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H-1B VISA CHANGES MAY GIVE CANADA AN OPPORTUNITY. WILL IT SEIZE IT?

By Kadins Yousif.

As Passiders Dorsald Trump biles the fee for a popular skilled worker, visa programme in the US. lawyers and business experts are arging canada to seize the manuent and open so doors.

Not some raution that those looking north as an alternative may find that Catada's innuigration system has its own

Challenges.
The call to attract and retain taleened workers left behind by the Trump administration's changes to HuR visate one than Carnatian Prime Minister Mark Carney appears to be paying amention to.

In a Monday speech betime the Council of Deceign Relations in New York City, he highlight of Canada's homogrown reasons and Al Lalons, betom noting that 'unformanyly, most of them withs IRC'

them go the US".
"I understand you're changing your visa polity," he added. "Maybe we can hang on to one or two of them."

Later on Saturday during a trip to the UK; Carrey said Carada is looking at having "a clear offering," for people in the tach sector who would have otherwise been eligible for an H-th visa.

Trump's amounteenest



late last week to charge stoo,coo (gra,coo) for new state applications has stated sech companies, which have long selied on the programme to employ fareign workers lawfully in the US.

This includes Canadiens, who made up its of total H-til-applicants in 2019, according to the data.

The White House said turners. If it holders in the US won't be affected, and the move is likely to face legal challenges. Inc. the changes, which took effect on Sanday, are expected to lively opportunities.

for highly whicated foreigners' seeking, work in the country. Experts say the hardest his well be more international graduates of its universities who had hoped to stay and work long (200).

With those workers now looking elsewhere, Carada-based, immigration hweyer iron Green said this is "a wonderful apportunity for the Canadian government to take advantage of ".

He is not the only one calling on Canada to pay attention.

maild transle, a non-profit focused on growing the country's productivity, released a memo on Monday arging Canada "to move fast", arguing that it is a likely landing spot for workers left behind by H-4B charges.

"Hundreds of thousands of highly skilled and highly said II all profresionals are non-seeking a new home," the memo said.

"Canada, with its world-class research institutions, similar timezones, proximity to the US, and high quality of life, is the natural destination."

A some study conducted for the National Bureau of Economic Research suggests that when faced with policies resentering transignation for skilled workers, USbased multinational companies have inoked elsewhere to retain talent often to India, Chirus and Canada.

The study, authored by researchest at the Unisersity of Permophania, examined the axes II-ob restrictions that out the visu out by reh.

It found that time hired the same skilled inmigrants they had origirally wanted in the tit

but in Canada instead.

At the time, Canada's more open immigration policies made it easy to move worken there, the study stated.

There is also evidence that H off visa holders had been eyeing Carada as an abetracine.

In sors, the Considers government introduced a programme for US based II-65 holders to obtain a three-year work permit in Canada. Applications closed within 54 hours after 10,000 people signed up.

of them ended up to la caring to Caracla. But stank Halithe, a cal gary-based lawyer, said some of his clients did turve north after failing to get their Hall visus renewed.

"These individuals (idn) have another al-

ternative," Mr. Holthe rold the BBC, He noted, however, that many in Canada are new having trouble obtaining permaners residency, making their future status in the country amornain. Economist — Mikal Shutcrud controved that much more made it as at tractive destination for skilled workers, includ-

Irrimigration spacers.
"These is a potential for Garada for sure, but I think evenhouldn't overstate what that potential is," hir Skutorud, a professor at the University of Waterloo in On-

ing an overhead of the

train, said.

His noted that Garada has scaled back irranigration is secont years, and a political fight is lowering over its nonpenery feecign worker programme. The Conscreative opposition has called for it to be scrapped, arguing the focus absuld instead be on hiring Caradians. The piogramme is designed to bring in sections to fill pape in
trainstract lower-skilled sections or seculors in
seasonal industries.

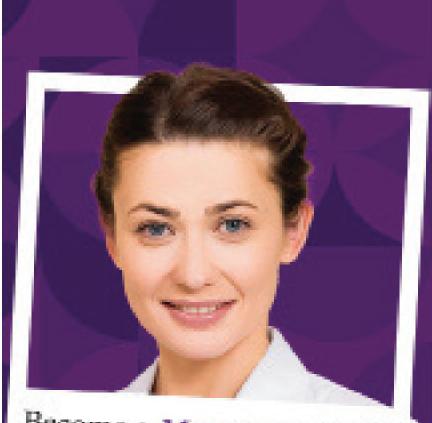
"Canada does not look much more predictable than the US," Mr Skurerod said. "And that's a problem it you're trying to attract talent."







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ASIAN JOURNAL

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India and China to resume direct flights after a five-year ban

By Cherylann Mollan

India and China will restart direct flights between the countries this month, India's foreign ministry has said, in another step towards ties being gradually normalised.

There have been no direct flights between the two countries since 2020. following deadly troop clashes on their shared Himalayan border.

But over the past year or so, Delhi and Beijing have been working towards re-building ties, including taking steps to de-escalate tensions at the border.

On Thursday, India's biggest budget airline IndiGo said that it would restart direct flights between the cities of Kolkata and Guangzhou from 26 October.

In a statement released on Thursday, India's foreign ministry said that the resumption of



flights would "further facilitate people-to-people contact" between the two countries and contribute towards (2,100 miles) "gradual normalisation and have overlapping

of bilateral exchanges". India and China share an ill-defined border that is more than 3,440km

territorial claims. In 2020, troops of the two countries clashed at the Galwan river valley. leaving at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese soldiers dead.

It was the first fatal confrontation between the two sides since 1975 and led to a freezing of ties.

But over the past year or so, Beijing and Delhi have been taking steps to gradually re-rebuild the frayed relationship. High-ranking officials from the two sides have

held several rounds of talks and meetings.

In October last year, India and China agreed on patrolling arrangements to de-escalate tensions along the disputed Himalayan border.
This year, China began

allowing Indian pilgrims to visit some places of religious importance in what it calls the Tibet Region Autonomous while India restarted visa services to Chinese tourists and agreed to resume talks to open border trade through designated passes.

souring

relationship with the US over President Donald Trump's punishing tariffs has also provided an impetus to Delhi-Beijing ties.

In August, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yivisited Delhi, where he said that India and China should see each other as "partners" rather than "adversaries".

Later the same month, Chinese ambassador to India Xu Feihong called the US a "bully" for imposing steep tariffs on India and other countries.

In August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China for the first time in seven years for the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO), a defence summit. He also met Chinese President Xi Jinping at the sidelines of the summit, and the two re-iterated their commitment towards normalising India-China

'BROKEN PROMISES' AND DEADLY VIOLENCE PUSH HIMALAYAN BEAUTY SPOT TO THE EDGE

By Zoya Mateen and Auqib

For a long time, the history of tiny Ladakh - a stunning region popular with tourists, nestled high in the Himalayas - has been shaped by notions of spirituality, mysticism and a sense of otherworldliness.

But now, its fabled tranquillity has been shattered by deadly violence.

Protests for greater autonomy from India erupted last week and spiralled into clashes between crowds and police in which four civilians were killed and at least 80 injured. Police arrested Sonam Wangchuk, a prominent scientist and activist who has been at the forefront of protests, alleging he had

incited a mob with provocative speeches, a charge he denies. More protesters were then detained as authorities cut internet services, imposed a curfew in the picturesque capital Leh and sent in paramilitary troops.

The discontent in Ladakh is not new, but the violence - the deadliest there for decades -

Sandwiched between China to the east and Pakistan to the west, the disputed region with a rich Buddhist past used to be a part of Indianadministered Kashmir, before Delhi split the region and imposed direct rule in

Since 2021, residents have led a peaceful movement seeking statehood, job quotas and special status for Ladakh, which they say is essential to preserve their distinct identity and culture.

"What we saw is the result of years of anger and frustration that has been building up," said one local woman, Jigna, whose real name has been changed to protect her identity.

"It's high time people paid attention to what we want." The exact sequence of events last week is still not clear but protesters told the BBC that on 24 September, thousands of people had gathered peacefully in a public park to support Wangchuk and others, who had been on a hunger strike for two weeks. "At some point, a chunk of people, especially youngsters, walked away from the venue and started a protest rally. Then the violence broke out," said Gelek Phunchok, a businessman who was there. Dozens were injured and an office of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was set on fire in the unrest. Police say they responded to the violence by opening fire, but protesters deny this. An inquiry led by a magistrate is currently under way.

A lot of restrictions have since been eased - but fear, mistrust and a deep sense of foreboding still grip Leh. Authorities have asked people to stay vigilant against "the

anti-social and anti-national elements attempting to disturb harmony", further souring sentiments among the locals.

Political and defence experts have expressed caution, saying any escalation would saying any escalation would only alienate people, posing serious risks for India's national security. "Ladakh is a highly sensitive region, sharing borders with

both of India's rivals - China and Pakistan. We need to make sure that this area remains stable," says Lt Gen Deependra Singh Hooda, who headed the Indian army's Northern Command from 2012-2016.

The region was the site of deadly border clashes between India and China in 2020, and also includes Kargil, where India and Pakistan fought a short war in

Canada Post is on strike. What this means for your mail

Postal deliveries in Canada have ground to halt as thousands of postal workers across the country walked off the job.

The nationwide strike comes after the Canadian government authorised widespread reforms to Canada Post that would shut some post offices and end door-to-door delivery.

The Canadian postal service - like the UK's Royal Mail and the United States Postal Service - has seen precipitous declines in letter mail delivery over the past decades and subsequent financial shortfalls.

The strike by the postal workers union also comes amid an ongoing dispute over pay and benefits that resulted in a weeks-long walkout late last year. Prime Minister Mark Carney has said "significant changes" are necessary at Čanada Post to make it "viable". Here's what to know.

How will this affect mail delivery?

The nationwide strike began on 25 September and Canada Post said operations are shut down during the strike, leaving mail and parcels undelivered for millions of Canadians.

The postal service is also not offering service guarantees for items that were already in the network when the strike was called and is currently not accepting new items.

Government social security cheques will continue to be delivered, however.

Passport applications will still be processed and residents can request the document be available for in-person pick up if necessary. Why is there a strike?

Postal workers walked off the job to protest what the union described as "huge" service cutbacks announced by the federal government, saying they could result in major job losses.

The strike was launched just hours after the federal government announced it was authorising significant changes at Canada Post, which is a Crown corporation - a govern-ment-owned organisation that operates at arm's length from the state and is structured

like a private firm.

The new measures include ending door-to-door mail delivery to about four million homes, where they will be replaced by alternatives like community mailboxes; allowing non-urgent letter mail to be moved by ground instead of air and reducing the number of delivery days; shuttering some post offices that were in areas once rural; and giving the service more flexibility to raise prices.

Some would be phased in over the course of almost a decade.

The postal workers' union, CUPW, called the announcement a "direct assault on our public post office, the public's right to participate in political processes, and good, unionised jobs across the country".

Canada Post, meanwhile, warned the strike "will further dewarned the teriorate Canada Post's financial situation".

This comes on the heels of a strike by postal workers last November over pay and working conditions.

In December, ahead of the busy holiday season, the Canadian government ordered the postal workers back to work.

But those issues remain unresolved and negotiations between the union and the postal service are ongoing.

When will the strike end?

That's unclear.

Canada Post has told CUPW it plans to present new offers to the union in early October. It had planned to submit a new offer 26 September but had to revise it following the changes announced by Ottawa.

A corporation spokesman has said in media interviews that a "wide gap" remains between the two parties over issues like parttime staffing and wage hikes.

The union and the postal service have spent nearly two years unsuccessfully bargaining for a new agreement. On 29 September, Jobs Minister Patty Hajdu told The Canadian Press news service she

hadn't ruled out feder-

al intervention to end

this strike, but urged

Canada Post to quickly

table a new offer to the union.

The November 2024 strike lasted just over a month - 32 days - before the federal government legislated Canada Post employees back to work.

What this means for Canada Post

The sweeping measures to "stabilise" the postal service announced by Ottawa follow years of financial losses sustained by Canada Post, which faces reduced demand and fierce competition from private parcel delivery services.

A review of the situation at Canada Post commissioned by Ottawa in 2024 found that the postal service "is facing an existential crisis" and is "effectively insolvent, or bankrupt".

It's three primary revenue streams - letter mail, direct-marketing mail and parcel mail - are all in decline, either through lack of demand or through stiff competition from other courier services. Twenty years ago, Canada Post delivered 5.5 billion letters. By 2023, that number dropped to 2.2 billion. Since 2019, its share of the parcel delivery market has also dropped from 62% to 24%.

Canada Post lost Cs1bn (\$717; £535m) last year and is on track to lose Cs1.5bn this year, according to federal Procurement Minister Joel Lightbound.

In the second quarter of this year, it lost \$407m. In January, Ottawa loaned the corporation \$1bn to help it continue operating.

CUPW has proposed the postal service explore other revenue streams, including offering banking and insurance services - a market already "well served" in Canada, according to the postal service review - and expanding into providing passport and other government services.

For its part, Canada Post has said it needs to focus efforts on core services, such as expanding parcel delivery from five to seven days a week.

This is not the first time reforms to the postal service have been put forward.



King George Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit moves to next phase

Surrey, B.C. – The King George Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project is advancing to the next design phase, with endorsement from council at the Sept. 29 Regular Council meeting. In this phase, the City and TransLink will work continue to work together to refine alignment options, analyze traffic flow, and ensure the project fits with Surrey's Town Centre plans and transportation network improve-

"Surrey is one of the fastest-growing cities in the region, and our residents deserve faster, more frequent transit as soon as possible," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "I'm proud that King George Boulevard was chosen as one of the region's first three BRT routes. This moves us a step closer to a modern, high-frequency transit service that will cut travel times by 40 per cent between



City Centre and Semiahmoo Town Centre." Running from Surrey City Centre to Semiahmoo Town Centre, the BRT will feature 12 stations along a 19-kilometre corridor. It will have dedicated lanes along most of the route, providing fast, reliable service to support Surrey's Town Centres.

"We appreciate Surrey Council's endorsement

of this important project, which brings us one step closer to delivering fast, reliable rapid transit along King George Boulevard," said TransLink CEO Kevin Quinn. "As we move into the next phase of design, we look forward to working closely with the City and engaging with the community to ensure the final plan reflects the needs and

priorities of Surrey res-

TransLink will conduct the next round of public engagement in 2026 and report back to council upon completing conceptual design, before proceeding to detailed design and implemen-

tation planning. To learn more about the King George Boulevard BRT project, visit surrey.ca/brt.

Council to vote on \$33M contract for third ice sheet at Cloverdale Sport & Ice **Complex**

Surrey, B.C. – At to-night's Regular Council Meeting, council will consider awarding a construction contract valued at \$33.4 million to Ventana Construction Corporation to build a third ice sheet at the Cloverdale Sport & Ice Complex.

"As Surrey grows, it's important to ensure that the community's recreational needs are met for genera-tions to come," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "The expansion of the Cloverdale Sport & Ice Complex is a direct response to that growth, ensuring that families, athletes, and community groups have access to modern, inclusive, and high-quality recreational spaces.'

The project includes a new NHL-sized ice sheet, seating over 300 spectators, a multi-purpose

community space, officials' rooms, change rooms, and dedicated spaces for junior hockey teams. The expansion also features an energy-efficient design, enhanced accessibility, and an expanded parking lot.

The Cloverdale Sport & Ice Complex opened for the fall recreational programming season earlier this month, with an official grand opening celebration planned for Oct. 25. It currently features two NHL-sized ice sheets and supports a wide range of programming, including ice hockey, figure skating, public skating and dry-floor sports such as la-crosse and ball hockey. If approved, construction of the third ice sheet is expected to begin this fall, with completion anticipated in

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

S peech ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਅਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ?

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

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Interest rate cut boosts Canada's sluggish housing market



decision comes after five consecutive months of small increases in national home sales, which rose just over 1 per cent last month according to the Canadian Real Estate Association

Real éstate represents a significant portion of Canada's economy, making up nearly 400 billion Canadian dollars of the country's gross domestic product, approximately 13 per cent of the total economy.

Many potential homebuyers had been

hesitant to invest amid economic uncertainties, particularly related to US tariffs on Canadian imports.

The central bank's governor, Tiff Macklem, said tariffs were a big factor weakening the Canadian economy but noted housing activity showed "signs of resilience" despite job losses and economic challenges.

"Obviously, tariffs are weakening the Canadian economy," Macklem



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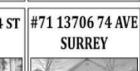
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2025 Ford Mustang Convertible, Premium Edition. The legend Continues.

Auto review by Veeno Dewan

The 2025 Ford Mustang is now in its seventh generation and returns with some tweaking to the styling and various minor improvements such as a new grille design and revised rear signature tribar lighting. The 2025 Mustang is available in fastback and convertible form. In terms of looksit simply just kills!! Sleek, powerful and aggressive in either of the two body styles.

When it comes to engine choice, the top dog motor is the fourth-generation 5.0-litre Coyote V8 gasoline unit with up to 486 horsepower. Buyers who want greater fuel efficiency can still opt for the EcoBoost model, powered by a new 315-hp turbocharged 2.3L four-cylinder engine mated to a 10-speed automatic transmission with configurable drive modes.

Interior highlights include the cool Jetfighter style dashboard digital with twin instrument cluster that can be optionally configured to flow into a 13.2-inch display unit. Infotainment is handled by the excellent Ford Sync 4 infotainment system behind a single integrated glass panel. The 12.4-inch digital instrument cluster is customizable to display animated different designs and has new drive-mode visuals with videogame -like graphics. The Mustang



has an attractive starting at \$37,000 for the Fastback with the 2.3L EcoBoost engine. We tested the 2.3L EcoBoost engine Premium version convertible with the ten -speed automatic transmission base priced at \$49,880. The Premium trim adds: interior ambient lighting, heated leather wrapped steering steering wheel, leather trimmed heated and ventilated power seats, and smart charging USB outlet.
The options package
also added the premium
trims Ford copilot 360 safety system, built in navigation and premier trim interior accents. Our tester came in an amazing looking Molten magna metallic paint, with a 3.15 Limited Slip Differential, and the killer B&O sound system with 12 speakers. Exterior options included a blade style rear spoiler, Bronze

appearance package with Bronze accented 19-inch wheels, and adaptive valve exhaust. Final tally with options (\$8,270) came to \$58,270 plus \$2,195 delivery and PDI for a total price of \$60,465.

The 2025 Ford Mustang's cabin features a blend of

modern technology and classic Mustang design elements, including a customizable digital instrument cluster, and the 13-inch touchscreen with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. There is a customizable 12.4-inch digital instrument

cluster that can be configured to display various information and even mimic classic analog car gauges.

On the road, whatever model you drive, be assured of total fun. The Mustang is a comfortable urban cruiser, the steering is communicative, with a satisfying feel and there are sélectable modes to change the performance parameters if need be. The 2.3L engine Mustang Convertible sounds great with the Active exhaust feature and offers quick acceleration. It tracks flat, stable and with minimum body roll during fast corners and has a smooth confident feeling. The convertible has a fully electric padded fabric top for those sunny days. It's a blast whatever model you choose.

The V8 version Mustang is the most viscerally

pleasing to drive and own., but the EcoBoost is probably the more practical with its better fuel consumption and lighter weight for more balanced handling – in my opinion anyway! Fuel economy for the 2.3L engine is rated at 9.2 L/100 KM combined, 10.8 -city and 7.1 highway which is respectable.

You can of course have it mild or wild with multiple engine choices and a plethora of trim lines. The 2025 Mustang Convertible is a great riff on its legendary muscle car heritage and deservedly remains Fords Halo car. Buy once, enjoy for ever! 2025 Ford Mustang Premium Convertible. Final price with options \$58,270 plus \$2,195 for total price of \$60,465. More info at www. ford,ca



KPU Surrey will welcome first on-campus housing

More than 350 new student beds and a dining hall are coming to Kwantlen Polytechnic University's (KPU) Surrey campus, marking the first on-campus housing project for KPU.

"We are thrilled to partner with KPU to deliver Surrey's first-ever provincially funded on-campus student housing and dining project," said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. "Our govern-ment continues to expand infrastructure in Surrey, helping meet demand for affordable housing for students, while reducing com-mute times and taking pressure off the local rental market.'

The eight-storey building at KPU's Surrey campus will add more than 350 student beds and a 160-seat dining hall, with priority housing for Indigenous students and former youth in care.

The housing building and dining hall will of-

flexible living options with single- and double-occupancy rooms, four-bedroom and apartment-style units; a common room and multi-faith room where students can connect;

student supports, including laundry facilities, housing services and on-site security;

active-living amenities, such as secure bike storage and repair facilities; and

access to food services seven days a week at the dining hall next



"Our government is focused on helping students gain the skills and training they need to secure good-paying jobs and building a future-ready work-force to strengthen our economy," said Jessie Sunner, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. "Accomplishing these goals means ensuring students have access to strong supports, such as safe and secure on-campus housing, so they can focus on their studies. This new student housing at KPU Surrey is essential to student success and to building a stronger community.

Construction is expected to start in early 2027, with a capital cost of nearly \$144 million: s119 million from the Province and \$25 million from KPU. The KPU portion is funded by proceeds from the sale of land for the new Surrey hospital and BC Cancer Centre.

"Adding on-campus housing is vital for supporting our students and the long-term future of Kwantlen Polytechnic University," said Bruce Choy, president, Kwantlen Polytechnic University. "Housing will give options for future students, helping them focus on their studies, while fostering a closer sense of community. We are extremely grateful to the Province for recognizing student needs and supporting

our vision to meet it." Since 2018, the Province has committed \$2 billion to build on-campus student housing at post-secondary institutions throughout B.C. To date, student housing to accommodate nearly 6,900 beds has been built throughout the province. Another 4,250 are underway.

Ouotes: Garry Begg, parliamentary secretary for Surrey infrastructure -

'Surrey is one of the fastest-growing cities in B.C. and I'm thrilled to see our city's very first provincially fundstudent-housing project coming to KPU. This is one of many infrastructure projects underway in Surrey

and I'm excited to be a part of it."

Jagrup Brar, MLA for Surrey-Fleetwood -

'This is a major milestone for Surrey students. Affordable on-campus housing means students can focus on their studies and less on commutes or finding a place to live. I'm proud to see our government investing in the future of young people right here in our community."

Amna Shah, MLA for Surrey-City Centre -"For many students, especially those in their first years, having a stable and supportive living environment can make all the difference. By building student housing on campus, we're helping students stay focused on their studies, build community and access the supports they need to succeed."

Honey Mathew, 2025 KPU graduate, green business management and sustainability -

"For many students, affordable housing is one of the first things they consider when choosing a university, as it shapes both their daily lives and sense of belonging. By offering on-campus housing, KPU will not only reduce long commutes and financial stress, but also create a safe and welcoming community that supports student well-being, smooth transitions and stronger focus on academic success."

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The Naked Gun

(PG)***

Nasty Boy!

Laughs are back big time with The Naked Gun. Beware if you try to take on a classic. Smart producer Seth MacFarlane does just that and more with his fitting homage to the classic Naked Gun with the new and improved (?) The Naked Gun. Once the go ahead was given by Paramount Studios it was full speed ahead. With the world in considerable turmoil on a number of fronts what better cure to take your mind off of problems than to see a flat out comedy. No hold barred laughs come at you a mile (or kilometer) a minute in This absurd adventure now showing at Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres across

Over the top in all aspects this new Naked Gun pays fitting homage to the original classic. Now let's be honest. Nothing can be as good as the original breakout comedy but this one comes close thanks to the brilliant casting and usual sight gags. In a brilliant casting move action star Liam Neeson (Taken) uses his own "inherited ' special set of skills" to try to solve a murder. Just call him Frank Drebin Jr. Somehow I think Canadian comic icon Leslie Nielsen (Airplane) would be proud to see someone take over the tradition as L.A.'s

top cop. Well, not so fast, When an "innocent" man is left for dead in somewhat mysterious circumstances somehow Drebin is chosen to solve the case. Like a modern day Clouseau Neeson is terrific in trying to solve the crime. Along the way our bumbling detective finds time to meet a lady or two. All roads lead to a grieving Beth Davenport an out to lunch socialite. Former Baywatch babe Pamela Anderson cooks up a storm as the clueless woman who somehow takes up with ladies man Frank in Hilarious fash-





ZUBEEN GARG'S MANAGER ARRESTED IN SINGER'S DEATH CASE

In a significant development following the tragic demise of renowned Assamese singer Zubeen Garg, authorities have arrested his manager, Siddhartha Sharma, and Shyamkanu Mahanta, the chief organiser of the North East India Festival (NEIF), in connection with the incident. Garg passed away on September 19 after a drowning incident at Lazarus Island in Singapore.

Mahanta was apprehended upon his arrival at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport from Singapore, while Sharma was arrested from an apartment in Gurugram. Both individuals were subsequently brought to Guwahati for questioning. The Assam government had formed a 10-member Special Investigation Team (SIT), led by Special DGP M P Gupta, to investigate the circumstances surrounding Garg's death. The SIT had issued notices to several individuals, including Mahanta, Sharma, members of the Singapore Assam Association, and festival attendees, requesting them to provide statements.



ALLU ARJUN EXTENDS HEARTFELT DUSSEHRA WISHES FOR FANS

Allu Arjun, one of the biggest stars of Indian cinema, has delivered several blockbusters and carved a special place in the hearts of audiences globally. Known for his powerful screen presence, versatile acting, and charming persona, he enjoys a massive fan following

across the globe. He never misses an opportunity to connect with his fans and celebrate his success with them. On the joyous occasion of Dussehra, Allu Arjun shared a heartfelt wish, spreading happiness and prosperity.

New secondary school in Langford will add 2,000 student spaces

The Province is building a new secondary school that will create 2,000 spaces, giving students in the region more room to learn close to home.

"Every student in B.C. deserves a school that's safe, welcoming and equipped for innovation,' Premier David Ebv. "This new secondary school in north Langford means students will be able to learn close to home and shows our government's commitment to building the infrastructure growing communities need. By building, expanding and upgrading a record number of new schools throughout B.C., our government is meeting the needs of students today and into the future.

The new school will meet high environmental standards and create a supportive space for student learning and well-being. It will include:



modern science and computer labs for hands-on learning and exploration;

a new gym for physical education and school athletics;

a theatre for drama, music, presentations and the arts;

electrical efficient systems and an energy-saving design that produce about fewer carbon emissions than a typical LEED gold-stan-dard building; and a parking lot that includes EV-ready spots, making it easier for students and staff who drive electric vehicles.

These spaces will allow students to explore a broad range of electives, such as art, foods, music, drama, technology, trades and business classes.

more families choose to put down roots in Langford, we need to make sure students have the schools they need to grow and thrive," said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. "This new secondary school is one of many investments we are making in K-12 schools in the Westshore and will ensure families are supported for generations to come."

The Province is investing nearly \$220 million to build the new school, secondary with construction expected to start in 2027. "Promise made, promise kept," said Ravi Parmar, MLA for Langford-Highlands. "We're delivering a brand-new 2,000-seat secondary school for Langford, the largest investment in education our community has ever seen."

Since 2017, the Province has committed nearly \$515 million in the Sooke school creating district, 4,660 new spaces for students across the school district. In total, 2,600 new seats have opened since

Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care -

"Langford is a vibrant and fast-growing community, and we're excited to announce a new school to help meet that growth. Today's announcement is about making sure students and families in the area have the support they need - not just now, but well into the future."

Darlene Rotchford, MLA for Esquimalt-Colwood -

"This is a significant milestone for our region. The new secondary school will reduce overcrowding, port student success and strengthen our neighbourhoods."

Lajeunesse, Dana MLA for Juan de Fuca-Malahat -

"As Langford continues to grow, so does the need for strong public infrastructure. Î'm proud to see our government invest-ing in the future of our youth with a new school that will serve families for generations to come.

B.C.'s anti-racism data committee reappointed to new terms

Three years after their initial appointment, the Province has reappointed 10 members to the anti-racism data committee.

As outlined in the Anti-Racism Data Act (ARDA), the committee will continue to advise the Province on matters relating to the collection and use of demographic data for the purposes of identifying and eliminating systemic racism and advancing racial equity in government programs and services.

The committee is an important part of the commit-Province's ment to dismantle systemic racism and build more inclusive com-



munities for everyone. members Committee bring a range of experiences and knowledge to their role, and are from a wide cross-section of racialized and Indige-

nous communities and geographic regions of B.C. The committee helps to ensure that the implementation of ARDA is informed by the lived experience

and expertise of racialized and Indigenous

The following 10 members will continue their service on the committee and were approved via ministerial order for staggered terms ranging from one to three

Three-year term (2025-

June Francis (reappointed as chair) Jessica (t'łisala) Guss Zareen Naqvi Daljit Gill-Badesha Donald Corrigal Marion Erickson Shirley Chau Two-year term (2025Jacqueline Quinless Ellen Kim One-year term (2025-

Smith Oduro-Marfo The staggered terms will allow for knowledge transfer to new members and succession planning. Since 2022, the Prov-

ince has released research findings using data from the BC Demographic Survey and other sources, examining barriers in the public service, schools and health care. The committee has been instrumental in reviewing research prior to publication to mitigate community harms. The lat-

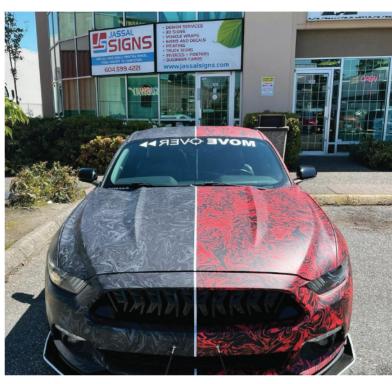
est release in May 2025 highlighted gaps in representation across government boards and the public service, as well as wage inequities between racialized and non-racialized workers in B.C.'s public and private sectors.

Province The worked in collaboration with the committee and in consultation with Indigenous people to set research priorities for 2025-27. Themes include health and wellness, education, housing, racial equity within the BC Public Service, justice system and community safety, sports and economic inclusion.



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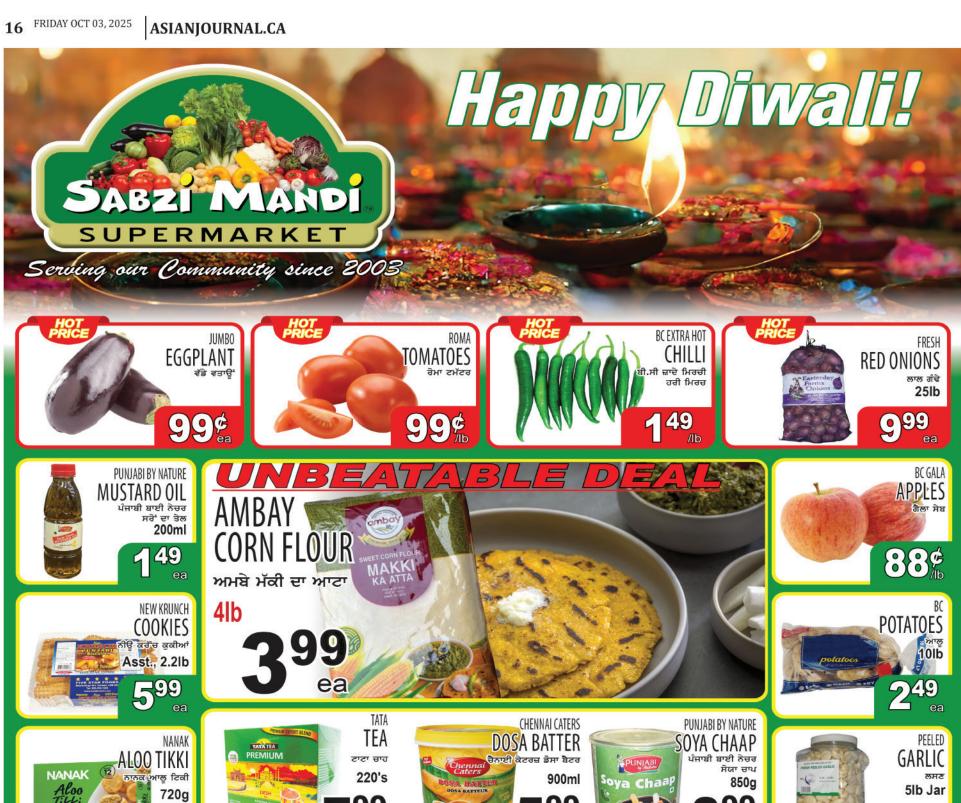
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