> <p>Great Income Property or Live in! Centrally Located close to Kingsway and Skytrain & Schools. The home offers 5 Bedrooms & 4 Bathrooms. This property is also zoned RM9A which has great future development or even now!</p>
<p>NEW LISTING \$2,500,000 Chilliwack 44477 Yale Road</p> <p>Over half an acre of prime development land next to Cap-it and other major anchors. The current use is non-conforming motel and 9 units are rented for great holding income. The property is M2 zoned for business industrial uses and ready for building permit for the development of your choice with very few restrictions. See City of Chilliwack M2 zoning permit guidelines.</p>	<p>SOLD \$1,499,000 RICHMOND 1 8620 Railway Avenue</p> <p>Introducing The Richtone, Another award winning townhouse community by Infinity Living. Located in the Railway Corridor in West Richmond with all amenities at your doorstep. Offering a very limited collection of Farmhouse inspired townhomes ranging 1207SF to 1612SF living area+ garage with luxurious finishing. Featuring 4 bdrms & 3 bdrms plans, designer kitchens, double tandem and side by side garages. All units are West Facing. Fisher & Paykel appliance package, Highly energy efficient w/heat pump and AC. Walking distance to Seafair Shopping center, Schools, parks, tree lined walking path & more. Ready to move in Mid - 2022.</p>	<p>SOLD \$2,938,000 RICHMOND 3411 Lockhart Road</p> <p>Richmond's boutique builder Infinity Living presents another gorgeous home in one of Richmond's finest neighborhoods. This spacious 5 bedroom, 5 bath home. Lot is over 6000+ SqFt lot.</p>	<p>SOLD \$1,870,000 ANNVILLE 11452 93 Avenue, Delta</p> <p>Welcome to Annville Neighborhood. This modern luxury residence built in 2021 offers expansive living space with stunning views of North Shore Mountains and City from balconies and upper Deck.</p>
<p>SOLD \$1,350,000 SCOTTSDALE 8336 118 Street, Delta</p> <p>Prime Location! Well kept 2 story house good size nice lot 6,000 sq. ft in a desirable neighborhood in North Delta. This house offers 3 beds and 1.5 baths on main floor.</p>	<p>SOLD \$1,630,000 SEAFAIR 8931 Fairdell Place</p> <p>Seafair Gem! Super cute & charming family home w/ 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, enclosed sunroom, storage/den & large bright games / family room down.</p>		

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8408 17th Avenue, Burnaby



NEW LISTING

RARE Burnaby gem! Beautiful clean corner lot approx 6230 sq ft. This 2 bed 1 bath Bungalow-Rancher is facing a greenbelt creating ultimate PRIVACY and offers a RENOVATED interior, which has been immaculately maintained. Quiet, CENTRAL LOCATION close to trails, dog parks, highways, transit, great schools, parks, recreation, shopping and much more! Enjoy the use of a massive crawlspace, shop in the yard, and this tastefully renovated home which includes a high efficiency furnace and built in vacuum. Please contact to book your viewing.

\$1,649,000

#3 7927 118A St, Delta



NEW LISTING

Delta Central 5 bed 5 Bath Duplexes boasts 2600+ sqft of living space, conveniently located in Scottsdate. One bedroom suite for mortgage helper. Natural lighting paired with w/oversized windows results in bright, sunlit homes. European style gourmet kitchen w/gas stove & large spa-like bathrooms bound to make you feel like royalty. To top it all, this one-of-a-kind duplex comes with two Master bedrooms and two large Bedrooms & a full bath. Close to schools, shops, transit & highway. Call now for more information.

\$1,450,000

2636 - 2640 Cedar Park Place, Abbotsford

Investment opportunity in a busy location. Corner building on two lots. The lot size is 13131 sqft. C-5 zoning, new roof. Currently tenanted to good tenants. Lots of potentials.

Call for more information

3028 E 56 Ave, Vancouver



5335 sqft. lot with the back lane. Currently rented for \$6000 per month + utilities. Potential to build multiplex (4 or 5 units) up to the builder. Plan ready in City for side-by-side duplex with suite on each side. Live, hold, or build. Steps away from Champlain Square, transit, Ecole Elementary school.

Near 41st Ave and Culloden St, Vancouver



NEW LISTING

Investor Alert! 41 x 118 sqft. lot. 3 bedrooms upstairs, 2 bedroom mortgage helper. The full house is rented for \$3300 per month. By walking distance to all, public transit, school, shopping. Can build half-duplex here. Call for more details

\$2,075,000

#419 23233 GILLEY RD, RICHMOND



GREAT VALUE, TOP FLOOR UNIT, 850 sqft., 2 BEDROOM PLUS DEN, 2 BATHROOM, 2 parking spots and 2 lockers. Lowest price in the building. Master planned community is taking place in East Richmond, unit is back quiet side. Bright spacious open layout with nine foot ceilings, quartz counter tops, gas cook top and glass back splash. Finely crafted home designed by award winning Rositch Hemphill Architects. Phase 1 offers lap pool, therapy pool, hot tub, gym and multipurpose room Steps to shopping, public transit, community centre, school, all connected to peaceful parks.



\$1,228,000

11596 Parkwood Pl.

Spacious rancher with 3 bdrms and 1.5 baths & open concept plan!

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Renovated 4 bdrm home in desirable Annville!

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#43 - 6050 - 166 Street

Spacious & bright 1927 sqft 3 bdrm 2 bath townhome!

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3) Subdivision potential - Over 32,000 sq ft of land which could lead to 3 lots. Over 280 ft frontage which would allow for creativity. All services are nearby. Call now for more info!

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Location Location!!! private 100x100 lot backs on to future city park. Features 3 bedroom 1.5 bathroom, living room, dining room, kitchen on main floor plus with an unfinished 1300 square feet in the basement. PLA issued for 2 - 5000 Sq. feet 50x100 lot RF 13 zoned lots. You can build your 3 story dream homes after the lots are fully serviced and ready to suite. Situated at the dead end of a quiet no-through street/CDS. Over 1300 square feet upstairs, with an unfinished 1300 square feet below. Single car garage, endless RV and boat parking on the entire wide lot. Close proximity to Skytrain, Schools, but still private and quiet, this highly desirable location will not last long. All sizes and age of the property is approximate only. The Buyer or the Buyer's agent to verify.



Fully renovated 4 bedroom 2 bathroom basement entry home on quiet family friendly cul-de-sac. Features: Living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, main floor laundry, sun deck, sound proofed garage, close to elementary school, parks and bus route. Age of the house and prices are approximate, buyer or the buyer's agent to verify. First showing open house on Monday, 15 between 2 - 4 P.M. by appointment only. Great property for an investor. Monthly rent \$2600.00 main floor \$1300.00 Basement suite.



Large, well kept Gorgeous around basement entry home with over 7731 sq. ft. lot. House has 8 bed 4.5 bathrooms. Upstairs features living room, dining room, new kitchen, family room plus a huge games room, 4 bed, 2.5 bathrooms Downstairs has two unauthorized basement suites (2 bed + 2 bed) mortgage helper! Hot water heating, 2 gas fireplaces, huge double garage, huge driveway. Partly renovated in recent years. House is in very nice condition plus very convenient location close to everything: elementary and high school, park and bus service. All sizes and age of the house is approximate only the buyer or the Buyer's agent to verify.

- *8300 Sq ft Lot in Tynehead Area Surrey
 - *2 (7000Sq ft) Lots in Cloverdale
 - *Townhouse Development Site in Langley
 - *2- 3600 sq. ft. RF 13 zoning Lots in Royal Heights
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12370 80A Ave Surrey

NEW LISTING

7bed 5bath, 2+1 two Basement suites, 8000 SF lot

6713 135B STREET 4bed 3 bath

NEW LISTING

This 7100 SF lot house in prime location, it has spacious 1 bed and 1 bath unauthorized suite with separate entrance. Close to shopping center, transit service. Asking: 1349K

103 13725 72A AVENUE

SOLD

NEW LISTING

This 2 Bedroom and 2 Bathroom Attractive and Beautiful located in one of the best neighborhoods in Surrey is a MUST SEE!! With almost everything required in the closest vicinity. Bear Creek Elementary, Frank Hurt Secondary. This townhouse is close to transit, library, parks, theatre, restaurants & shopping, which makes it the perfect area for your next home. Asking: 699k

6 12711 64 AVENUE

3 bedrooms upstairs and 4 bathrooms, over 1500 square feet of living space, laminate flooring, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, hot water tank (2019). Kitchen with large eating area. Central location. Well maintained "Palene on the Park" complex. Walking distance to Tamanawis Secondary, Panorama Ridge, Beaver Creek. Transit & Tamanawis Park are steps away!

Asking \$869K

Renovated house in East Newton,
13930 77 Ave Surrey BC

SOLD

6bed 4 baths, 3bed & 2 bath up, two basement suites (2+1), 12000 Sf lot, close to both schools

124 13725 72A AVENUE SURREY

SOLD

NEW LISTING

2 Bedroom and 2 Bathroom Attractive and Beautiful townhouse located in one of the best neighborhoods in Surrey is a MUST SEE!! Asking: 749K

77 15151 Edmund Drive, Surrey. 3 Bed+Den, 3 Bath A centrally located unit within walking distance to all banks, restaurants, dollarama, shoppers drug mart. A list of recreation facilities & amenities, including YMCA, Fresh Street Market & Panorama Village Centre, all within walking distance.

Asking \$949K

7473 147A Street Surrey V3S 8Y6. 6 Bedrooms and 5 Bathrooms home in this lovely Harvest Wynde Chimney Heights.

Asking \$16,99,000.00

SOLD

2 bed
2 bath apartment at Scott & Nicholson Complex Delta.
 Close to Surrey Sikh temple.

SOLD

Renovated townhouse in popular Sullivan Heights 3 Bed, 3 bath, the 2 car Garage Parking. Master bedroom has a mountain view.

Asking Price 769K.

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Business With Property
Surrey truckbody shop is extremely busy location. Land app. 10,000 sq ft. 8200 Sq. Ft. option can buy building alone, business alone or together.

Farm Langley

20 acres with multi-building over 10,000 shop, with huge house on it.

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Very clean with lots of renovation. 2 copies 14' x 14' kitchen area. Rent \$4300 a month. Mostly takeout. Chicken Hamberger etc.
Call for details

2 PIZZA SHOPS FOR SALE

One is located in Abbotsford and one is in Cloverdale. Great deal can be purchased together. Both are \$249,000 each.
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25000 Sq Ft Industrial Building for sale or for lease from 1100 to 25000 Sq Ft in Surrey.
3/4 Acre Free Standing.

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With all the extras.

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Only \$6.9 Million

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1 House and Barn
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4 bedroom, 4 bath in Sullivan
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HOUSE IN FLEETWOOD
Almost 10,000sq ft. with subdividable potential. Great investment property

PIZZA BUSINESS
Very profitable pizza business with high sale over \$100,000 a month.
Confidential please call

Custom build 3 storey house in White Rock, steps from the beach. No cost spared listed at \$2,499,000. Dream house perfect for multifamily living.

Expanding adult literacy programs throughout B.C.

People looking to improve their lives through improved reading, writing, math and digital skills will benefit from increased access to free adult literacy programs throughout B.C.

"Improving literacy and numeracy skills is a large step forward that has a massive impact on people's quality of life, improving job and career prospects and thriving in B.C.'s robust and strong economy," said Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. "This investment will connect people with the skills they need to take the next step in their educational and career journey."

The Province invests \$3.4 million annually to support the Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP). In 2023-24, this funding will support 102



adult literacy programs to be delivered by 71 providers in 132 communities around B.C. that will support more than 16,000 people in the prov-

ince. This annual investment builds on last year's 97 programs in 128 communities. "Adults who increase their literacy and essential skills

have more job opportunities, are more likely to continue their education and have better health - creating brighter futures and resilient communities," said Sandra Lee, executive director, Decoda Literacy Solutions. "Decoda is proud to work with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to support Community Adult Literacy Programs across the province. This funding allows us to provide training, professional development and resources for adult literacy providers in over 100 communities."

These community-based, adult, family and Indigenous literacy programs help people gain skills in basic literacy, numeracy, life skills and employment preparation. The programs are delivered by trained volunteers

and include one-on-one tutoring and small-group classes.

"When people have strong literacy skills, their ability to advocate and make informed decisions for themselves and their families increases, their earning potential is greater and they become engaged community members," said Desneiges Profili, executive director, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL). "Empowering people to take charge of their learning better prepares them to acquire the skills needed in today's changing world. With thousands of learners walking through CBAL doors every year, CALP funding is essential to ensure community members get the support they need to not just survive, but thrive."

2023 Parliament of the World's Religions (PoWR)

Contd. from last issue

Right to protect Environment:

On page 8 of SGGS - We should live life in complete harmony with the creation and the Creator. All the species, air, water and earth are the givers and sustainers of life. The environment is the teacher, the earth great mother and water the father, who look after us. As air, water and earth is necessary for the birth and procreation of life, it is necessary to take care of them for procreation and continuance of life on this planet.

Creator also permeated into each and every molecule of the cosmos after creating the universe. Loving the creation is loving the Creator.

Guru Nanak gave equality to women:

Guru Nanak conferred dignity to women and raised their status in society in 1500 AD. Women's Rights Movement



in the U.S.A. started in Colorado which is the first state to adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote in 1893 AD; Michigan, South Dakota, Oklahoma were the last in 1918 AD.

On page 473 of SGGS - We make friends with women and marry them. Our generations grow because of them. When wife dies we marry another woman. Why call woman low who, give birth

to kings and all.

Guru Nanak when

As per philosophy of Saint Soldier who were created by 10th Guru Gobind Singh, weapon should be for

- Protecting the oppressed from the tyranny of the oppressor, not for senseless killing.
- War should be waged as a last resort.
- War should be waged without hatred, any desire or revenge.
- The purpose of war should be to deliver justice.
- Territory should not be annexed. Looting and booting forbidden.
- Only a minimum of force should be used. When the objectives have been achieved, the fighting should cease and attempts to establish peace should be made.

There is a need to propagate and adopt the philosophy of the Saint-Soldier by everyone including politicians and soldiers all over the world, only then the wars, terrorist attacks and senseless kill-

ings with its attendant mental health problems can be stopped.

Interfaith dialogue should begin by focusing on things we have in common and on practical things we can do together. The power of religion should be used to unify faith and divergent faith communities by establishing and maintaining constructive channels of communication. Thus, interfaith dialogue can play a major role in the promotion of global peace.

My humble request is that to have world peace, the first step should be to believe in One God who have different names and we all are children of that One God, so are brothers and kinsmen. That One God is present in all of us. To love God is to love God's creatures; that's each other. When we love each other, there will not be any hatred and jealousy. Differences between each other can be resolved through dialogue. Most of the time our ego does not let us sit together for a dialogue.



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Hollywood

Pamela Anderson's stalker cut her wrists with glass, hid under bed wearing 'Baywatch' Bikini

Actress Pamela Anderson had once found a stalker in her bed wearing her iconic red bikini and hid under her bed. Anderson found fame in the 1990s when she played C.J Parker on the hit series 'Baywatch' and was shocked years later in 2001 to find that a French woman known as Christine Roth, then 27, had broken into her house and climbed into her bed wearing her costume from the show, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The stalker handed her a note which read: "I'm not a lesbian, but I dream of you," on seeing the actress for the first time. Anderson told The Sun: "My mum was in



hospital and my dad was coming into town so I was preparing a room for him when someone came upstairs and said, 'Pamela, there is someone sleeping in your bed.' I was thinking, 'Very Goldilocksy', like maybe it was my brother's wife or maybe someone sneaked in the back door."

"We went into the room and there was a woman wearing my red bathing suit and speaking French, blonde hair - and then she gave me a letter saying she wanted to touch me and she was there for that, and she had a lot of my clothes under the bed."



Taylor Swift heaps praises on Selena Gomez for her latest Single

American singer and songwriter Taylor Swift shares a great friendly bond with famous singer Selena Gomez and after a long break she has released her new single, 'Single Soon'. 'Swift is showing her love for her BFF Gomez', reported People.

On Friday, Gomez released the energetic dance track, 'Single Soon' and she wasn't just feeling the love from her fans following the release; her best friend joined in, too.

"When your bestie is the bestest", Swift, 33, wrote on her Instagram Story as she reshared a reel originally posted by Gomez, 31, featuring several clips from the song's music video. "Will be dancing to this forever methinks," Swift added of the Benny Blanco- and Cashmere Cat-produced track. Gomez reposted the 'Anti-Hero' singer's post on her own Instagram Story, as per People.

Hannah Montana actor arrested for stealing packet of chips



Mitchel Musso, who played Miley Cyrus' best friend Oliver Oken on the Disney Channel show Hannah Montana was reportedly arrested on Saturday for getting drunk and stealing a packet of chips from a hotel in Rockwell, a suburb of Dallas, Texas. The 32-year-old allegedly entered a hotel in an intoxicated state and refused to pay for the chips. He also became verbally abusive when he was confronted.

As per reports, the Rockwall Police Department arrested Musso on two counts, public intoxication and theft under USD 100. He spent one night in jail and was released after posting a USD 1,000 bond. Musso was arrested in 2011 for drinking and driving. He was 20 back then and was under the legal drinking age.

Vin Diesel shares throwback photo of Auto Ride with Deepika Padukone during his India visit

Fast and Furious star Vin Diesel has taken his fans on a trip down memory lane with a heartwarming throwback photo with none other than B-town's leading lady Deepika Padukone.

In an Instagram post that has ignited a whirlwind of nostalgia, Vin shared a candid snapshot from his visit to India in 2017, during the promotions of the Hollywood blockbuster 'xXx: Return of Xander Cage,' in which he starred alongside the stunning Deepika Padukone.

In the snapshot that Vin affectionately captioned, "Feels so grateful & blessed, to have travelled to so many wonderful countries, like India... .. and to experience their beautiful cultures.... a lucky kid from New York. Hahah. All love, Always," he is seen happily seated inside a vibrant autorickshaw with Deepika by his side. This joyful moment not only symbolized their camaraderie but also celebrated the cultural diversity that their movie represented.



The post has sparked a frenzy among fans, with Indian followers pleading for Vin to return to their country soon.

The Instagram comments section turned into a hilarious exchange of autorickshaw-themed jokes, showcasing Vin's popularity and his connection with his audience.

From witty driving jokes to playful references to a 'Fast and Furious 11' set in India,

the comments kept pouring in with unmatched enthusiasm. Vin Diesel and Deepika Padukone's on-screen chemistry in 'xXx: Return of Xander Cage' left an indelible mark on the minds of their admirers.

The movie, directed by DJ Caruso, soared to success by raking in a remarkable \$346 million worldwide, cementing its position as the most triumphant installment of the 'xXx' franchise.



Warrior King

(PG) ****

Sacred Son!

True stories often make for the best movies. China comes of age with the sizzling Warrior King. Animation never looked better as Cineverse concocts a brilliant tale of a fabled Asian classic. Worth seeking out and seeing on the big screen this full-fledged fantasy from EGPR is playing at select Cineplex and Landmark Theatres around B.C. Make sure you see this movie when it comes out on streaming services as well as on dvd and Blu-Ray, State of the art special effects and lively colors and a sweeping score all come together as we track the life of king in the making Cesar. Part of Tibet folklore we see how four sets of demons engage in a series of battles as a young woman and her son with Royal ambitions are banished from their home-

land. Beware what you wish for. While living in the forests the pair befriend a colony of magical squirrels and over time the lad comes upon a Yoda like sage who imparts various life-long lessons to the ruler in the making. And that's a good thing because the boy will need all the help he can get when as a man he encounters all sorts of evil enemies in his noble quest to right all sorts of wrongs. Director Lu Qi pulls off a monumental escapist yarn with life-like animation and drop-dead gorgeous cinematography. Here the battles are full of grandeur and the backstory is particularly well developed and brilliantly executed resulting in an all around great viewing experience.



EVENTS

South Asian Adults & Seniors - Bingo on the House for members & In Person Yoga Classes at Shanti Niketan hall for members, Bingo on Sept.3rd 2023, from 2.00 pm to 3.30pm at Shanti Niketan hall. In Person Yoga classes for members only, Every Monday & Every Thursday from 10.00 am to 11.15 am. Pure Vegetarian Lunch on Thursdays after the Yoga session.

High Lighted Event - Community Picnic by Lakshmi Narayan Temple Management Team and Vedic Senior Parivar Centre members to be held on September 4th 2023 (Monday) a Canadian Labor Day Holiday, at Bear Creek Park 13750 - 88 Avenue Surrey from 11.00 am to 3.30 pm. The Picnic will be held at Picnic tables located near the car parking lot On 140th street & 86 A Avenue entrance Surrey BC. The volunteers are requested to arrive at the Picnic site at around 10.00 am to organize everything. There will be fruits, snacks, Pop, Juice, water bottles and vegetarian food for all, all families are welcome to attend. There will be live entertainment program, Ladies Punjabi Folk dance, Playing cards, Bingo game, Artak Sharl music competition, Musical Chair game & other activities for enjoyment.

Vedic Seniors Parivar Centre of Vedic Hindu Cultural Society of BC invites South Asian Adults and Senior members only to join and play Bingo on the House on Sept. 3rd 2023 (Sunday) from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm at Shanti Niketan hall. Please bring only 2 dollars with you for 2 games, don't worry if you do not know how to play, members seating next to you will explain the game to you just for the sake of fun. Please keep the social distance while seating for personal & other's safety. Tea and light snacks will be served after the two games are over. In Person Yoga classes for members only, on Every Monday & Every Thursday will continue by Mr. Ashwani Bansal expert Yoga Instructor from 10.00 am to 11.15 am & will help to observe & guide the seniors to do correct yoga. Pure Vegetarian lunch will be served in the dining hall at 11.30 am to all the senior members who attend yoga class on Thursdays. Project funded by Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program for Hindi speaking seniors. Please contact Surendra Handa Coordinator, Vedic Seniors Parivar Centre, & Coordinator - APNI South Asian Community Response Networks, Lakshmi Narayan Temple, 8321 - 140th street Surrey V3W5K9. BC Tel. 604 - 507 - 9945 or email: surendra_handa@hotmail.com, for registration & for further information



Raees actress Mahira Khan on Bipolar disorder diagnosis

Pakistani actress Mahira Khan, who played the lead role opposite Shah Rukh Khan in the 2017 Bollywood film Raees, has opened up about her bipolar disorder diagnosis for the first time. The actress revealed that she is currently on medication and added that her condition became worse after she received backlash for Raees. For those unversed, Pakistani artistes were banned from working in India after the 2016 Uri attack. Mahira couldn't not promote the film in India and she has also not appeared in any other Indian projects since the ban.

During one of her latest podcasts, Mahira reportedly said, "I ended up in a psychiatrist's office, and she said, 'I need you to know that you have manic depression'. This is the first time I'm saying that, I don't know if I should. It's been six-seven years, I've been on anti-depressants. I tried leaving them in the middle, and I went into a very dark space." The 38-year-old actress also said that she decided to stop taking her medicines. Opening up about what happened after that, Mahira said, "Last year, I was bad, I was in bed... I remember, very well, that I

couldn't even get up from my bed to go to the bathroom. I remember praying, 'I promise you Allah, if you show me even this much hope or light, I will take it and I will run with it.' And when he did, and when I went back on my medicines, I woke up feeling like, 'Oh my god, I feel like I can smile, feel lighter.'" Mahira also stated that she was 'in and out of hospitals' until last year and reiterated that 'clinical depression is real'. She also thanked her friends, family, and therapist for standing by her side.

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PINNED UP

Aamir Khan locks his next project, sets Christmas 2024 as release date

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan locks his next project! The actor will return to the big screen next year during Christmas 2024. The untitled project is set for December 20, 2024. After Laal Singh Chaddha, Aamir has been working on several productions under his banner and his next is finally locked.



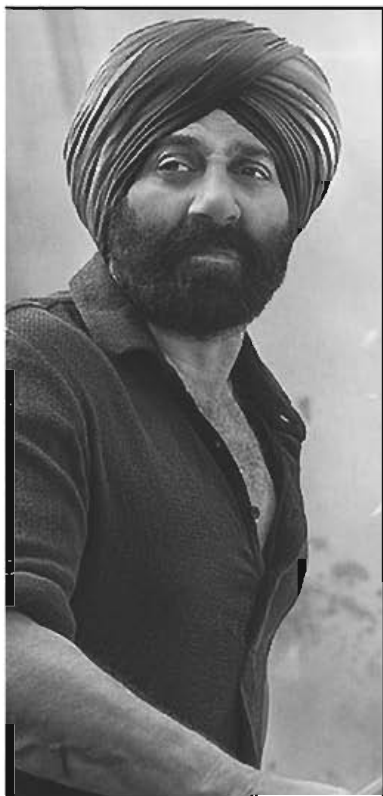
Bollywood JOURNAL

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Sunny Deol expresses interest in collaborating with Alia Bhatt

Bollywood actor Sunny Deol is on cloud nine as his latest cinematic offering, Gadar 2, continues to shatter records at the Indian box office. The much-anticipated sequel has already achieved the remarkable feat of crossing the Rs 460 crore milestone, leaving industry insiders and fans awestruck. With its eyes set on a lifetime collection exceeding Rs 500 crore, Gadar 2 proves to be an unstoppable force in the world of Indian cinema. The film's triumphant success can be attributed to the electrifying charisma of Sunny Deol himself, who not only reprised his iconic role but also injected new life into it. Recently, Sunny Deol expressed his will to share screen space with Alia Bhatt.

During a recent discussion with Zoom, Sunny Deol was questioned about a female co-star he would like to work with. Sunny mentioned Alia Bhatt and emphasized that their collaboration wouldn't be limited to romantic pairing. He expressed his admiration for Alia Bhatt and the potential to work together on a film, even in roles like that of a father and daughter. Sunny said, "I like Alia Bhatt a lot. It will be in-



teresting to do a film with her. I'm not saying as hero-heroine or opposite (each other), I'm talking it could be anything like a daughter-father." Meanwhile, on the work front, Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh's film Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani hit theatres on July 28. Directed by Karan Johar, the



film is garnering good reviews and performing well at the box office. The actress also made her Hollywood debut with Heart of Stones recently that is currently streaming on Netflix. In her pipeline, she also has director Farhan Akhtar's Jee Le Zaraa with Katrina Kaif and Priyanka Chopra.

Mumbai Police heightens security outside Shah Rukh's Mannat over protests against his gaming ad



Mumbai Police heightened the security outside superstar Shah Rukh Khan's residence Mannat in Mumbai after several people gathered outside his house to protest over endorsing gaming ads. The protestors allegedly said that these gaming ads misguide and corrupt the youth. Untouched India Foundation was holding protests against ads for apps like Jungle Rummy, Zupee, and others. Mumbai Police reportedly detained 4-5 people.

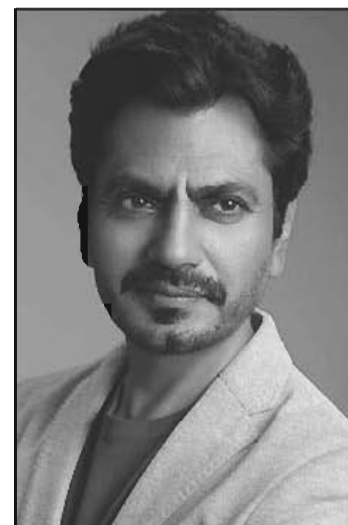
As reported by Free Press Journal, a statement from the organisation read, "Famous actors and actresses work in these advertisements and they are working towards misleading the society. The protest will be held outside Shah Rukh Khan's Mannat bungalow on behalf of Untouched India Foundation."

Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Regina Cassandra team up for Anees Bazmee's Section 108

Regina Cassandra is set to share the screen with Nawazuddin Siddiqui in the highly anticipated film, Section 108, presented by Anees Bazmee. Having made her Bollywood debut in 2019, Regina has since delivered groundbreaking performances on both OTT platforms and the silver screen. The movie revolves around the country's biggest scam and

is under the expert direction of Rashik Khan. According to recent news, "Regina will be playing the part of an insurance investigating officer. The actress plays the part of Shikha, who is an expert in her field. It's a complex and challenging character, and Regina was excited to be a part of this film." On the other hand, the details of Nawazuddin's char-

acter have been kept under wraps. Speaking of the work front, Regina Cassandra was last seen in Karungaapiyam, a Tamil-language horror thriller film written and directed by Deekay. Meanwhile, Siddiqui was last seen in Tiku Weds Sheru, which was directly released on Amazon Prime Video.





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