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B.C. takes action ahead of summer wildfire season

As B.C. transitions into warmer, drier summer months, the Province continues to take action to help keep people and communities safe from wildfires. This includes additional and faster support for people evacuated from their homes during an emergency.

"The spring rains were very welcome and have helped with fire suppression in some parts of B.C., but we will continue to experience drought and a higher risk of wildfires over the coming months," said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests. "We are taking action on all fronts to protect communities, homes and people through wildfires and climate emergencies."

As shown in the BC Wildfire Service's latest seasonal outlook, some regions of the province, notably the coast and southern parts of B.C., have received increased moisture over winter and spring. Other areas, including the northeastern parts of the province, are experiencing prolonged drought and are expected to remain at high risk for wildfire.

To better support people who cannot meet their own needs during evacuations from wildfires and other climate emergencies, the Province is introducing



several improved measures stemming from the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies, including:

Introducing an accommodation allowance of \$200 per night, which is available through Interac e-transfer or at reception centres. This will provide people with greater flexibility choosing where they stay during an evacuation, whether to stay with family or friends, find a hotel on their own or stay at a campground. Alternatively, people can still receive a direct referral to a hotel or other accommodation from their local government or First Nation.

A new Interac e-transfer direct deposit payment option for people who need help securing accommodation during large-scale evacuations. This will help cut down on long lineups at evacuation reception centres and allow people more flexibility and quicker access to emergency funds during an evacuation. People will also have the option of visiting a reception centre to receive financial support in person. Updating and redesigning the EmergencyInfoBC website (<https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>) to improve user experience, especially on mobile devices.

This includes introducing a new easy-to-use share feature, inviting people to share validated and accurate emergency information with their social network, such as X and Facebook.

"During large-scale evacuations, people are often travelling at late hours of the night and may face long lines at evacuee reception centres before they can receive a referral to a hotel," said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. "By increasing the accommodation allowance and giving people the option to receive financial support directly to their bank account, we're empowering people with more options to find suitable accommodation for themselves and their loved ones during times of crisis." People can access the Interac e-transfer support by creating a profile at <https://ess.gov.bc.ca/>. When there is a large-scale evacuation, people who have created an Emergency Support Services (ESS) profile can log into the online self-service registration tool to receive instructions about the types of supports available to them and how they can be accessed. People are encouraged to create a profile before an emergency as part of their preparedness. The online self-service reg-

istration tool may only be available during large-scale evacuations.

"The ability for ESS teams to provide evacuees with the means to find and pay for accommodations that suit them and their families is a significant advancement to how the Province supports evacuees," said Tanya Spooner, manager of emergency programs, City of Prince George, and member, Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies. "This new option gives evacuees greater choice in accommodation types and locations." People are encouraged to consider getting home or tenant insurance, which is one of the best ways people can protect their families in the event of an emergency. In B.C., home insurance that provides coverage for fire damage and losses is widely available in every community across B.C. Both home and tenant insurance policies typically have additional coverage for living expenses while the person is under evacuation order. More details about the BC Wildfire Service's latest forecast, improvements to EmergencyInfoBC, enhancements by the BC Wildfire Service and how people can best prepare them and their properties for wildfire are available in Backgrounder 2.



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Can indie games inspire a creative boom from Indian developers?

By Bertin Huynh

India might not be the first country that springs to mind when someone mentions video games, but it's one of the fastest-growing markets in the world.

Analysts believe there could be more than half a billion players there by the end of this year.

Most of them are playing on mobile phones and tablets, and fans will tell you the industry is mostly known for fantasy sports games that let you assemble imaginary teams based on real players.

Despite concerns over gambling and possible addiction, they're big business.

The country's three largest video game startups - Game 24X7, Dream11 and Mobile Premier League - all provide some kind of fantasy sport experience and are valued at over \$1bn.

But there's hope that a crop of story-driven games making a splash worldwide could inspire a new wave of creativity and investment.

During the recent Summer Game Fest (SGF) - an annual showcase of new and upcoming titles held in Los Angeles and watched by millions - audiences saw previews of a number



of story-rich titles from South Asian teams.

One of those was Detective Dotson by Masala Games, based in Gujarat, about a failed Bollywood actor turned detective.

Industry veteran Shalin Shodhan is behind the game and tells BBC Asian Network this focus on unique stories is "bucking the trend" in India's games industry.

He wants video games to become an "interactive cultural export" but says he's found creating new intellectual property difficult.

"There really isn't anything in the marketplace to make stories about India," he says, despite the strength of some of the country's other cultural industries.

"If you think about how much intellectual property there is in film in India, it is really surprising to think nothing indigenous exists as an original entertainment property in games," he says.

"It's almost like the Indian audience accepted that we're just going to play games from outside."

Another game shown during SGF was

The Palace on the Hill - a "slice-of-life" farming sim set in rural India.

Mala Sen, from developer Niku Games, says games like this and Detective Dotson are what "India needed".

"We know that there are a lot of people in India who want games where characters and setting are relatable to them," she says.

Games developed by South Asian teams based in western countries have been finding critical praise and commercial success in recent years.

Venba, a cooking sim that told the story of a migrant family reconnecting with their heritage through food, became the first game of its kind to take home a Bafta Game Award this year.

Canada-based Visai Games, which developed the title, was revealed during SGF as one of the first beneficiaries of a new fund set up by Among Us developer Innersloth to boost fellow indie developers.

That will go towards their new, unnamed project based on ancient Tamil legends.

Another title awarded funding by the scheme was Project Dosa, from developer Outerloop, that sees players pilot giant robots, cook Indian food and fight lawyers.

India brings back bodies of 45 workers from Kuwait

An Indian Air Force flight has brought back the bodies of 45 workers who were killed in a fire in Kuwait. The fire broke out on Wednesday at a residential building in Mangaf city where 176 Indian workers lived.

Kuwaiti authorities said 50 people were killed in the fire, including 45 from India and three from the Philippines. Two bodies are yet to be identified.

On Thursday, an Indian minister arrived in Kuwait to coordinate efforts to identify the victims and bring them back to the country.

Two-thirds of the Kuwaiti population is made up of foreign workers and the country is highly dependent on migrant labour, especially in the construction and domestic sectors.

Human rights groups have regularly raised concerns over their living conditions.

Dozens of workers, most of them Indian, have also been injured in the fire.

Indian minister Kirti Vardhan Singh said DNA tests had been being carried out to identify the victims.

Among the workers confirmed dead, 23 are from Kerala state, seven from Tamil Nadu, three each from Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, two from Odisha and one each from Bihar, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Haryana.



Mr Singh said the Indian government had arranged a special Air Force flight to bring back the bodies.

The flight landed in Kerala's Kochi city on Friday morning where the bodies of workers from southern Indian states will be given to authorities, and then continue to Delhi.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and other state lawmakers have arrived at the airport to receive

the bodies and pay homage to them.

The state government has arranged for ambulances to transport the bodies of the workers back to their homes for last rites.

"This is a huge tragedy for our country. Kerala's migrant workers are the lifeblood of our state. The fire in Kuwait is one of the biggest tragedies to affect our community," Mr Vijayan said.

The state and federal governments have announced compensation for the families of those who died in the fire.

In Kuwait, authorities say they are carrying out an inspection of health and safety conditions in several buildings that house foreign workers in the country. According to the Arab Times, an investigation by authorities found that the fire started because of an electrical short circuit in the security guard's room on the ground floor of the six-story building.

A senior Kuwait fire department official had on Wednesday said that inflammable material had been used as partitions between rooms and apartments in the building.

Kuwait's Public Prosecution department has detained a citizen and some expatriates on charges of manslaughter and negligence for not implementing fire safety measures, the Times reported.

New commercial vehicle inspection station near Terrace improves road safety

Travel will be safer for all drivers along Highway 16 in northwestern B.C. as a new commercial vehicle inspection station has officially opened ahead of schedule, just east of Terrace.

The new station incorporates advanced transportation technology to expedite the inspection process for commercial vehicles, saving drivers time, fuel and money. It also provides a rest area for drivers, especially those operating long-haul trucks.

"This new inspection station means commercial transport operators now have a clean and safe place to rest, and people in the northern region can get the goods and supplies they need," said Rob Fleming, B.C. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. "It means safer roads for everyone."

For commercial drivers, the new station includes advanced technology like over-height detectors, automatic vehicle identification (AVI) and weigh-in-motion (WIM) technology, which checks the height, weight and safety credentials of registered vehicles at highway speeds without requiring them to leave the highway. In addition, the new tire anomaly and classification system improves



safety by detecting missing or underinflated tires.

"The opening of this new facility will significantly enhance mobility for both local and long-haul commercial drivers," said Pablo Rodriguez, federal Minister of Transport. "It will improve supply chain efficiency, reduce traffic disruptions and improve driver safety along the important Highway 16 trade corridor in British Columbia."

Long-haul commercial drivers will benefit from additional parking spaces designated for rest. Washrooms will be accessible during office hours, supplemented by rest-area toilets that

are always accessible. Local and commercial drivers will see a decrease in traffic disruptions and delays because the new station is located further away from the highway 16 and 37 intersections.

"The new inspection station is a significant addition to our northern region, enhancing safety for everyone on the road. The BC Trucking Association is so pleased to see this development come to fruition," said Dave Earle, president and CEO, BC Trucking Association. "This means carriers and drivers operating along this busy route will

have the opportunity to access advanced technology to ensure their loads are secure, and it serves as a much-needed rest area."

The facility also includes parking for the public and oversize vehicles, and will support short-term truck parking (five stalls), overnight truck parking (10 stalls), refrigeration unit plug-ins, Wi-Fi and oversize-vehicle staging for inter-regional transport trips. The \$34.3-million project was jointly funded, with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure providing \$19.2 million and Transport Canada providing \$15.1 million.

Construction was completed by IDL Projects Inc. nearly six months ahead of schedule.

Quick Facts:

- Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) promotes compliance within the commercial transport sector by enforcing acts and regulations designed to improve vehicle fitness and driver accountability to help keep people safe.
- CVSE completes, on average, more than 25,000 inspections per year, issuing violation tickets and removing unsafe vehicles from the provincial roadways daily.
- Weigh2GoBC selectively allows commercial carriers to bypass Weigh2GoBC inspection stations (weigh scales) saving time, fuel and money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Province has six inspection stations equipped with AVI technology, and five inspection stations equipped with both AVI and WIM technology.
- Work on additional sites with both AVI and WIM is underway.

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Growth in Burnaby powered by clean, affordable electricity

BC Hydro will construct more than \$1.25 billion in capital projects throughout Burnaby over the next decade to upgrade and expand the electricity grid, and provide clean power for homes and businesses in growing communities.

"We must build out B.C.'s electrical system like never before, to power our homes and businesses, to power a growing economy and to power our future," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. "In Burnaby and communities across B.C., these construction projects will create thousands of good jobs over the next decade and ensure that people have access to clean, affordable and reliable electricity - when they need it and where they need it."

In January 2024, the Province announced BC Hydro's updated 10-year capital plan, which contains \$36 billion in regional and community infrastructure investments throughout B.C., which is a 50% increase in investments over its previous capital plan. These new construction projects are forecast to support 10,500 to 12,500 jobs on average annually, and will increase and maintain BC Hydro's capital investments as major projects such as the Site C hydroelectric dam are completed.



The plan reflects growing demand for electricity across sectors due to population growth and housing construction, increased industrial development, and people and businesses switching from fossil fuels to clean electricity, among other factors. "In growing cities like Burnaby, where we are seeing significant housing, building, transportation and industrial growth, we are embarking on significant upgrades to our electricity system, including investments in new and expanded substation projects as well as voltage conversion projects to ensure we can continue to provide reliable and clean electricity to our customers," said Chris O'Riley, president and CEO, BC Hydro. "We are also making important changes to our customer connections process to speed up timelines for newly constructed homes and buildings."

Burnaby is experiencing significant growth in the Brentwood, Metrotown and Burquitlam/Lougheed communities, as well as forecasting industrial growth in the Big Bend and Lake City areas. To meet growth in these areas, BC Hydro is investing in several projects as part of its 10-year capital plan, including:

structured homes and buildings."

Burnaby is experiencing significant growth in the Brentwood, Metrotown and Burquitlam/Lougheed communities, as well as forecasting industrial growth in the Big Bend and Lake City areas. To meet growth in these areas, BC Hydro is investing in several projects as part of its 10-year capital plan, including:

- Horne Payne substation expansion: will power an additional 10,000 to 17,500 homes, expected completion in 2027.
- Newell substation expansion: will power an additional 10,000 to 17,500 homes, expected completion in 2027.
- Lougheed substation expansion: will power an additional 20,000 to 35,000 homes, expected completion in 2029.
- Barnard substation expansion: will power an additional 18,000 to 30,000 homes, expected completion 2029.
- New substation to serve Metrotown area: will power an additional 40,000 to 70,000 homes, expected completion 2033.

- Voltage conversion projects in Metrotown and Barnard.

Converting BC Hydro's equipment to a higher voltage will power quality and reliability in these areas without having to add more power lines and equipment.

"Burnaby residents and business owners are seeking affordable and reliable options for clean energy and these investments in electricity infrastructure will help meet those needs as our city grows," said Sav Dhaliwal, acting mayor of Burnaby. "We seek to be a leader in the transition away from carbon-intensive energy and these foundational investments from BC Hydro are essential steps on that path." Separate from its 10-year capital plan, BC Hydro recently launched a call for power to acquire approximately 3,000 gigawatt hours per year of clean electricity. This is BC Hydro's first competitive call for power in more than 15 years and will add 5% to its current supply, and will be the first in a series of calls for power as BC Hydro requires more power to electrify B.C.'s growing economy and reduce harmful pollution.

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Arms can you raise both?

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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?

Time ਸਮੇਂ: ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਅਹਿਮੀਅਤ ਸਮਝੋ - ਝਟਪਟ 9-1-1 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

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Courtenay families benefit from two new child care centres

Families in Courtenay will have access to child care spaces located at Arden and Glacier View Elementary schools.

"Child care on school grounds has a real impact on families' lives," said Mitzi Dean, Minister of State for Child Care. "By providing high-quality child care directly on school grounds, children receive the best start on their early learning in a familiar, nurturing environment, while making it easier for busy parents to balance their professional and personal responsibilities."

School District 71 (Comox Valley) received



almost \$8 million in provincial funding through the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund to build new child care on school grounds. Seventy-five new spaces at each school will be created for a total of 150

new spaces. This includes 24 spaces for infant-toddlers, 32 spaces for kids aged three to five and 94 new spaces for school-age care on school grounds. "These two new child care facilities repre-

sent a significant step forward in providing accessible, affordable and high-quality early-learning environments for families in the Comox Valley," said Michelle Waite, board chair, Comox Valley Schools. "The centres at Arden and Glacier View will help parents with supporting their families and pursuing their professional and educational goals with the confidence that their children are receiving excellent care and education."

To help fast track the creation of child care spaces on school grounds, the Province developed a funding pathway for B.C. school districts interested in creating or expanding access to licensed child care in schools. Applications are still being accepted for the 2024-

25 ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund.

"BGC Central Vancouver Island is excited to be part of child care expansion in the Comox Valley along with our partner School District 71," said Corey Sugiyama, acting executive director, BGC Central Vancouver Island. "Recognizing the growing need for affordable and readily available child care, we are excited to be adding the new Arden and Glacier clubs, bringing our total up to 16 club locations and complementing our existing Aspen Park and Brooklyn clubs in the beautiful Comox Valley."

Since 2018, ChildCareBC-accelerated space-creation programs have helped fund the creation of more than 37,000 new licensed child care spaces in B.C., includ-

ing more than 690 in Courtenay and the surrounding area. Funding the creation of new child care spaces is part of the Province's goal to build access to affordable, quality, inclusive child care as a core service for families.

"These new child care spaces on school grounds will be a wonderful resource for families as Courtenay's population continues to grow," said Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA, Courtenay-Comox. "Having child care at schools reduces the number of transitions students have in a day, which is easier for them and their families. These much-needed spaces will go a long way to help relieve some of the stress on working families and greatly support our community."

New guide helps Surrey seniors prepare for emergencies, extreme heat

Surrey, BC – The City of Surrey has developed an Emergency Preparedness Guide for Older Adults to help seniors stay safe during emergencies, including extreme heat. The guide provides safety tips and resources including how to communicate during emergencies, important phone numbers and checklists, tools for creating personal emergency plans, and information about the Alertable Emergency Notification Program. It aims to empower seniors to take proactive steps for their safety during uncertain times.

"As we navigate the changing climate and extreme weather, it's essential that we prioritize the safety and well-being of our seniors," said Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke. "Collaborating with the Age-Friendly Strategy for Seniors team, we have developed this guide to provide older adults with crucial information and tools for better preparedness during emergencies. I'm proud to be unveiling this initiative and encourage all of our seniors to take advantage of this valuable re-

source." Seniors often face unique challenges during emergencies due to factors such as limited mobility, chronic health conditions, and a higher likelihood of living alone. These vulnerabilities make it essential for older adults to be well-prepared and have a clear plan in place. "In light of intense heat-waves and increasing

wildfires affecting Surrey with wildfire smoke, our focus is on safeguarding our vulnerable seniors," said Surrey Fire Chief Larry Thomas. "The new Emergency Preparedness Guide for Older Adults is a valuable resource to empower older adults to take control of their emergency preparedness and stay safe during times of uncertainty."

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Improved access to mental health, addictions coming to Westshore

A new community mental-health and substance-use service will soon offer accessible care closer to home for residents of the Westshore on southern Vancouver Island.

The western communities service hub is designed to meet a range of mental-health and addiction needs. It offers immediate access through same-day walk-in or call-in counselling and assessments, five days a week. For those requiring ongoing support, the hub connects clients with a care co-ordinator who tailors services to each person's needs. A new facility will enhance and integrate the mental-health and addiction services in the western communities, making comprehensive care readily available.

"Mental health and addiction challenges can affect anyone, and as our communities grow, so does the need for dependable care close by," said Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. "With this hub, we are bringing together mental-health and addiction services, and supporting individuals and families right where they live. This makes it easier for people to get all the care they need, where and when they need it."

The hub's team includes experts from different fields, like psychiatry, addiction medicine, nursing, counselling, occupational therapy and peer support. This diverse



group works together to provide a seamless care experience. The new facility will help people find the support they need in one place, whether it's for mental health or addiction issues. The team adapts to each person's changing needs over time, ensuring consistent ongoing support throughout their recovery. This model was developed in consultation with local Indigenous communities to make sure its services are culturally informed and relevant. This co-operation helps ensure that everyone has access to care that feels right for them.

"Island Health recognizes and is responding to the growing need for mental-health and addictions care in our communities," said Leah Hollins, board chair, Island Health. "By providing local services for low to moderate mental-health and addiction needs and connecting those with higher needs to specialized care, we are creating a co-ordinated and effective care system." The hub, under construction at 681 Allan-

dale Rd. in Colwood, is intended to improve access to care when it opens later this year. The hub is part of the Province's work to build an integrated system of mental-health and addictions care so more people can get the care they need, when and where they need it. Budget 2024 builds on Budget 2023's historic \$1-billion investment into mental-health and addictions care, including early intervention and prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services, and complex-care housing.

Quotes:

Ravi Parmar, MLA for Langford- Juan de Fuca -

"This new hub will be transformative for our community, offering crucial mental-health and addiction services exactly where they are needed most. It's exciting to see this patient-centred care infrastructure come to fruition in the Westshore, enhancing the well-being of our residents and setting a new benchmark for commu-

nity mental health services."

Mitzi Dean, MLA for

Esquimalt-Metchosin -

"People living in the Westshore will be able to access mental-health care where and when they need it with this new hub coming to Colwood. This new and responsive service will deliver crucial services to people quickly, helping their recovery and healing journey."

Mary Morrison, manager, Island Health Mental Health and Substance Use Services (Western Communities) -

"Island Health is responding to expanding service needs in one of the fastest-growing regions in British Columbia. Our new service hub will provide same day-walk-in and appointment-based group and individual services and supports. This will connect people with the care they need within the hub, as well as facilitate strong connections to community agency-provided services and higher levels of care when needed."

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Ph: 604-507-8009
Fax: 1-855-796-3342
Email: asianjournal@asianjournal.ca

Editorial Consultant
JUNITA THAKORLAL

Graphics & Layout by
JASPREET

Webmaster
REET

Photographers
INDERJIT SINGH
MIDDA PHOTOGRAPHY
AZIZ LADHA

Sales
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CHOICE

BIHAR MURDER: FATHER-SON LAWYER DUO SHOT DEAD EN-ROUTE TO COURT IN CHHAPRA



Patna: A man and his son were shot dead in Bihar's Chapra city on Wednesday, an official said. The deceased were on their way to the district court on a bike for regular work in the morning. When they reached the Methwalia locality under Mufassil police station, unidentified assailants opened fire at them. Before anyone could understand anything, the father and his son were dead. After the murder, there was a stir in the entire area.

On receiving information about the incident, the Mufassil police station took both the bodies into their custody and sent them to Chapra Sadar Hospital for post-mortem. The deceased have been identified as Ram Ayodhya Prasad Rai and his son Sunil Kumar Rai. Both were riding a bike when the criminals ambushed them near the Dudhiya bridge. "Ram Ayodhya Rai, advocate and his son Sunil Rai got ready early in the morning in their house located at Medhwalia locality and were on their way to the Chapra Civil Court on a bike. They were intercepted by the criminals at Dudhai Bridge. The criminals opened fire on them indiscriminately due to which both fell on the road and were shot dead," said an officer of the Mufassil police station.

CAN THE UAE AND QATAR BRING THE TALIBAN TO THE TABLE AT DOHA III?

Although no country in the world has yet recognised the Taliban as Afghanistan's legitimate rulers, the international community seems to have no hesitation in condemning and embracing Afghanistan on a case-to-case basis.

In the last few days, on the one hand, the world vehemently reprimanded the Taliban regime for the public flogging of Afghan men and women in a packed sports stadium in the northern Sari Pul province. And on the other, the ruler of United Arab Emirates, Mohamed bin Zayed, publicly welcomed the Taliban government's Interior Minister, Sirajuddin Haqqani, in Abu Dhabi's Qasr al-Shati palace despite the \$10 million FBI bounty on his head. The United States, no less, turned a blind eye to the red car-



pet welcome accorded to the wanted man by a friendly ally like the UAE, citing the "complex relationship countries, particularly those in the region, have with the Taliban" — a dead giveaway of Washington's own overt and covert engagement with the government in Kabul.

Among the 63 Afghans who were whipped this month in a packed stadium for crimes ranging from theft and cheating to adultery and sodomy, there were as many as 14 women who were

lashed. According to media reports, after being lashed between 15 and 39 times, the convicts were casually examined by doctors for injuries and sent back to prison to complete their Supreme Court-ratified sentences. After seizing power in August 2021, the Taliban have carried out floggings, stonings and executions by gunfire in a brazen repetition of the corporal punishment meted out during their previous rule in the 1990s. There have been five public executions

since the Taliban recaptured power three years ago. Last February, a man convicted of murder was shot five times with a rifle by the brother of the murdered man in the presence of clerics, judges and ordinary people in a stadium in Jawz-jan province.

The recent floggings were immediately decried by the United Nations — which called it "deeply disturbing" — and global human rights groups who demanded that they stop the barbaric practice right away. But the Taliban supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, shrugged off the international criticism and justified the flogging citing the Islamic criminal justice system. Cocking a snook at the whole world, he said that no power on earth can shake Afghans' commitment to the tenets of Islam.

WHO CONFIRMS 2ND INDIAN HUMAN CASE OF BIRD FLU IN 4-YEAR-OLD WEST BENGAL RESIDENT

Kolkata: The World Health Organisation has confirmed the human case of bird flu in India after the H9N2 virus was detected in a four-year-old child in West Bengal. Overall, this is the second human infection of avian influenza A (H9N2) notified to WHO from India, with the first being done in 2019. The child has recovered and was discharged from the hospital. WHO received a notification from the International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) for India, regarding a human case of avian influenza A(H9N2) virus infection

in West Bengal, the health body said in a press release. The patient is a 4-year-old child residing in West Bengal state. The case, previously diagnosed with hyper-reactive airway disease, initially presented to the pediatrician with fever and abdominal pain on 26 January 2024.

He developed seizures on January 29 after which he was brought to the same pediatrician. The patient was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit (ICU) of a local hospital due to the persistence of severe respiratory distress, recurrent

high-grade fever, and abdominal cramps.

The patient tested positive for influenza B and adenovirus. He was discharged from the hospital on February 28 but with a recurrence of severe respiratory distress, he was referred to another government hospital and was admitted to the pediatric ICU and intubated on March 3.

His nasopharyngeal swab was sent to the Kolkata Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory and tested positive for influenza A (not sub-typed) and rhinovirus.

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<p>Name: RASMUSSEN, Paul</p> <p>Age: 52 Height: 6'3" ft Weight: 220lbs Hair: Grey (Bald) Eyes: Blue Wanted: Unlawfully at Large Warrant in effect: June 9, 2024 Parole Jurisdiction: New Westminster, BC</p>	<p>Name: FIELD, Kenneth</p> <p>Age: 42 Height: 6'0" ft Weight: 210lbs Hair: Brown Eyes: Blue Wanted: Fail to Comply with Probation Warrant in effect: June 11, 2024 Parole Jurisdiction: Chilliwack, B.C.</p>	<p>Name: WALTERS, Trevor</p> <p>Age: 32 Height: 5'11" ft Weight: 161lbs Hair: Blonde Eyes: Blue Wanted: Dangerous Operation of Conveyance and Driving While Prohibited x2 Warrant in effect: June 11, 2024 Parole Jurisdiction: Chilliwack, BC</p>
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PM MODI THANKS BILL GATES FOR CONGRATULATORY WISHES ON HIS 3RD TERM



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday thanked Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates for sending wishes on his oath-taking ceremony.

PM Modi also expressed deep appreciation for their past discussions highlighting the transformative role of technology in governance, healthcare, and India's commitment to climate change and sustainable development. In his response to Gates' congratulatory message on winning a third term as Prime Minister, Modi acknowledged the strengthening of India's position as a global innovator in sectors such as health, agriculture, women-led development, and digital transformation.

Deeply appreciate your message @BillGates. Recall our very positive and engaging conversation a few months ago, including on transformative role of technology in governance and healthcare, and

India's commitment to climate change and sustainable development. We value our...
<https://t.co/oequToYpeB>

"Deeply appreciate your message, Bill Gates. Recall our very positive and engaging conversation a few months ago, including on transformative role of technology in governance and health-care, and India's commitment to climate change and sustainable development. We value our partnership for promoting innovation for the benefit of humanity," said Prime Minister Modi. Gates, in an earlier message, extended congratulations to Prime Minister Modi and expressed anticipation for a continued partnership aimed at improving lives through innovation. He commended India's progress as a hub for innovation and emphasised the potential for further collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

2 INDIANS RECRUITED BY RUSSIAN ARMY KILLED IN ONGOING UKRAINE CONFLICT: MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



New Delhi: Two Indian nationals who had been recruited by the Russian Army have recently been killed in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. The Indian Embassy in Moscow is pressing for the mortal remains of the deceased Indians to be re-

patriated to the country as soon as possible.

"We offer our deepest condolences to the families of the deceased. Our Embassy in Moscow has pressed the Russian authorities, including the Ministry of Defence, for early repatriation of mortal remains," the MEA said in an official release on Tuesday.

NORTH KOREA SENDS 300 MORE TRASH-FILLED BALLOONS INTO SOUTH KOREA AS ROW OVER LOUDSPEAKER BROADCAST INTENSIFIES

Pyongyang: North Korea floated over 300 more waste-loaded balloons into South Korea, as tensions between the two countries continue to mount, Al Jazeera reported citing Seoul's military on Monday. This comes after Kim Jong Un's influential sister, Kim Yo Jong warned Seoul to halt propaganda broadcasts across their tense border.

She warned that the loudspeaker broadcasts risked provoking a "crisis of confrontation."

"This is a prelude to a very dangerous situation," Kim said in a statement carried by state media on Sunday.

The latest balloons carried only scrap paper and plastic, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said, unlike previous batches that carried unsanitary material such as manure, toilet paper, and cigarette butts. Military officials said they did not detect any balloons floating in the air as of 8:30 am (local time).

Loudspeaker broadcasts were resumed by South Korea hours earlier in response to the North



sending more than 1,000 rubbish-carrying balloons in recent weeks, Al Jazeera reported.

In the past, the broadcasts have included international news and K-pop, both of which are restricted by the Kim regime.

Seoul halted the broadcasts in 2018 during a period of inter-Korean rapprochement initiated by former President Moon Jae-in, the predecessor of the conservative incumbent, Yoon Seok-yeol. Pyongyang said it started the balloon campaign in retaliation for



South Korean activists sending anti-North Korean leaflets and USB sticks filled with South Korean music and dramas across the border, as reported by Al Jazeera.

“Seoul does not want military tension at the inter-Korean border, and Pyongyang does not want outside information threatening the legitimacy of the Kim regime,” said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul.



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Nine Hindu pilgrims killed in bus attack in India's Jammu

Nine people have died and 33 injured after suspected militants fired on a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims in the Indian federal territory of Jammu and Kashmir, police officials said.

Officials had initially said after the incident on Sunday that the death toll was 10, but revised the figure later.

They said that the driver lost control after the attack, causing the bus to plunge into a gorge in Reasi district of Jammu.

While rescue operations have concluded, a search operation by the Indian army and police is under way to track down the attackers.

Officials said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken "stock of the situation" and asked for the best medical care to be provided to the injured. "All those behind this heinous act will



be punished soon," Manoj Sinha, the region's top administrator, wrote on X (formerly Twitter). Mr Sinha has announced a compensation of 1m rupees (\$12000; £9400) to the next of kin of the deceased and 50,000 rupees to the injured. The bus was on its way to the base camp

of the famous Hindu shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi when it was fired upon. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack yet but Mohita Sharma, the district police chief, told Reuters that suspected militants had "ambushed the bus". The Himalayan region of Kashmir has been

a flashpoint between India and Pakistan for over six decades.

Since 1947, the nuclear-armed neighbours have fought two wars over the Muslim-majority territory, which both claim in full but control in part. Since 1989, Indian-administered Kashmir has also seen an armed

insurgency against Delhi's rule, claiming thousands of lives.

Delhi accuses Islamabad of harbouring militants and disrupting peace in the region, a charge Pakistan denies.

The news of the attack broke as Mr Modi took oath as India's prime minister for the third consecutive term at a swearing-in ceremony in Delhi.

On Monday, the Jammu police released the names of the victims, including the driver of the bus. They are from the states of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Two of the victims are children, aged two years and 14.

Some survivors spoke to ANI news agency about their ordeal.

One of them said the driver had been shot and that the firing didn't stop even after the bus fell into the gorge.

Amit Shah, who was home minister in Mr Modi's previous government, expressed grief over the incident.

"The culprits of this dastardly attack will not be spared and will face the wrath of the law," he wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Rahul Gandhi, the leader of main opposition party Congress, questioned the security situation in the region.

"This shameful incident is the true picture of the worrying security situation in Jammu and Kashmir," he wrote on X.

In 2017, seven Hindu pilgrims, six of them women, were killed after their bus, returning from the famed Amarnath pilgrimage site in Anantnag district, got caught in a gun battle between police and militants.

Eight more die as India faces 'longest' heatwave

A severe heatwave continues to wreak havoc in India as the eastern state of Odisha on Monday reported eight deaths within a 72-hour period.

Official figures released in May suggested 60 people died between March and May across India due to heat-related illnesses.

But the number is likely to be much higher as heat-related deaths go under-reported in rural areas.

Officials say India is in the middle of the longest heatwave it has seen since records began. Temperatures have crossed 50C in some areas recently.

"This has been the longest spell because it has been experienced for about 24 days in different parts of the country," Mrutyunjay Mohapatra of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) told the Indian Express newspaper.

Parts of northern India have been experiencing extreme heat since mid-May, with temperatures hovering between 45-50C in several cities.

Some areas of the country have also been impacted by water shortages,

with extreme heat placing huge demands on supplies.

Earlier this month, at least 18 polling officials deployed for the final phase of the general elections died of heat-related illnesses in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states, authorities said.

On 31 May, at least 33 people, including election officials, died of suspected heatstroke in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha.

The monsoon, which hit India's southern coast in Kerala state on 30 May, is expected to bring some relief as it spreads to northern parts of the country in the coming days.

The IMD has predicted an above-average monsoon season for the country this year.

But Mr Mohapatra said that "heatwaves will be more frequent, durable and intense, if precautionary or preventive measures are not taken."

The weather office has predicted heatwave conditions for northwest and eastern India for the next five days.

By Meryl Sebastian

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2024 Ford Maverick Lariat Hybrid: Fuel Efficient Pickup!

Review by Veenoo Dewan

The 2024 Ford Maverick pickup truck slots just below the mid-size Ford Ranger, and has an advantage being also available as a full-hybrid – as well as a conventional gas-powered version. The Maverick is based on the same platform as the Ford Bronco Sport and Ford Escape and arrives as a four-door, five-passenger crew cab, with a 4-foot-5 bed. The Maverick's hybrid powertrain is, combines a 2.5L Atkinson-cycle four-cylinder engine with a hybrid system that delivers a combined 191 horsepower and 155 lb-ft of torque. It's mated to an automatic continuously variable transmission (CVT) and is strictly front-wheel drive. The optional engine choice is a gas engine turbocharged 2.0L "EcoBoost" four-cylinder making 250 horsepower and 277 lb-ft of torque, with eight-speed automatic trans-

mission and all-wheel drive.

The 2024 Ford Maverick now sees the top-trim Lariat as a hybrid with new as standard features that include a spray-in bedliner, wireless charger, navigation, heated steering wheel, and driver-assist safety features. Also for 2024 is the Tremor package that adds 4x4 capability.

The 2024 Ford Maverick with gasoline engine and AWD starts at \$32,600 in the XL; \$35,700 for the XLT; and \$43,500 for the Lariat. The hybrid option adds \$500 to the price. Delivery is \$2,095 extra. Towing capacity for the hybrid is 907 kg (2,000 lb). The as tested Lariat Hybrid is the top tier trim, adding standard equipment like 18-inch wheels, LED signature lighting, body-color door handles and mirror caps, and additional in-bed cubby storage. The Lariat includes Intelligent Access with

push-button start. This system uses a proximity key fob, which allows unlocking the doors by touching the handle. The price for our tester as \$44,000 plus options and delivery for a total price of \$49,515.

Creature comforts include dual-zone automatic climate control, ambient interior lighting, rear-seat dual USB ports, an acoustic windshield, a power sliding rear window, ActiveX upholstery, and an 8-way power driver's seat. A 6.5-inch productivity screen is also standard. In addition to the packages already mentioned, the Lariat Luxury Package adds an 8-speaker B&O audio system, a 400W/110V inverter with outlets in the cab and bed, heated seats, heated side mirrors, a heated steering wheel, and LED box lighting. The Black appearance package as added to our tester was \$2,000, along with 18-inch machined wheels. Also added was the Luxury Package also brings voice-activated navigation, the Sync3 infotainment system featuring an 8-inch touchscreen with swipe capability, SiriusXM satellite radio, a wireless charging pad, windshield wiper de-icers, a trailer hitch, and a full-size spare tire.

Also included is The Ford Co-Pilot360 Assist Package adding adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go and lane centering, evasive steering assist, are rear park-



ing sensors. Standard safety assist items include emergency front braking, automatic high-beam headlights, and a back-up camera. Extra safety packages include items such as: blind-spot monitoring with rear cross-traffic alert, lane-keep assist, and hill descent control. Interior wise – a lot of thought has gone into giving the Maverick a practical versatile interior designed for maximum functionality. Nice touches include larger water bottle holders in the door panels, a phone holder in the centre console; and plenty of storage cubbyholes, plus a wireless phone recharging pad. The Maverick's interior has rugged styling cues, with some cool use of colour and texture. The

rear seats flip up for extra cargo storage. Overall interior room is good, with comfortable seats and adequate leg room in the rear. On the road, the Maverick Hybrid ride offers a smooth and composed. Feeling. The steering is nicely weighted and, and the vehicle is responsive on acceleration and holds it own on the highway offering satisfyingly strong, linear power delivery. The switch from gas to electric is almost seamless. The Maverick Hybrid handles a variety of surfaces very well thanks to its well sorted suspension and dampers. Large bumps are soaked up compliantly while body roll is muted. The truck feels solid and durable. The Maverick Hybrid's

fuel economy is officially rated by Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) at 5.6 L/100 km in the city, 7.1 on the highway, and 6.3 combined. If you opt for the non-hybrid 2.0L, it's rated at 9.6 L/100 km in combined driving.

To sum up, the Maverick is very impressive and is nice to drive. The smart interior, good road manners, compact size and the fuel-efficient hybrid powertrain portion are all plus points. For buyers wanting a well priced fuel frugal small truck – walk this way!

2024 Ford Maverick Hybrid Lariat; priced from \$44,000, plus options, destination, and delivery. Price as tested \$49,515.

More info at www.ford.ca

Business

STAY CONNECTED: DISCOVERING THE LATEST BUSINESS COMMUNICATION TOOLS

In the rapidly evolving business landscape, effective communication is the cornerstone of success. As teams become more dispersed and remote work becomes the norm, staying connected is essential to maintain productivity and collaboration. That's where the latest business communication tools come into play. In this blog, we delve into a comprehensive exploration of cutting-edge platforms and software designed to revolutionize the way businesses communicate.

From instant messaging apps that foster real-time collaboration to video conferencing solutions that bridge the gap between remote teams, these tools offer innovative features that cater to the evolving needs of modern businesses.

Join us on this journey of discovery as we uncover the most efficient and powerful tools to keep your team connected, engaged, and driving towards success in the fast-paced world of business.

Clariti
Clariti is an all-in-one business communication tool and Chat apps platform that organizes conversations into contextual threads. This unique feature ensures that all related emails, messages, files, and tasks are automatically grouped together based on context, eliminating the need to search for information across different tools and boosting team productivity. With Clariti, teams can effortlessly switch between chat, email, and tasks within one platform, streamlining communication. Clariti's unified organization enhances collaboration by providing team members with the complete context of discussions and tasks.

Microsoft Teams
Microsoft Teams is a comprehensive collaboration platform that brings together chat, video conferencing, file sharing, and integration with Microsoft Office apps into one seamless interface. Teams can



communicate in real-time through individual or group chats, making it easy to collaborate and share ideas. The video conferencing feature allows teams to host virtual meetings with up to thousands of participants, enabling face-to-face interactions regardless of location. With deep integration with Microsoft Office tools like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, teams can co-author and edit documents in real-time, promoting seamless productivity.

Slack
Slack is a popular instant messaging app designed to enhance team communication and collaboration. Its user-friendly interface allows teams to create dedicated channels for different projects or departments, ensuring organized discussions. Slack also supports integrations with a wide range of third-party apps, enabling teams to share files, conduct polls, and automate workflows without leaving the platform. The ability to search past conversations and files streamlines information retrieval, making it easy to locate crucial information.

Zoom
Zoom is a leading video conferencing software that offers high-quality virtual meetings

and webinars. With its robust video and audio capabilities, teams can conduct face-to-face meetings and collaborate in real-time, even in large groups. Zoom's screen sharing feature allows participants to share presentations, documents, or applications for seamless collaboration. Additionally, Zoom offers interactive features like breakout rooms, enabling teams to divide into smaller groups for focused discussions or activities.

Google Meet
Google Meet is Google's video conferencing tool that facilitates smooth and secure communication among teams. With its integration with other Google Workspace apps, teams can easily schedule and join meetings directly from their calendar or email. Google Meet's real-time captions and live polls enhance engagement during virtual meetings. The ability to record meetings for future reference ensures that important discussions are preserved.

Trello
Trello is a visual project management tool that empowers teams to organize tasks and collaborate effectively. Teams can create boards, lists, and cards to visually represent

their workflow and track progress. Trello's drag-and-drop functionality makes it simple to move tasks between different stages, ensuring transparency and accountability. The platform allows teams to attach files, add due dates, and assign tasks to team members, fostering clear communication and collaboration.

Asana
Asana is a versatile project management platform that streamlines team collaboration and task management. Teams can create projects, set deadlines, and assign tasks to team members, ensuring everyone stays on track. Asana's calendar view provides an overview of upcoming deadlines and allows teams to manage their time effectively. With integrations to popular productivity apps, teams can centralize communication and file sharing within the Asana platform.

Monday.com
Monday.com is a work operating system that facilitates teamwork and project management. Teams can create customized workflows, track progress, and manage tasks, all from one centralized platform. While it does offer some communication features such as real-time messaging, task assignments, and file sharing within the platform, its main focus is on facilitating team collaboration, project tracking, and workflow management.

Chanty
Chanty is a team chat app that emphasizes easy communication and collaboration. It's simple and intuitive interface allows teams to communicate in real-time through one-on-one or group chats. Chanty's message history is searchable, making it easy to find past conversations and reference important information. The app also supports integrations with various third-party apps like Google Drive, Trello, and

Asana, enabling seamless file sharing and task management within the platform.

RingCentral Glip
RingCentral Glip is a team messaging and collaboration app that combines video conferencing, task management, and file sharing features. Teams can communicate through chat, voice, and video calls, allowing for instant communication and real-time collaboration. Glip's task management feature allows teams to create, assign, and track tasks, ensuring everyone stays organized and accountable. The built-in file sharing and storage feature makes it easy for teams to collaborate on documents and multimedia files securely.

Microsoft Yammer
Microsoft Yammer is an enterprise social networking platform that fosters internal communication and knowledge sharing within organizations. Teams can create communities and groups to share updates, knowledge, and resources. Yammer promotes transparency and openness, encouraging employees to engage in meaningful discussions and share valuable insights. The integration with other Microsoft products like Office 365 enhances productivity by enabling seamless collaboration on documents and real-time editing.

GoToMeeting
GoToMeeting is a web conferencing platform that offers virtual meetings, webinars, and screen sharing capabilities. With GoToMeeting, teams can collaborate in real-time, discuss projects, and present ideas to a remote audience. The ability to record meetings ensures that important discussions are captured for future reference or for team members who couldn't attend. GoToMeeting's user-friendly interface and ease of use make it an excellent choice for teams seeking hassle-free virtual communication.

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Canadian investors eye utilities, real estate stocks as BoC cuts rates

TORONTO, June 12 (Reuters) - Canadian utility and real estate stocks are likely to be among the biggest beneficiaries of the Bank of Canada's move to begin cutting interest rates, while the prospect of increased loan demand could help bank shares, investors say.

The BoC last Wednesday became the first G7 central bank to ease monetary policy, lowering its benchmark rate by 25 basis points to 4.75%. Roughly 150 basis points of additional cuts are priced into the bond market over the next couple of years.

Interest rate-sensitive sectors such as utilities, real estate investment trusts, or REITs, and financials account for 35% of the weighting on Canada's main stock index, the S&P/TSX Composite (.GSPSE), opens new tab.

"They've started cutting rates, there's more

to come," said Joseph Abramson, co-chief investment officer at Northland Wealth Management. "The two big sector plays on that are REITs and utilities ... they're both income plays and they also have a lot of debt."

REITs own income-producing real estate, while utilities include high-dividend paying pipeline companies such as Enbridge Inc and TC Energy Corp.

"The defensive parts of the market - think REITs, utilities and telecom - those areas have been hit particularly hard as rates have gone up," said Mike Archibald, a portfolio manager at AGF Investments. "If rates go as consensus is thinking ... those sectors I think would start to play a little bit of catch up."



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8140 Claysmith Road,
9379 SF RS1/E Lot with a clean, 1964 built 2400 SF 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Rented House, in a quiet neighbourhood of Newer Luxury Homes near Blundell & No1 Rd in the Boyd Park area of Richmond. Currently.



NEW LISTING
Chilliwack
8811 Saunders Road
SOLD



NEW LISTING
Chilliwack
44477 Yale Road
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SOLD
RICHMOND
18620 Railway Avenue
Introducing The Richstone. 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.



SOLD
RICHMOND
3411 Lockhart Road
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.



SOLD
ANNIEVILLE
11452 93 Avenue, Delta
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.



SOLD
SCOTTSDALE
8336 118 Street, Delta
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.



SOLD
SEAFAIR
8931 Fairdell Place
Seafair Gem! Super cute & charming family home w/ 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, enclosed sunroom, storage/den & large bright games / family room down.

For All Listings Visit: WWW.RELIANCEREALESTATE.CA

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SOLD

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\$1,399,000



9126 Annieville Place
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\$1,419,800



10909 McAdam Road
Renovated 4 bdrm 2 bath 1800 sqft raised rancher in Sunbury!

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#222 - 7837 - 120A St.
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\$949,800



#15 - 12073 - 62 Ave
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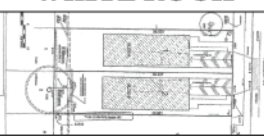
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12370 80A Ave Surrey



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

6713 135B STREET 4bed 3 bath



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103 13725 72A AVENUE



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 "Palette 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



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

124 13725 72A AVENUE SURREY



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.

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

Asking \$16,99,000.00



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

18, 6162 138 St Surrey BC



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11700 85B AVE DELTA



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11826 87 AVE, DELTA



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PUB FOR SALE

in Coquitlam
Price to sell, well established \$349,000. Prime location.
With all the extra

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2637sq ft, Newton area 124st and 82ave., end of January. \$17 sq ft. plus \$6 additional rent.

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Near 152st and 68ave.
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Sports

ENGLAND? FRANCE? PORTUGAL? WHO WILL WIN THE EUROS?

By Opta's Jamie Kemp

A penalty shootout was all that stood between England and European Championship glory in 2021.

Having endured a painful defeat by Italy in the final at Wembley Stadium, it was hard not to wonder if the Three Lions had just thrown away their best opportunity of major tournament suc-

cess.

Perhaps not though.

According to Opta's pre-tournament projections for Euro 2024, the window of victory remains very much open for Gareth Southgate's side this summer...

It's rare for England to head to a major international tournament as outright fa-



vourites, but that is precisely the situation this time according to Opta's prediction model.

Southgate's side sit top of the pack of projected winners, with a 19.9% chance of going on to lift the trophy in Germany.

While the news will no doubt be warmly welcomed by many, you're probably now wondering how exactly we've arrived at that outcome... and it's a fair question.

To achieve a more well-rounded picture of who will go on to win the tournament, Opta's prediction model estimates the probability of each match outcome - win, draw or loss - by using betting market odds and our own team rankings.

The odds and rankings are based on historical and recent team performances, while the model then considers opponent strength and the difficulty of their path to the final by using match outcome probabilities, taking into account the composition of the groups

and seedings into the knockout stages.

While the Opta predictor puts England in first position, it is France - the team who knocked them out of the 2022 World Cup - who are hot on their heels at the top end of the charts.

With a 19.1% chance for Didier Deschamps' side to win Euro 2024, there's a legitimate feel of a 'big two' meeting in the final.

In fact, the model estimates that both teams have almost a one-in-two chance of making the semi-finals, with England at 48.2% and France at 48.1% respectively, to be among the final four.

Beyond them, hosts Germany are the team who round out the top three in terms of projected champions.

Julian Nagelsmann's side have a 12.4% chance of being victorious on home soil, and are the last of the three sides with a better than 10% likelihood of lifting the trophy.

As for those who look the surest bets to make some noise in the knockout stag-

es, England, France, Germany, Spain, and Portugal are the five teams given a 50% or better chance of reaching at least the quarter-finals. Elsewhere from a British perspective, the outlook for Scotland isn't quite as optimistic.

Steve Clarke's men will have it all to do to secure qualification in Group A, which looks primed to be one of most evenly-matched groups in the tournament overall.

According to the predictor, Scotland have a 58.9% chance of reaching the last 16, whether that's finishing in the top two or as one of the best third-placed sides.

The big problem for them is that, along with Group A favourites Germany, both Switzerland (61%) and Hungary (59.3%) are very similarly placed to make it to the knockout stages too.

The competition will be fierce for the Tartan Army, and things will be tricky from the off as their tie with hosts Germany gets the competition under way on 14 June.





(PG) *****

Pope a Dope!

Religion has been the downfall of many a man and woman. Wars have been fought often in the name of God. Right now as we speak a vicious battle is being waged against Israel and the Jewish people by Iran's state sponsored terrorists and the local political left. How timely and appropriate it is to see a true story surface and come to light in the compelling Kidnapped: The abduction of Edgardo Mortara. This must see movie from Mongrel Media is now showing at Vancouver's Fifth Avenue Cinemas.

One again The Church is under the gun. Canada is no stranger to Church interference as the sad treatment of Aboriginal Youth was a policy with Canadian government blessings from the 1940s-1960s. Closer to the cradle of Catholicism and civilization is where Kidnapped occurs. Set mostly between 1850-1860 we see first hand how a

young Jewish boy in Bologna Italy was taken from the arms of his Jewish parents which would turn into a cause celebre throughout the local community, Italy and all of Europe.

Meticulously mounted this movie shows the sinister plan of a maniacal Pope in Rome who used every lever of power and dirty trick in the book to abscond with a six year old and railroad him into becoming a Catholic and priest over time, much to the dismay of his parents. Brilliant performances reveal the desperation of a family and the determination of a state sponsored Church to ensure that the boy loses his Jewish identity while being moulded into a disciple of Jesus. One can only ask how could such a thing occur? Smart, sincere and above all else revealing Kidnapped: The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara is a wonderful look into power at its worst.

Kidnapped: The Abduction Of Edgardo Mortara



EVENTS

South Asian Adults & Seniors - Bingo on the House for members & In Person Yoga Classes at Shanti Niketan hall for members, Bingo on June 2nd 2024 (Sunday), 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.

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 June 2nd 2024 (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. In-case you are eligible to file Income Tax returns Free of cost, 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 appointment for Tax filing.



The Mumbai Sessions Court has ordered the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) police to investigate a cheating complaint filed against Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty and her husband, businessman Raj Kundra, by bullion trader Prithviraj Saremal Kothari. Kothari alleges that Shetty and Kundra, through their company Satyug Gold Private Limited, launched an investment scheme in 2014. Investors were promised a specific quantity of gold at a dis-

counted rate upfront, with guaranteed delivery on the maturity date regardless of market fluctuations. Kothari claims he invested Rs 90 lakhs for 5,000 grams of 24-carat gold, to be delivered on April 2, 2019. However, upon maturity, he reportedly received neither the gold nor the promised value. Instead, he alleges he was offered a postdated cheque for just the principal amount Rs 90 lakhs.

Hollywood

JENNIFER LOPEZ-BEN AFFLECK'S \$60M MARITAL MANSION ON SALE; SIGNS OF IMPENDING DIVORCE LOOM ON THE HORIZON: REPORT

JLo and Ben Affleck's \$60 million marital home reportedly emerged on a real estate website just days ago. Divorce rumours swirling around the pair are seemingly solidifying by the minute as signs of their imminent separation are on the horizon.

In an exclusive TMZ article dated June 8, the showbiz media outlet reported multiple sources close to 'Bennifer' alleging that the 'Gigli' co-stars are in direct contact with The Agency's realtor Santiago Arana to sell their shared home. Over a year ago, the then-newlyweds purportedly snapped up the opulent and expansive mansion for just over \$60 million.



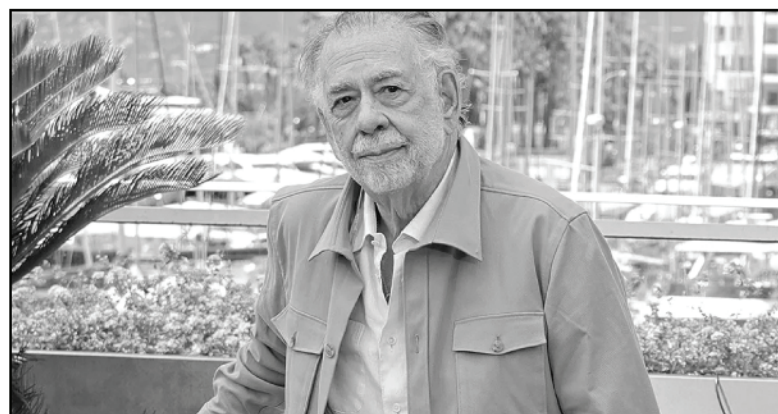
VETERAN ACTOR ALAN SCARFE DIES OF COLON CANCER AT 77



Veteran actor Alan Scarfe has passed away. He was 77. According to reports, Scarfe died on April 28 of colon cancer at his home in Longueuil, Quebec. He is survived by his son, actor Jonathan Scarfe. The actor gained fame with his role as bad guys in Double Impact and Lethal Weapon III and as Dr. Bradley Talmadge in the UPN sci-fi series Seven Days.

Born in England and raised in Vancouver, Scarfe portrayed the Romulans Tokath and Admiral Mendak on episodes of Star Trek: The Next Generation in 1991 and 1993 and was another alien, the powerful Magistrate Augris, on a 1995 installment of Star Trek: Voyager.

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA ADDRESSES MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS ON MEGALOPOLIS SET: 'I'M NOT TOUCHY-FEELY'



Francis Ford Coppola's Megalopolis was one of the most buzzed titles at the 77th Cannes Film Festival which concluded last month. Ahead of the premiere, there was a report published by The Guardian that detailed the director's alleged misconduct on set as pointed out by crew members. Now, in a new interview, Coppola has opened up about these allegations, and denied them categorically.

What Coppola said
In the interview with The New York Times, when Coppola was asked about the allegations he

talked about his mother, Italia and said, "She looked like Hedy Lamarr. I have the picture. But my mother told me that if you make an advance toward a woman, it means you disrespect her, and the girls I had crushes on, I certainly didn't disrespect them. I'm not touchy-feely. I'm too shy." Earlier Megalopolis executive producer Darren Demetre released a statement after the Guardian report, and said: "I was never aware of any complaints of harassment or ill behavior during the course of the project."

Amy Poehler says this about Priyanka Chopra's confidence: 'She has a lot to be...'

Hollywood actor Amy Poehler is open to the idea of adding a 'desi' touch into the world of animated franchise, Inside Out. And she thinks Bollywood's 'Desi Girl' Priyanka Chopra is the best option to do that.

The actor, who is looking forward to the release of the second instalment of the franchise, recently spoke to News18 Showsha, where she praised Priyanka, an Indian actor who has found a strong holding in Hollywood herself.

In the interview, the actor, who is voicing the emotion Joy in the film, praised Priyanka.

She was asked which Bollywood star she thinks could enter the Inside Out universe, following which she asked for suggestions. When she was told about Priyanka, she was instantly on board.

"Actually, I know it is not really an emotion, but confidence is a very funny idea for another emotion down the line. Someone who is really cocky, that would be



really funny. Priyanka has a lot to be confident about," she said.

Meanwhile, actor Ananya Panday has already joined the universe in India. The actor has voiced the character Riley, the teenage girl around whom the film

revolves, for the Hindi version of the film.

The Disney-Pixar returns to the mind of newly-minted teenager Riley just as Headquarters is undergoing a sudden demolition to make room for new emotions.

PINNED UP

Varun Dhawan will be moving into Hrithik Roshan's current Mumbai house

Both personally and professionally, actor Varun Dhawan is at a fantastic place. Along with his wife, designer Natasha Dalal, the actor recently became a father to a baby girl and is set to debut in the action genre with, Baby John, later this year. According to a recent information by Hindustan Times, Varun will now be adding a new home in this new stage of his journey.



Bollywood JOURNAL

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BOMBAY HC DIRECTS REMOVAL OF SALMAN KHAN'S NAME FROM CUSTODIAL DEATH PLEA

The Bombay High Court has ordered the removal of actor Salman Khan's name from a petition seeking a CBI probe into the alleged custodial death of Anuj Thapan. For the unversed, Anuj, accused of supplying weapons in the case involving the firing outside Salman Khan's house, was found dead in a police lock-up toilet on May 1. His mother, Rita Devi, filed a petition in the High Court on May 3, alleging foul play and requesting a CBI investigation into her son's death. She had included Salman Khan as a respondent in the plea. A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Justice Shyam Chandak directed Ms. Devi to remove the actor's name. The court pointed out that the petition did not seek any relief from Mr. Khan and there were no allegations against him. They stated, "He is not a necessary party." The court stated that Ms. Devi's concern is the death of her son, and the investigation into that will proceed. Petitioner's argument and



court's response Ms. Devi's lawyer argued that while no relief was sought from Salman Khan, he should still be part of the ongoing CID probe. The court, however, responded that the

decision of who to include in the investigation rests with the CID. They advised the petitioner's lawyer to focus on the core issue - her son's death - and avoid unnecessary digressions.

AAMIR KHAN TO CELEBRATE HIS MOTHER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY IN MUMBAI



Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan is all set to shower his mother with love as she prepares to turn a milestone 90! To make this occasion truly unforgettable, Khan is planning a grand celebration that will bring the entire family together. The festivities are scheduled for June 13, and reports suggest that Aamir Khan will be flying in over 200 family members from across different cities in India.

According to a source close to Aamir Khan, "Aamir Khan will fly in 200+ family members and friends from different cities to celebrate his mother's birthday on June 13th. She has been unwell for over a year. Now that she has recovered and doing well, everyone wanted to do a large get-together. Family and friends from all over India will gather to celebrate this special day. People are coming from Banaras, Bangalore, Lucknow, Mysore, and other cities." Aamir Khan's mother's 90th birthday is going to be a grand celebration at his residence in Mumbai.

SONAKSHI SINHA AND ZAHEER IQBAL TO TIE THE KNOT IN JUNE?

Readers would be aware that the dating rumours of actress Sonakshi Sinha and her Double XL co-star Zaheer Iqbal have been doing the rounds for quite some time. While the actress is recently basking in the success of her web-series Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar, reports reveal that the actress is also ready to take the plunge. If recent reports are to be be-

lieved, Sonakshi and Zaheer will be tying the knot this month, on June 23. Sources have stated in a report in India Today that the wedding is indeed happening this month and that the celebrations will be held in the plush Bastian in Mumbai. However, further details on the venue is awaited. It is being said that the invites for the function have already

been distributed, further suggesting that the entire team of Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar are invited to join Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal on their special day. In fact, the source has gone to describe the wedding invites which is expected to be in the form of a magazine cover and it has 'the rumours are true' written on it.



Travel

DISCOVER TIMELESS TREASURES: A CULTURAL GUIDE TO NILE CRUISE EXCURSIONS

Embark on a journey through history with Nile cruise excursions, where each stop unveils the rich tapestry of ancient Egyptian civilization. This guide delves into the cultural gems along the riverbanks, from the majestic pyramids of Giza to the enigmatic temples of Luxor and Aswan. Explore the fusion of daily life and ancient traditions, uncovering the secrets of pharaohs, and experiencing the enduring allure of Egypt's timeless treasures.

The Significance of the Nile in Egyptian History and Culture

The Nile River, often hailed as the lifeblood of Egypt, has been the cornerstone of Egyptian civilization for thousands of years. Its fertile banks gave rise to one of the world's earliest and most magnificent civilizations. The river's annual flooding deposited rich, black silt along its banks, creating arable land that could support agriculture and, consequently, a thriving population.

Ancient Egyptians revered the Nile as a god, and it played a central role in their mythology and religion. The river was associated with Hapi, the god of inundation, who was celebrated for bringing fertility to the land. The Nile also served as a critical transportation route, facilitating trade and communication between Upper and Lower Egypt. The river's importance is evident in the alignment of the great pyramids and temples, which were often constructed along its edge, signifying the deep connection between the river and the divine.

The cultural legacy of the Nile is rich and enduring. It has been the inspiration for countless works of art, literature, and music throughout Egyptian history. The river continues to be a source of inspiration and cultural pride for Egyptians today, symbolizing the continuity of their heritage from ancient times to the present.

Overview of What a Nile Cruise Offers to Cultural Enthusiasts
Embarking on a Nile cruise is

akin to traveling through the pages of history. Cultural enthusiasts are offered a unique vantage point from which to observe the remnants of ancient Egypt. As the vessel glides along the tranquil waters, passengers witness the timeless landscapes that have remained largely unchanged since the days of the pharaohs.

A Nile cruise provides an immersive experience into Egyptian culture and history. Passengers can expect to visit iconic landmarks such as the temples of Luxor and Karnak, the Valley of the Kings, and the majestic Abu Simbel. These excursions offer a glimpse into the architectural and artistic prowess of the ancient Egyptians, with expert guides providing context and insights into the significance of each site.

In addition to the historical sites, a Nile cruise also offers cultural experiences such as traditional Egyptian cuisine, music, and dance. Passengers can enjoy evenings on the deck under the stars, often accompanied by performances that showcase Egypt's rich cultural traditions.

Moreover, the cruise allows for a deeper understanding of the contemporary way of life along the Nile. Observing the daily activities of local people, visiting traditional villages, and interacting with residents provide a nuanced perspective on how the Nile continues to shape the lives of Egyptians today.

For those with a passion for history and culture, a Nile cruise is more than just a journey; it is a passage through time, offering a window into the past and a deeper appreciation for the enduring legacy of the Nile River in the tapestry of human civilization.

Must-Visit Historical Sites Along the Nile

The Majestic Temples of Luxor and Karnak

The ancient city of Thebes, now known as Luxor, is home to some of the most impressive monuments in Egypt. The Luxor Temple, situated on the



east bank of the Nile, is a stunning testament to the grandeur of Egyptian civilization. Built by Amenhotep III and expanded by Ramses II, the temple is adorned with intricate carvings and colossal statues of the pharaohs. As you walk along the Avenue of Sphinxes, you are led to the temple entrance, where the grandeur of ancient Egypt unfolds before you.

Not far from the Luxor Temple lies the Karnak Temple Complex, one of the largest religious buildings ever constructed. Covering a vast area, the complex is a series of interconnected temples, chapels, pylons, and obelisks dedicated to the Theban gods, particularly Amun-Ra. The Hypostyle Hall, a forest of giant pillars, is one of the most photographed sites within Karnak. The sheer scale and complexity of the carvings and architecture at Karnak are a testament to the architectural prowess of the ancient Egyptians.

The Valley of the Kings and Queens: A Journey into the Afterlife

Nestled in the rocky cliffs on the west bank of the Nile, the Valley of the Kings is the ancient burial ground for Egypt's New Kingdom pharaohs. This secluded valley houses more than 60 tombs, including the famous tomb of Tutankhamun, discovered by Howard Carter. The tombs are richly decorated with scenes from Egyptian mythology, providing insight into the beliefs

and funerary rituals of the time. The colors and artistry preserved in the hieroglyphs and frescoes within these tombs are a sight to behold.

Adjacent to the Valley of the Kings is the Valley of the Queens, where the wives of the pharaohs were laid to rest. Although smaller, the tombs in the Valley of the Queens are known for their elegance and the beauty of their decorations. The tomb of Queen Nefertari, the Great Wife of Ramses II, is particularly renowned for its vibrant and detailed wall paintings.

The Enduring Enigma of the Abu Simbel Temples

Far south along the Nile, near the Sudanese border, stand the colossal temples of Abu Simbel. These temples were carved out of a mountainside in the 13th century BCE, during the reign of Ramses II. The Great Temple, dedicated to Ramses II himself, and the Small Temple, dedicated to his beloved wife Queen Nefertari, are both marvels of ancient engineering.

The Great Temple is famous for its four giant statues of Ramses II that guard the entrance. Twice a year, on February 22 and October 22, a phenomenon known as the Sun Festival occurs, where sunlight illuminates the inner sanctuary and three of the four statues inside. The relocation of these temples in the 1960s, as part of a massive UNESCO-led operation to save them from the rising waters of Lake Nasser,

adds another layer to their already rich history. The temples' intricate carvings, depicting victorious battles and divine interactions, continue to captivate visitors from around the world.

Cultural Immersion: Experiencing Local Life and Traditions

Nubian Villages: A Colorful Mosaic of Culture and Heritage

Nubian villages along the Nile are vibrant showcases of a unique cultural heritage. Visitors can immerse themselves in the daily life of these communities, characterized by brightly painted houses and warm hospitality. The Nubian people have a distinct language and customs, which have been preserved for centuries. Engaging with the locals, guests can learn about their traditions, from music and dance to the construction of their homes, which are designed to stay cool in the desert heat.

A visit to a Nubian village often includes a tour of a traditional home, where guests can see firsthand the intricate wall paintings and handicrafts that are a source of pride for the Nubian people. Storytelling sessions may reveal ancient tales and legends, providing deeper insight into the cultural fabric of the community. These interactions are not only educational but also support the preservation and appreciation of Nubian culture.

Traditional Egyptian Cuisine and Entertainment on Board

A Nile cruise offers the perfect platform to savor traditional Egyptian cuisine while enjoying local entertainment. Meals on board are often events in themselves, with chefs preparing a variety of dishes that reflect the country's culinary diversity. From meze-style appetizers to hearty main courses like koshari, molokhia, and grilled meats, the flavors are rich and aromatic. Desserts such as baklava and basbousa provide a sweet finish to the dining experience.



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