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'Fill the silence with your music,'
Zelensky tells Grammys

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Astronomers capture 1st image
of Milky Way's huge black hole



PREMIER LEAGUE 21-22

CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

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Sustainability the new buzz word

According to the Oxford Dictionary the word sustainability means “avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance” Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In addition to natural resources, we also need social and economic resources. Sustainability is not just environmentalism. Embedded in most definitions of sustainability we also find concerns for social equity and economic development. In other words, Sustainability is made up of three pillars:

the economy, society, and the environment. These principles are also informally used as profit, people and planet.

Economic Sustainability Human communities across the globe are able to maintain their independence and have access to the resources that they require, financial and other, to meet their needs. Economic systems are intact and activities are available to everyone, such as secure sources of livelihood.

Social Sustainability Universal human rights and basic necessities are attainable by all people, who have access to enough resources in order to keep their families and

communities healthy and secure. Healthy communities have just leaders who ensure personal, labour and cultural rights are respected and all people are protected from discrimination. Environmental Sustainability Ecological integrity is maintained, all of earth's environmental systems are kept in balance while natural resources within them are consumed by humans at a rate where they are able to replenish themselves.

Ultimately, the goal of sustainability is about ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live a prosperous life. Perhaps this is best represented by the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to which companies are increasingly aligning in expressing their own sustainability priorities. Companies increasingly are making commitments regarding their own impact – for climate change, environmental performance, and other environmental, social and governance metrics.

This type of forward-looking forecasting is unprecedented. While there is a fair amount of uncertainty about the future, setting ambitions and communicating transparently about the progress and challenges toward them is a critical new tool for looking forward, not just managing the present and the past.

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PREMIER LEAGUE 21-22

CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

THE FINAL DAY OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON!



<https://www.mancity.com/>

“Dad,

where were you on Sunday 22nd of May 2022 ?” This is a question which countless children will ask their fathers over the coming decades, such was the magnitude of Manchester City’s last gasp winner at home against Aston Villa, giving them the narrowest of 3-2 victories, for which they had to score 3 goals in a remarkable 6 minutes.

The Football Gods had decreed that on the last all-deciding game of the season, as Liverpool strove for an unprecedented ‘quadruple’, Manchester City would have to beat an Aston

Villa team, led by the greatest Liverpool player of all-time, Stephen Gerrard.

However, this was not about just one game but two. Liverpool were at home against Wolves who remarkably took a shock early lead, when Neto scored in just the 3rd minute. The irrepressible Mane equalised for Liverpool in the 24th minute and then the fun really began. Aston Villa shocked the Etihad into silence by taking the lead in the 37th minute. Although losing at home, this was still enough for City, who were on course to win the Premier League on Goal Difference. Liverpool had to win.

Then in the 69th minute another ex-Liverpool player Philippe Coutinho put Aston Villa 0-2 up

and Liverpool just needed to score to be the Premier League champions. Liverpool did get their goals in the 84th and 89th minutes, but by then it was too late. City had scored their three goals in less than 360 seconds and the title again belonged to the tearful Pep Guardiola.

As the second half of the final matches kicked off, the final questions were being settled. Tottenham were romping to the final Champions League automatic spot whilst Mohamed Salah and Son Heung-min shared the Golden Boot, with 23 goals each. Leeds clung onto their Premier League status, as Burnley joined Norwich and Watford’s decent to the Championship. Manchester City have a habit of leaving it late in

the 2012 season Sergio Agüero, scored the crucial goal in the 93rd minute to beat Queens Park Rangers and seal the Club's first Premier League title at the expense of Manchester United, on the final day of the season. And again today Manchester

City have won a fourth Premier League tie in 5 years in dramatic style.

What a day, what a season. Manchester City may have won the title, but in many ways football was the real winner today.



Mickey Ambrose, Former professional footballer, Charlton Athletic & Chelsea FC, Co-chair The People's FA

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STARTING XI

MANCHESTER CITY

The graphic displays the Manchester City starting XI in a formation. The players are arranged in four rows. The top row consists of Foden, Jesus, and Mahrez. The second row consists of Bernardo, Rodrigo, and De Bruyne. The third row consists of Cancelo, Laporte, Ederson (marked with a yellow 'C' for captain), and Stones. The fourth row consists of Steffen, Ake, Walker, Zinchenko, Sterling, Gundogan, Grealish, Palmer, and Mcatee. The background is blue with a repeating pattern of the Manchester City crest. On the right side, there is a large image of Pep Guardiola with his arms crossed, wearing a dark blue Manchester City training top. The Manchester City crest is also visible in the top right corner of the graphic.

STARTING XI

FODEN JESUS MAHREZ

BERNARDO RODRIGO DE BRUYNE

CANCELO LAPORTE EDERSON (C) STONES

SUBSTITUTES

STEFFEN AKE WALKER ZINCHENKO STERLING GUNDOGAN GREALISH PALMER MCATEE

1

**CHAMPIONS:
SKIPPER
FERNANDINHO
LIFTS THE
TROPHY ALOFT!**



2

**WHAT A SIGHT:
WE ARE THE
CHAMPIONS!**



3

**4 IN 5:
FOR THE FOURTH
TIME IN FIVE
SEASONS, CITY LIFT
THE PL TROPHY!**





4

**ALL SMILES:
WHAT A
MOMENT.**

5

**SUPER JACK:
HOPEFULLY, THE
FIRST OF MANY
FOR GREALISH!**



6

**PRAYERS ANSWERED:
JESUS POSES
WITH THE
TROPHY.**

7

ONE KISS:
*IS ALL IT TAKES,
FALLING IN
LOVE WITH THE
PREMIER LEAGUE!*



8

PERFECT PEP:
*THE BOSS
ENJOYING HIS
TIME WITH THE
TROPHY!*



9

GAME TIME:
*ONE LAST TIME
THIS SEASON...*





10

LEADER:
THE BOSS LOOKS TO GET THE PLAYERS SPIRITS UP DESPITE BEING TWO GOALS BEHIND.

11

ONE BACK:
GUNDOGAN HALVES THE DEFICIT WITH A SUPER HEADER.



12

LEVELLER:
WOW! RODRIGO LEVELS WITH A STUNNING STRIKE!

13

**WINNER:
ABSOLUTE SCENES!
GUNDOGAN WINS
IT!**



<https://www.mancity.com/>



14

**GUNDO-GOAL:
HERO!**

15

**ALL OVER:
THAT CHAMPIONS
FEELING!**



MAN CITY CLAIM SIXTH TITLE AFTER DRAMATIC FIGHTBACK

Three goals inside six minutes from 2-0 down earn win over Aston Villa while Burnley are relegated



<https://www.mancity.com/>

Manchester City staged a dramatic fightback to claim a sixth Premier League title, scoring three times in less than six minutes to turn around their match at home to Aston Villa.

City went 2-0 down through goals from Matty Cash and Philippe Coutinho and the home fans were fearful of the title slipping through their hands.

Liverpool at that stage were

still behind them in the table, drawing 1-1 with Wolverhampton Wanderers after conceding a third-minute goal to Pedro Neto, before Sadio Mane levelled on 24 minutes.

LIV		3 1		WOL
MCI		3 2		AVL

Another Liverpool goal would have lifted them into top spot and handed them the trophy.

But, in similar fashion to City's first title when they trailed to Queens Park Rangers at home on the final day, City were to stage a brilliant comeback.

Two goals from substitute Ilkay Gundogan and another from Rodri, all inside five minutes and 36 seconds, turned the match on its head, and made Liverpool's eventual 3-1 victory academic.

The final reckoning

Pos	Team	Pl	GD	Pts
1	 MCI	38	+73	93
2	 LIV	38	+68	92

Premier League

More	Position	Club	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Points	Form
▼	1	Manchester City	38	29	6	3	99	26	+73	93	W W W D W
▼	2	Liverpool	38	28	8	2	94	26	+68	92	W D W W W
▼	3	Chelsea	38	21	11	6	76	33	+43	74	L D W D W
▼	4	Tottenham Hotspur	38	22	5	11	69	40	+29	71	W D W W W
▼	5	Arsenal	38	22	3	13	61	48	+13	69	W W L L W
▼	6	Manchester United	38	16	10	12	57	57	0	58	L D W L L
▼	7	West Ham United	38	16	8	14	60	51	+9	56	L L W D L
▼	8	Leicester City	38	14	10	14	62	59	+3	52	L W W D W
▼	9	Brighton and Hove Albion	38	12	15	11	42	44	-2	51	D W W D W
▼	10	Wolverhampton Wanderers	38	15	6	17	38	43	-5	51	L D L D L
▼	11	Newcastle United	38	13	10	15	44	62	-18	49	W L L W W
▼	12	Crystal Palace	38	11	15	12	50	46	+4	48	W W D L W
▼	13	Brentford	38	13	7	18	48	56	-8	46	D L W W L
▼	14	Aston Villa	38	13	6	19	52	54	-2	45	W L D D L
▼	15	Southampton	38	9	13	16	43	67	-24	40	D L L L L
▼	16	Everton	38	11	6	21	43	66	-23	39	W D L W L
▼	17	Leeds United	38	9	11	18	42	79	-37	38	L L L D W
▼	18	Burnley	38	7	14	17	34	53	-19	35	W L L D L
▼	19	Watford	38	6	5	27	34	77	-43	23	L L D L L
▼	20	Norwich City	38	5	7	26	23	84	-61	22	L L L D L



Pep Guardiola hailed Manchester City as “legends”

AFTER CLAIMING THE PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE IN STYLE.



What a match; all the fans and everyone who watched yesterday's game will say this. Indeed it was a thriller. Manchester City grabbed a 3-2 win against Aston Villa, with a dramatic comeback from two goals behind with 14 minutes left.

The victory moved Guardiola to

tears, with this the second time since he took over in the summer of 2016. In five years, Manchester City has successfully defended the title and a fourth Premier League crown. He called his people “Legends”.

This time, they didn't need a goal with the last kick of the game, but they did need to rally from 2-0 down to get the points required

to hold off Liverpool's challenge before the final whistle to the crown.

Guardiola said:

“Four Premier Leagues – these guys are legends already; people have to admit it. This group of players is eternal in this club because what we



achieved is tricky. "I want to congratulate Liverpool for what they've done. The magnitude of our achievement is because of the magnitude of this rival. That makes us feel more proud because we know which team we face and are incredibly happy."

"Many thoughts are complicated; I always felt we needed a goal. This is the most challenging game

to win, and you have to close something that has taken ten months. Serve to win Wimbledon is the most difficult.

Of the atmosphere, Guardiola said:

"The best I lived since I was here. Today was so special. Hopefully, tomorrow [at the victory parade],

we will celebrate with cigars and beer – I'll bring my cigars, don't worry."

Guardiola's contract expires at the end of next season, and the 51-year-old has stated he will not decide whether to sign a new contract until next.

Asked about a new deal, he said: All I play for in the competition is



to win. We had a feeling the rivals would be formidable; next season would be more challenging. We'll prepare, but we are champions again.

The City fans gathered around the benches started singing about Villa manager Steven Gerrard's famous slip that cost Liverpool the title in 2014 – a nod to how close he had come to winning the trophy for his old employers.

“The players were remarkable for 70 minutes,” said Gerrard. “Everything we asked of them they did and more.

The game plan was working, and we had the game exactly where we wanted it, but we decided to go into protection mode too soon, and we stopped playing.”

For all the beautiful, hypnotic football we witnessed by

Guardiola’s team this season, City, a shadow of themselves for three-quarters of the game, provided evidence of their resilience when they needed it most. During the season’s final week, they found themselves 2-0 down and twice fought back to pick up a win and a draw to pip Liverpool by a point.

A thrilling title race got a fitting conclusion, and City is championing again.

MANCHESTER CITY CROWNED CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

Manchester City have been crowned 2021/22 Premier League champions - our fourth title success in the last five seasons.



Rob Pollard
@RobPollardMCFC

Our dramatic 3-2 win over Aston Villa in the final game of the season sealed the title and saw us finish one point ahead of second-place Liverpool at the end of a gruelling battle for supremacy.

It marks Pep Guardiola's 11th major honour since becoming City manager in 2016.

After the full-time whistle at the Etihad, our fans were able to see Fernandinho, our captain and leader, lift the Premier League trophy in his last act as a City player before bringing an end to his nine-year stay at the Club.

In our 38 league matches this season, we have won 29, drawn six and lost three, scoring 99 goals in the process.

City have once again shown remarkable consistency this term, with our squad regularly rotated throughout the season and every player contributing significantly to this success.

Our exceptional form this season continues a trend seen over the past five campaigns. In the 190 Premier League matches City have played during the last half decade, we have won 146, taken 458 points (at an average of 2.5 points per game) and scored a remarkable 485 goals (at an average of 2.5 goals per game). City have also conceded the

fewest goals and boast the best goal difference during that period.

It means City have won three Premier League titles for a second successive season, with our first-team triumph added to our Premier League 2 and Under-18s Premier League successes.

And there will be a celebration parade in Manchester city centre on Monday evening. More information will follow right here this evening.

Everyone at Manchester City would like to send their congratulations to Pep, his backroom staff and all the players on yet another remarkable achievement for the football club.

FERNANDINHO: FIFTH PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE A DREAM COME TRUE!

Fernandinho says winning his fifth Premier League title is the perfect way to bring his City career to a close.

<https://www.mancity.com/>



it there is no way we could have won the title.

"To have won this trophy four times in five years really is amazing. Everyone knows the Premier League is the most competitive in world football, but we have shown consistency over a long period. That is testament to what City have built.

"I am leaving this summer, but I am very confident City will be successful again in the future."

Fernandinho reserved special praise for the City fans, who he believes have played a key role in our Premier League success this season.

The Brazilian, 37, says the energy they have transmitted from the stands has helped City get over the line in a tense title race with a fine Liverpool side.

"This club is fantastic and so are our fans, who have been with us every step of the way," he said.

"Without them by our side, there is no way we can do what we have done these past five seasons. We have felt their energy and it has driven us on.

"I want to say a proper goodbye to them on Sunday by beating Aston Villa and ending the season on a high."



Rob Pollard
@RobPollardMCFC

Our captain first lifted the trophy in 2014 when a side led by Manuel Pellegrini sealed success, before helping City to four titles in five seasons under the guidance of Pep Guardiola.

The latest success came after a final-day victory over Aston Villa at the Etihad, which saw Fernandinho play in front of the home fans for the final time.

And with the midfielder set to call time on his City career this

summer, he says leaving as a Champion is the ideal ending.

"To finish my nine years at City by winning my fifth Premier League title is a dream come true," he said.

"This squad is genuinely special. The togetherness of the players is like nothing I have experienced before. These guys are my brothers, which makes winning the title even more special.

"I want to thank Pep and all the backroom staff we have here. As players, we are given everything we need to be successful. The support we get to ensure we go onto the pitch in the best possible condition is amazing and without

STERLING

TITLE AN UNBELIEVABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Raheem Sterling has hailed City's fourth Premier League title in five seasons an 'unbelievable achievement'.



Abdullah Mulla

Pep Guardiola's side came from two goals behind to beat Aston Villa 3-2 at the Etihad Stadium to become 2021/22 Premier League champions, pipping Liverpool to the title by one point.

Sterling was introduced from the bench and made an immediate impact, providing the assist for Ilkay Gundogan to score our first of the afternoon.

The Englishman believes that the team's consistent success is something to be appreciated.

"It shows the consistency," he said.

"It shows what a talented bunch of group we have and the determination to keep on winning. This is an unbelievable achievement.

"When the first goal went in I still thought we could do it. When the second goal went in it was a disappointment.

"But with the players we have

here you always have a chance with the time on the board. It was an unbelievable win."

The 27-year-old also took the time to praise title rivals Liverpool, who pushed Guardiola's side all the way in the race for the title.

"Each year we come in and we know how difficult it will be," he admitted. "Liverpool is a great opponent. They push us every year and that helps us to become better too.

"It's a great one to add to the tally. It's an unbelievable achievement."

DE BRUYNE PROUD TO WIN NAIL-BITING TITLE RACE

Kevin De Bruyne says Liverpool's relentless pursuit of the Premier League crown made City even more proud to come out on top.



Jack Mumford
@JackMumf

City's dramatic 3-2 win against Aston Villa on Sunday took us to 93 points - one point ahead of Liverpool - and sealed a fourth Premier League title in five seasons.

The only other side to win the top-flight in that period was Jurgen Klopp's side.

De Bruyne believes the excellence

of the Anfield club has made City even better.

"It's hard because Liverpool push you that far that you have to be excellent all the time. Losing points means the end.

"That's why it is that hard. That makes us proud. We managed to find a way."

When asked whether he panicked when Phillippe Coutinho doubled Villa's lead in the second half, De Bruyne didn't hesitate to tell the

truth. "Maybe a couple of times. It's so different you can't explain it. You try to stay as calm as possible.

"I think for about 10 seconds you doubt yourself, then you just go for it.

"2-1 changed the whole situation for me. The stadium changes, the atmosphere, the players, then we just didn't look back.

"Ilkay [Gundogan] and Zinchenko changed the game today." ●

UK and EU are once again at loggerheads



UK ramps up threat to rewrite Brexit deal with the EU

Britain and the European Union were again at different tables over Brexit. The U.K. government ramped up threats to scrap parts of its trade treaty with the bloc, saying the rules block the formation of a new government in Northern Ireland.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the government would “not shy away from taking action” if it couldn’t reach an agreement with the bloc.

The EU cautioned that reevaluating the legitimately authoritative understanding “isn’t a choice.” Any move by Britain to singularly change the standards would bring lawful activity from the alliance that could grow into an exchange war.

Arrangements for Northern Ireland — the only part of the U.K. that shares a border with an EU nation — have been the thorniest subject of contention in the U.K.’s divorce from the 27-nation bloc, which became final at the end of 2020.

A deal was agreed to keep the

Irish border free of customs posts and other checks because an open frame is a vital pillar of the peace process that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland. Instead, there are checks on some goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K.

Many opposed the arrangement of Northern Ireland’s British unionists, who say the new checks have created a barrier with the rest of the U.K. that undermines their British identity. The Democratic Unionist Party, which came second in last week’s Northern Ireland



Assembly election, refuses to help form a government until the arrangements, known as the Northern Ireland Protocol, are substantially changed or scrapped.

Under Northern Ireland's power-sharing rules, a government can't be formed without the support of both the prominent unionist and nationalist parties. Sinn Fein won the most seats last week, the first time a party that seeks to unite Northern Ireland with the republic has topped the voting.

U.K.-EU talks on resolving differences over trade rules have

reached an impasse. Britain's Conservative government has accused the bloc of being needlessly "purist" in its approach to the authorities. At the same time, the EU says Britain is failing to honour a legally binding deal that Prime Minister Boris Johnson agreed to.

EU chief Brexit official Maroš Šefčovič said that the bloc had "worked tirelessly to propose creative and durable solutions, showing flexibility on how the Protocol should be implemented."

He warned that "the Protocol, as

a cornerstone of the Withdrawal Agreement, is an international agreement. Its renegotiation is not an option. The European Union is united in this position."

Truss, who is in charge of negotiations with the bloc, said that EU proposals "fail to address the real issues affecting Northern Ireland properly and in some cases would take us backwards."

"Our preference has always been for a negotiated solution, but we will not shy away from taking action to stabilise the situation in Northern Ireland if solutions cannot be found," she said

Karine Jean-Pierre Is Named White House Press Secretary



President Biden selected Karine Jean-Pierre, the principal deputy press secretary, to replace Jen Psaki as the top White House spokeswoman, making her the first Black woman to hold one of the most high-profile jobs in American politics.

Ms. Jean-Pierre, who worked on Mr. Biden's campaign and has had a long career in Democratic communications, will become the president's second White House press secretary. In her new role, she will have the high-pressure job of delivering daily briefings from the lectern in the briefing room.

In a statement, Mr. Biden said Ms.

Jean-Pierre "not only brings the experience, talent and integrity needed for this difficult job, but she will continue to lead the way in communicating about the work of the Biden-Harris administration on behalf of the American people."

He predicted that she would be "a strong voice speaking for me and this administration."

Ms. Psaki's last day as press secretary will be May 13. She is expected to take an on-air role with MSNBC.

"I'm going to cry," Ms. Psaki said before turning to the row of seats where Ms. Jean-Pierre usually observes the news briefing and

waving for her to come to the lectern.

After noting that her successor will be the first Black woman and openly gay person to serve as press secretary, Ms. Psaki said that Ms. Jean-Pierre "will give a voice to so many."

Ms. Jean-Pierre, 44, will face the challenge of conveying the administration's message ahead of midterm elections that are expected to pose a significant challenge for Democrats. Mr. Biden's team has acknowledged that administration officials have struggled to traverse the country and speak to the public during the pandemic, and the president himself has said



he should be traveling more and talking to voters about his priorities. Mr. Biden has added other communications veterans to his team recently. Ian Sams, who had been a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, has joined the White House staff as a spokesman for the counsel's office. And Anita Dunn, a top Biden adviser during his campaign and early in his presidency, will leave the political consulting firm SKDK and rejoin the administration as a senior adviser to Mr. Biden.

Ms. Jean-Pierre has taken the lectern in the White House briefing room on a few occasions; last May, she became the first Black woman in decades to address reporters on behalf of the president in the briefing room. Her more frequent formal interactions with the news media came aboard Air Force One, where she often delivered news

briefings during Mr. Biden's trips.

But the sense of history being made was not lost on members of the White House press team or reporters attending a news briefing that displayed both celebrations of representation and the polarizing issues dividing the country. The briefing shifted among emotional tributes, a presentation of seized Russian yachts, inspiring messages and shouted questions about Mr. Biden's stance on abortion. Asked about the historic nature of her promotion, Ms. Jean-Pierre responded, "It's not lost on me."

"I understand how important it is for so many people out there, so many different communities," she said. "That I stand on their shoulders, and I have been throughout my career." Ms. Jean-Pierre said she thought it was important for young Black children to see someone who

looks like them behind the presidential lectern.

"Follow your passion, follow what you believe in and just keep that focus," she said.

Mr. Biden called Ms. Jean-Pierre into the Oval Office afternoon to formally offer her the position, according to a White House official. The press team celebrated by drinking warm champagne in Styrofoam cups bearing the presidential seal, the official said. Before stepping down from the lectern, Ms. Jean-Pierre was asked if she ever doubted that she would be able to attain the position of press secretary as a Black woman.

"No, not at all," she said. "Just worked hard towards it. But I understand how hard it is. I do." ●

Ranil Wickremesinghe returns as Sri Lanka PM



Ranil Wickremesinghe has been sworn in as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister for the sixth time as the island nation faces political and economic crises. His appointment comes days after Mahinda Rajapaksa, brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, vacated the position amid riots triggered by his supporters.

When President Premadasa was assassinated on May 1, 1993, DB Wijekunga became president, and he served his first term as Prime Minister. After the defeat of UNP by the late Prime Minister Bandaranaike's daughter, Chandrika Bandaranaike. After his defeat, Wickremesinghe became the opposition leader until he returned as Prime Minister in 2000 under President Bandaranaike.

His relationship with the president, a childhood friend

but a fierce political enemy, became tense in 2004. Chandrika has taken over some of the critical ministries of the UNP government in Wickremesinghe, including defence. When Wickremesinghe ran for president in 2005, he was slightly defeated by Mahinda Rajapaksa, about 150,000 votes behind. Tamil rebels (Tamil Eelam's Liberation Tigers) have violently prevented Wickremesinghe from voting in the high-scoring northern and eastern states.

Once again, he became the Leader of the Opposition and has not run for the presidency since. In 2010, he put forward General Sarath Fonseka as his preferred candidate, and in 2015, he entered into a coalition with a different faction of Rajapaksa's party, with Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) general secretary Maithripala Sirisena as president. 2015.

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

The scandal led to a failed government, and three years into the coalition's administration, the president dismissed Wickremesinghe as prime minister. Critics called the move, which saw Mahinda Rajapaksa back as prime minister for 52 days, a constitutional coup. When the Supreme Court overturned the decision, Wickremesinghe was re-elected as Prime Minister.

During this time, the UNP government made significant progress in economic restructuring with the help of the IMF, and Sri Lanka had a primary account surplus for the first time since 1954. This was primarily accomplished by imposing higher taxes on companies, as well as a safety net. To help low-income persons.

Switzerland's top lawyer seeks tools to curb financial crime



Switzerland's new attorney general is pushing parliament to give his office more tools to fight white-collar crime.

The country's maximum financial penalty on corporations for wrongdoing is just 5 million Swiss francs (\$5 million), and that's "ridiculous," Stefan Blaettler said in an interview on the sidelines of his first press conference as attorney general.

Not yet four months into the job, the former police chief of Bern laid out his ambitions to fight money laundering, terrorism and corruption in Switzerland and to contribute to international justice efforts in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Blaettler said it's been an uphill battle to convince Swiss lawmakers to adopt tougher penalties for wrongdoers.

"This week, I was in parliament and told them, 'You know what you are doing? You can condemn (convict) a bank — a global working bank — and the maximum fine

is five million? It's ridiculous,'" he said. "That's a third of the pay of a manager."

Speaking in English, Blaettler, 62, said he'd like the legal means afforded to counterparts in countries like the U.S. and Britain to spell out to corporations that "if ever you want to continue your activity, this is the fine, and these are the rules for the coming 10 years."

Blaettler also alluded to what anti-corruption groups have decried as an abortive effort in parliament last year to tighten the rules governing the activities of "third parties," such as lawyers who set up and administer huge funds in Switzerland, largely outside of any strict legal boundaries.

He said Switzerland's image was at stake.

"Reputation means business," said Blaettler. "And this country wants to make (do) business, but we want to make sure that the business is correct ... (and) plays by the rules."

"But give us also the instruments which give us the possibility to combat those who won't play by the rules," he said.

As for the war in Ukraine, Blaettler's office last month announced the creation of a task force charged with interviewing Ukrainian refugees and working with international and European prosecutors.

The attorney general said he had a "duty" to help gather information from refugees and to build case files that could be used to bring to

justice any war criminals who might come to Switzerland.

"I'm interested in the second, the third level," Blaettler said. "Every army commander who launches the missiles against the churches and schools and hospitals is a potential war criminal. So as a potential war criminal, that means if he sets foot in Switzerland, we will start an inquiry."

The Swiss government, straying somewhat from its long-touted neutrality, has lined up with European Union sanctions against Russian oligarchs, political elites, and companies.

The Swiss Bankers Association has estimated that the assets of Russian clients deposited in Switzerland's banks total 150-200 billion Swiss francs (about \$160-\$215 billion), making the country a key repository of Russian money abroad.

Blaettler said his office is gearing up to work with Eurojust, an EU agency that works to fight crime, and the International Criminal Court, whose prosecutor has launched a probe into possible war crimes in Ukraine.

His office has suspended legal cooperation with Russian counterparts, but Swiss authorities have been in contact with Ukrainian law enforcement, notably police.

Swiss federal prosecutors have been in touch with Ukrainian counterparts only "indirectly" so far, through Eurojust, Blaettler said.

"They are struggling for survival," he said. "They are not struggling for getting back \$100 million now. That will come."

Dereck AJ Hoogenkamp

A MAN & MASTER OF ALL TRADES



Properties taps into Dereck's expertise in property development.

He has been associated with major property developments in the emirate of Dubai like Al Barari, Bloom Holdings, hotels and schools. On an international level, they extend from Europe to East-Asia in properties ranging from backpacker hotels to five-star resorts.

PalmFusion Technology

PalmFusion Technology is a biometric solution that uses the palm of one's hand as identification and access. Ideal during the pandemic, it is contactless, non-intrusive and privacy compliant. Hoogenkamp saw potential in the company and immediately got on-board as a partner.

Gulf Experience

Hoogenkamp has been in the Gulf for 13+ years and sees a huge difference in how things operate in the Gulf in comparison to other parts of the world. He recognises that Dubai is a hub of super fast change- which has its fair share of advantages as well as disadvantages.

This means he follows an extremely busy schedule. He says that it's easy to get lost, so

A second-generation real estate enthusiast, Dereck AJ Hoogenkamp has seen the tides of change from how it was conventionally done to what it will evolve into in the near future.

Real Estate in the Metaverse

Hoogenkamp paints a clear picture on how real estate would work in the metaverse. For every physical property, there can be

an exact parallel digital twin. If something changes in the physical world, it'll manifest in the digital world and vice versa.

This has many implications on how the world would function in the future.

Hoogenkamp's Ventures

Yalla Properties

Starting off in Thailand and Montenegro and eventually expanding to Dubai, Yalla



he advises people to keep their focus. Take some time out to be in nature and reconnect with yourself. Finding the balance in life is important- and this was one of the reasons that he got onboard with yeswetrust as a business advisor by refocusing energies on personal growth.

He labels growing through self-development while riding through tough times as his biggest achievement so far.

Pandemic- Boon & Bane

The bigger challenges that Dereck AJ Hoogenkamp



outlines that he faced during the pandemic was mostly related to his restaurant developments worldwide which were forced to shut down. However, this gave him the time to refocus his energy onto the digital economy- working on real estate in the metaverse and financial digital solutions.

Advice for aspiring entrepreneurs

Hoogenkamp's advice is simple, "Don't chase the money, that's really important. I think it's better to chase what they're passionate about." He adds saying, "Things don't change as fast as you'd want. There are also older people on this road, think of them."

He says that a skill to watch out for in the years to come would be anything in the metaverse. He also points out that privacy will become a bigger deal. Hoogenkamp proposes that semi-decentralisation may have a role to play too.

To reflect, Hoogenkamp enjoys travelling to new places, swimming or being out in nature.



Netflix might launch its ad-supported tier this year



“A cheaper version with ads” has always been the ultimate desperation move for streaming services, and while platforms like Hulu were able to build all of their success on a setup like that, there’s really nowhere to go if it doesn’t work other than bundling different ad-supported streaming services together for one flat fee as some kind of “package” deal powered by the internet cables going into your house. A “cable package,” if you will.

Netflix is clearly in desperation mode, with subscriber numbers failing to hit goals and the company responding by cracking down on password sharing, canning a bunch of

animated projects, and laying off the staff of its Tudum fan site, all while talk of a potential ad-supported tier has gotten louder and louder. According to The New York Times, that cheaper version of Netflix might be coming sooner than anyone would’ve thought—as in, later this year.

That comes from a “recent note” passed along to employees, in which Netflix boss Reed Hastings indicated that the timeline for introducing the ad-supported version has moved up and that he wants them to “figure it out over the next year or two.” Netflix subscription prices range from \$10 to \$20 a month, and while we don’t know how much the ad-supported version of Netflix

would cost, it seems like it would have to be pretty cheap to justify its existence. That’s especially the case if the crackdown on password sharing is particularly brutal, because without a cheap alternative, people might realize that it is possible to live without Netflix.

The internal note that The New York Times got its hands on apparently made a point to mention the success of HBO Max and Hulu, which have found ways to “maintain strong brands while offering an ad-supported service,” so Netflix seems confident that people won’t immediately start rebelling when it eventually launches this.

Change at the top for Biogen after Alzheimer's drug flops



Biogen will replace its CEO and largely abandon marketing of its controversial Alzheimer's drug Aduhelm less than a year after the medication's launch triggered a backlash from experts, doctors and insurers.

CEO Michel Vounatsos will continue to lead the company until a successor is found.

For now, Biogen announced it is "substantially eliminating" spending on Aduhelm as part of a \$1 billion dollar cost-saving plan designed to refocus the company's flagging pharmaceutical business.

The announcement represents a stark acknowledgement that the Cambridge, Massachusetts, company has failed to find a place for a drug that was expected to drive its business for years to come. Aduhelm was the first new Alzheimer's drug introduction in nearly two decades. Initially priced at

\$56,000 a year, it was expected to quickly become a blockbuster drug that would generate billions for Biogen.

But doctors have been hesitant to prescribe it, given weak evidence that the drug slows the progression of Alzheimer's. Insurers have blocked or restricted coverage over the drug's high price tag and uncertain benefit. Even the company's decision to slash the drug's price in half— to \$28,000 a year — did little to improve uptake.

Last month the federal government's Medicare health plan imposed strict coverage limitations on who can get the drug, which brought in \$2.8 million in sales in the first quarter, which just ended. The vast majority of U.S. Alzheimer's patients are old enough to qualify for Medicare, which covers more than 60 million people, including those 65 and older, and disabled people under 65. Biogen said that it booked

about \$275 million in charges from Aduhelm inventory write-offs in the quarter, and it would essentially shutdown the commercial infrastructure supporting the drug.

Aduhelm expenses dragged down the company's quarterly results and Biogen fell short of Wall Street projections, reporting adjusted net income of \$535 million, or \$3.62 per share. Analysts forecast earnings of \$4.34 per share, according to FactSet.

Biogen executives said the restrictive Medicare decision essentially denied Aduhelm to most eligible patients in the U.S. The company said it would continue running a federally-mandated confirmatory trial designed to establish if the drug truly slows Alzheimer's. Last month the company announced it was pulling its marketing application for the drug in Europe.

China manufacturing weakens further as lockdowns continue



China's manufacturing activity fell to a six-month low in April as lockdowns continued in Shanghai and other manufacturing hubs in an attempt to stem COVID-19 outbreaks, according to a survey.

The monthly purchasing managers' index, released by China's National Bureau of Statistics, fell to 47.4 in April, down from 49.5 in March on a 100-point scale. Numbers below 50 show activity contracting.

The domestic COVID-19 outbreaks have impacted China's factory activities and market demand, said the bureau's statistician Zhao

Qinghe. Some enterprises have reduced or stopped production, with disruptions in logistics as well as the supply of raw materials and components.

Shanghai, China's most populous city, spent weeks in April under lockdown. The capital, Beijing, began mass testing millions of residents this week.

In the northeast, authorities in Changchun and Jilin also spent most of April in lockdown, forcing automakers and other factories to shut down. Other smaller Chinese cities have also faced citywide or district lockdowns.

According to the statistics bureau, non-manufacturing business activity also fell 6.5 percentage points to 41.9.

Service industry activity fell to 40, down from 46.7 the previous month, as activity in sectors such as air transport, accommodation and catering took a hit during the outbreaks, the bureau said.

However, the construction industry continued to expand, especially the civil engineering construction sector. It is expected that progress in the construction industry will play a role in supporting economic recovery, according to Zhao.

ICE Gaming - The World's Leading Innovation Conference



Gaming industry professionals from around the world arrived in London for the first edition of the biggest b2b expo after a 26-month Covid enforced absence.

Organisers, Clarion Gaming, confirmed visitors from a total of 158 jurisdictions registered attendance to the three day business-to-business expo (12th/13th/14th April, ExCeL London), representing 155 nations at ICE London 2020.

Clarion Gaming Managing Director Stuart Hunter, who has navigated the return of ICE London said: "It's very encouraging to have experienced

sustained interest in attending ICE from visitors based in every corner of the globe. While the actual make-up of the attendance remains to be seen ICE 2022 will feature suppliers from 59 jurisdictions which is a remarkable statistic and runs slightly against trends in the live events space. In 2020 the number of jurisdictions was 65 - which was a record number for ICE. Setting the tone for industry professionals, stands at ExCeL were brimming with hundreds of new products and service launches propelling industry transformation.

Close to 5,000 meetings were requested between visitors and exhibitors using the new

My ICE Gateway app, clearly indicating industry professionals attending ICE mean business, with exhibitors including Pronet, Betconstruct, Pragmatic Play, Soft2Bet, Paysafe, IQ Soft and Dealsport all securing an increased the presence.

Demonstrating the central role in nurturing development of new talent, a total of 14 start-up innovators were given access to the most influential investor audiences in the world of gaming as they presented their visionary start-ups on the Pitch ICE stage.

Following their presentations on the Pitch ICE stage in an interactive session; Bespot; Better Change; Mobi Fund Inc; My Lotto



Hub; Neesan Labs Parlay Poker; OneUpOneDown Ltd; Pokerload; Pow Gaming; Racing Star; Rubik Talent Ltd; Sparket; SMAT Virtual; Touch-LESS Gaming and We The Bookie, participated as exhibitors to strategic industry partners.

This years ICE London also spearheaded digital content and masterclasses for those looking

to upskill in their field, capitalise on market opportunities and identify common challenges to overcome. With aspirations to provide customers leaving ExCeL London with a positive, upbeat and confident atmosphere, putting the last two covid years behind them, it is no doubt that ICE London with its 400+ suppliers and unparalleled

international attendance remains the gambling industry event where innovations are launched, new strategies are formulated and where a properous future of gaming is created.

The next season of ICE will take place at ExCeL London from 7 to 9 February 2023.

'Africa is the Place to Be!'



As the Chairperson of the African Tourism Board (ATB), Ncube says that his role is merely to act as a connector between the diverse member states of the continent. It is their role to figure out how the different cultures compliment one another to contribute and share what they have.

The African Tourism Board (ATB), in Ncube's words, is a voice of unifying the opportunities Africa has in terms of investments and tourist attractions. He realises the need for Africa to reclaim its title as the 'Jewel of the World'. There was a need to break the conditioned shackles that separated the different member states to come together as a continent.



Cuthbert Ncube
Chairperson, African Tourism Board
(ATB)



Cuthbert Ncube says, "Africa is the place to be- in terms of our diversity and our culture! It is a dynamic continent that needs to be reanalysed and be appreciated for playing a pivotal role within the global community."

The African Tourism Board is a manifestation of a dream that the former UN World Tourism Organization (WTO) Secretary General Dr Taleb Rifai had. Ncube believes that Dr Rifai is the backbone of the African Tourism Board. The actualisation of this dream was also possible thanks to the support of strategic partners and Ministers from the different member states. Ambassadors have been instrumental in the realisation of this movement from actioning at a grassroots level.



The African Tourism Board recently launched its Secretariat offices in the Kingdom of Eswatini. The Head Office was set up with the support of the Minister of Tourism, Eswatini in line with his vision to bring Africa together to sell its tourism sector on a global level.

A Beacon of Hope

If one were to leaf through the pages of history, Africa has been rather segmented for a while.

However, the lockdowns changed something and brought the continent together. From there began the intention to look within Africa and promote domestic tourism. It pushed for a shift from a competitive to a collaborative spirit. Ncube believes that tourism is all about bringing people together and to negate the inequalities that have existed for so long.

Ncube believes that Africa should be able to write its own narrative and story. The world should

listen to what Africans are saying about their own country. “We can only tell a good story if we join hands together,” Ncube says. “No continent can surpass what Africa has to offer today.”

The vision of the African Tourism Board as an organisation is to reshape, rebrand and remarket Africa as a destination for tourists. “Africa stands as a beacon of hope to the whole world, especially after the COVID pandemic. We are saying the doors are open, business is open,” says Cuthbert Ncube.

ZIDA- Invest in Zimbabwe, Secure your business' future in Zimbabwe

British Herald speaks to Duduzile Shinya, the acting CEO and Chief Finance Officer of Zimbabwe Investment & Development Agency (ZIDA) on the opportunities for investors in the country to give their businesses a secure and flourishing home in Africa.

Why Zimbabwe?

Zimbabwe is at a delicate stage-with innumerable opportunities and areas for potential development. It is key to find Zimbabwe the right partners and open up the country to them to encourage the flourishing of economic development.

Sectors with potential in Zimbabwe

1.Mining

The biggest sector seeking investment in Zimbabwe is the mining sector- the country has an abundance of mineral resources and the ability to process these resources into value-added products. Therefore, the potential in the mining sector is second to none.

2.Agriculture

What comes soon after in terms of potential is the agricultural sector owing to Zimbabwe's facilitating weather and abundance of crops which makes the hub of Africa favourable. The agricultural products can be then harvested, processed and exported based on requirement.



ZIDA
ZIMBABWE
INVESTMENT &
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



Duduzile Shinya, The acting CEO and Chief Finance Officer of Zimbabwe Investment & Development Agency (ZIDA)

3.Manufacturing

Zimbabwe has always had a history of being a leader in the manufacturing sector. After a slight lull in the manufacturing of industrial products, the country has had a realisation that this

sector needs to be revived via reindustrialisation to the original potential that it has once proved to have.

4.Technology

Bringing in the latest technologies to improve the efficiency of companies is a field with a lot of traction and Zimbabwe could play a key role in the development of these technologies for investors.

5.Infrastructure

The country has a lot of potential for growth and Shinya believes that in order to lead that growth process, Zimbabwe needs to have a solid infrastructure in place. This could be in terms of transportation networks, telecommunication and electricity, just to cite a few instances.

In addition to these, a distinct area that Zimbabwe is leading within the continent is the tourism sector. This could be attributed to the different landscapes that Zimbabwe plays host to with a spectrum of mountains, waterfalls, game and white sandy beaches.



ZIDA is a Gamechanger

Shinya believes that, as an organisation, ZIDA is a gamechanger assisting in transforming the country. She is in-charge of overseeing the day-to-day operations of the agency, interacting with investors and covering the various sectors in Zimbabwe seeking investment. ZIDA is a one-stop investment setup with government officials assigned to the office in order to

streamline company registration and they're prepared to address queries and foreign currency confusions.

Types of Investments

There are primarily two types of investments that foreign investors could consider:

Public/Private Partnerships for people looking to invest in

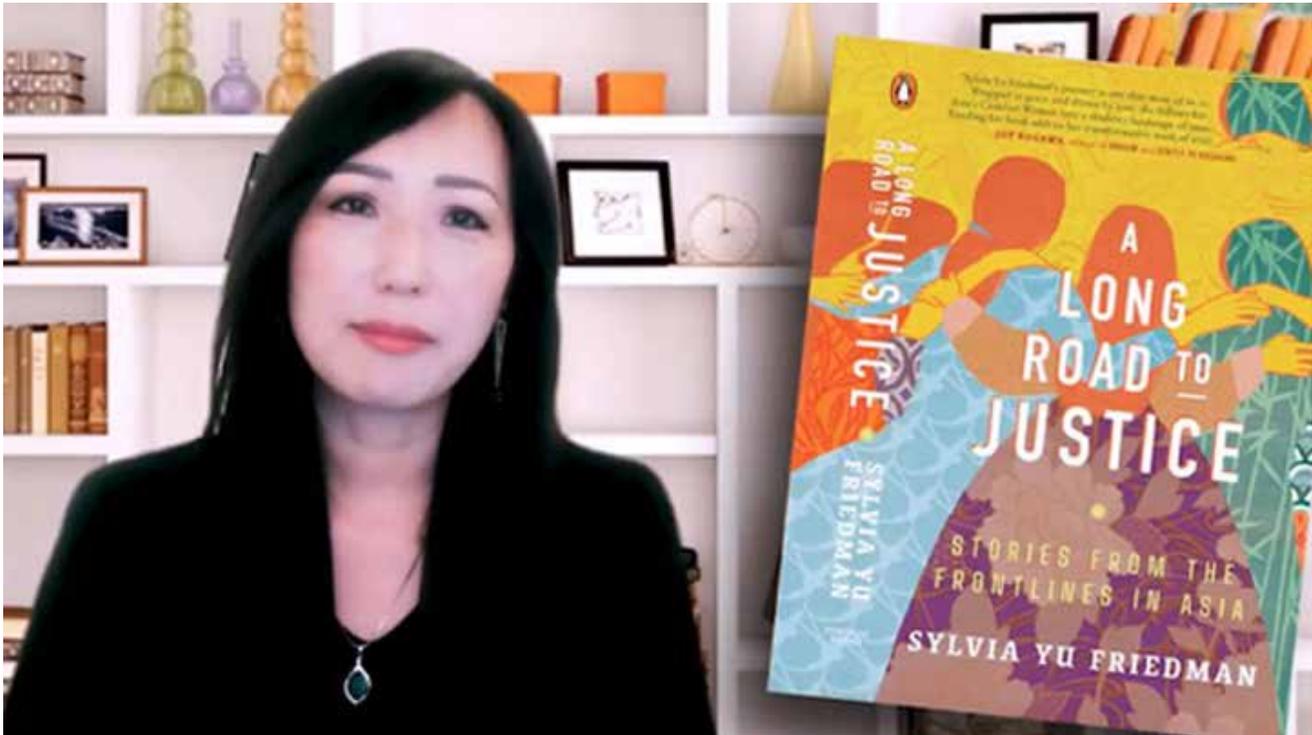
government assets. There are certain areas of focus outlined. Alternatively, a private player can seek opportunities to partner with the government.

Investment independent of the public sector or the government.

Zimbabwe is seeking out investors of all scales, inviting them into the country to leverage their skilled labour force, abundant natural resources and untapped potential.

A LONG ROAD TO JUSTICE

Stories from the Frontlines in Asia



A Long Road to Justice: Stories from the Frontlines in Asia is a book written by Sylvia Yu Friedman and published in 2021 on her life's work raising awareness on the plight of victims from Imperial Japanese sex slavery during World War II, called "comfort women", and human trafficking and exploitation. Sylvia Yu Friedman is a noted journalist, author, filmmaker, abolitionist, and humanist.

Sylvia's work uniquely includes an element deeply rooted in the recesses of its conceptualism, her ethnic identity. In addition to being a woman of Korean

ethnicity, Sylvia triangulated the personal narratives of survivors, traffickers, and observers, with statistical data to develop a comprehensive understanding of the human trafficking phenomenon in Asia.

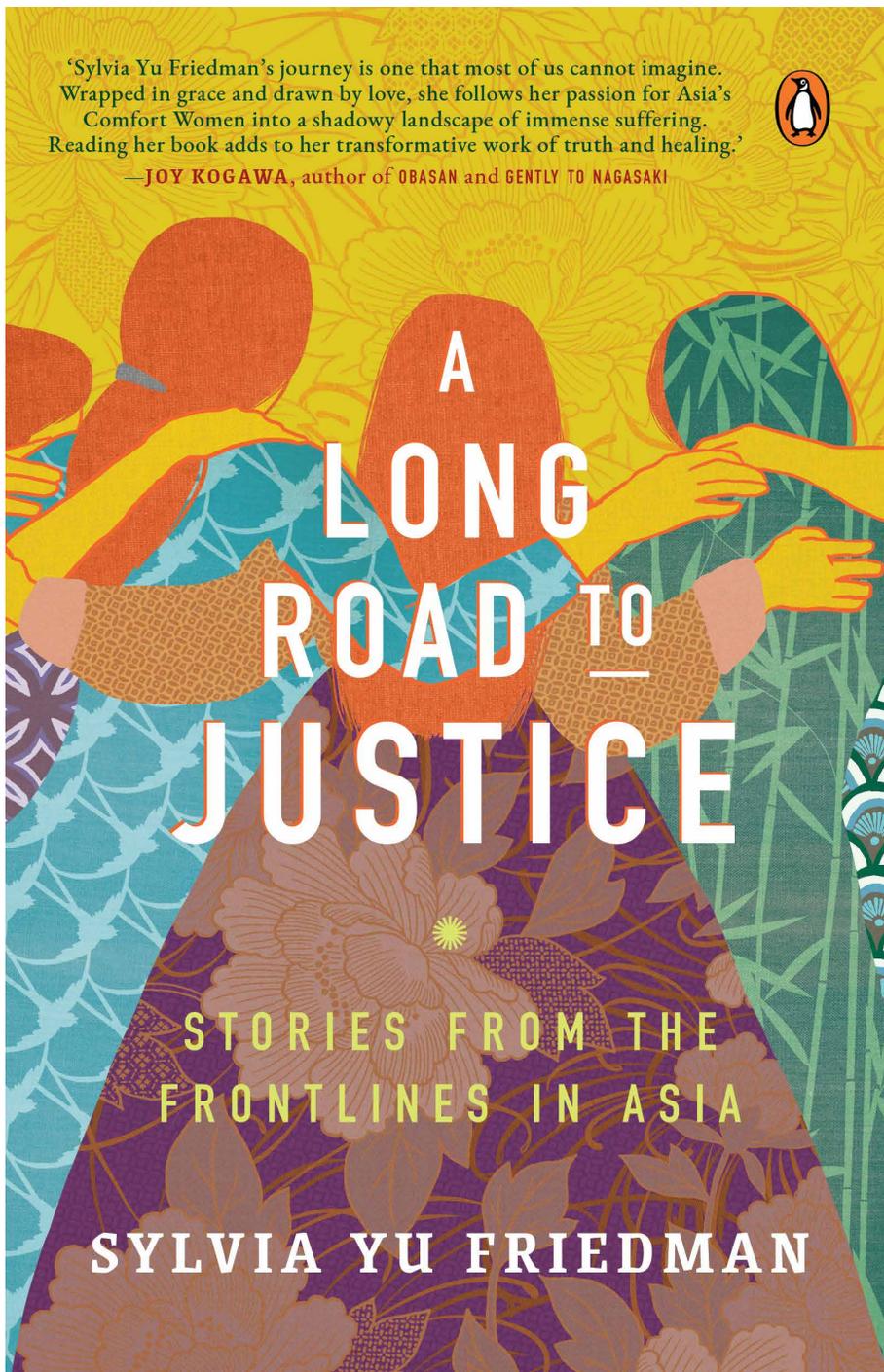
A Long Road to Justice encompasses over 14 years of concentrated field work and analysis within a lifetime pursuit of the author identifying with her own path.

The author's only regret is the passing of Kim Hak-soon, a Korean comfort woman enslaved in World War II, prior to the release of this book. Kim Hak-soon, and other comfort women,

endured years of racially charged degradation and sexual trauma in comfort stations, created and supported by the Japanese government to sedate the appetites of Japanese soldiers during the second war.

Japanese soldiers were provided comfort women based on a racial hierarchy, scaffolding their palate of distribution. To date, a sincere apology to the victims of these atrocities offering a means of closure has not been publicly sanctioned by the Japanese government. Not in their eyes.

A Long Road to Justice acutely describes the cycle of modern slavery existing in Asia, running



of their trade to create an unescapable environment for trafficked persons. Similar to the comfort stations of the Japanese government in World War II, brothels and nightclubs currently provide a physical containment area.

Traffickers are also assisted in the control of victims by citizen spies, who reports escapees and abolitionists aiding in the pursuit of freedom. The abolitionists, many who hold positions in religious organizations, are imprisoned for many years. Family members are also captured and imprisoned to control trafficked victims. Finally, legal documentation is often withheld or forged by traffickers to further restrict movement.

Although trafficking is considered cyclical in nature, a recent development has become a fixture in social acceptance in traffickers' linear approach to evolution; Compensated Dating (CD).

Online platforms have created a haven for part-time girlfriends and boyfriends (PTGF's and PTBF's) to engage in transactional exchanges. Clinicians have warned of the psychological and physical dangers to youths participating in Compensated Dating.

Sources have suggested Compensated Dating provides an illusion of security and control for Asian youth; specifically, females. One source advised the author unlike in the case of a pimp situation, women in Compensated Dating have no protection. They are alone. Social

consecutive to the conditions of its past. Racial discrimination and superiority still resonate and is interwoven in every layer of the sociological structure within the Asia ecosphere. In the case of traffickers, socioeconomic status and dysfunctional homes serve as a seemingly endless

recruiter of victims. Extreme hunger and desperation have led many North Korean people to undertake cannibalism and a type of indentured slavery as a method to survive. Trafficker's prey and thrive on these conditions, using deceit and coercion as the framework



acceptance of Compensated Dating is revealed by the author, as if extortion or sexual abuse was not transpiring in the event.

It was a simple matter of both parties receiving goods or services desired. As the numbers of online activity increases, it was suggested Compensated Dating will continue to become more prevalent.

The information contained in *A Long Road to Justice* is genuine, obtained from years of personal interviews from the field. Asia

offered the author the necessary reliable and valid informative sources to provide a ground level view of patterns of trafficking, bureaucratic standings, historic substance, and how identity weighs on trafficking occurring in Asia. Identity is often overlooked or seriously considered in the literature and research I have read on human trafficking. This variable underpins the spine of what drives the value of people in Asia.

Unintentionally applying concepts similar in Dr. Jean

Kim's Asian Identity Model, Sylvia describes how identity is a valid component of trafficking within Asia, as it determines the value of the people selected for its purposes. Understanding identity as it resides within this framework creates a transformative effect for the reader. To know.

A Long Road to Justice: Stories from the Frontlines in Asia is the first major publication concentrated in trafficking activity in Asia from a historical, ethnic, transnational, and self-identification perspective.

Filtered by field interviews and ground level information, *A Long Road to Justice* provides a holistic awakening of the trafficking reality in the far east.

The author brilliantly blended her study's variables to provide the reader an informed vantage point, in the hopes of invigorating a response to act and prevent trafficking. Although the author may feel a semblance of disappointment of not publishing this book prior to the passing of specific individuals, I am confident those individuals are at peace with themselves and the release of this work.

What is important is the knowledge is now being passed to others to know and act. *A Long Road to Justice* is a must read for all of these who want to know about human trafficking and act.

Consume knowledge to devour darkness, -Christian A. Nanry, PhD

‘Fill the silence with your music,’ Zelenskyy tells Grammys



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appeared in a video message at the Grammy Awards to ask for support in telling the story of Ukraine’s invasion by Russia.

During the message that aired on the show, he likened the invasion to a deadly silence threatening to extinguish the dreams and lives of the Ukrainian people, including children.

“Our musicians wear body armor instead of tuxedos. They sing to the wounded in hospitals, even to those who can’t hear them,” he said. “But the music will break through anyway.”

The Recording Academy, with its partner Global Citizen, prior to the ceremony highlighted a social media campaign called “Stand Up For Ukraine” to raise money and support during the humanitarian crisis.

“Fill the silence with your music. Fill it today to tell our story. Tell

the truth about the war on your social networks, on TV, support us in any way you can any, but not silence. And then peace will come to all our cities,” Zelenskyy said.

Following Zelenskyy’s message, John Legend performed his song “Free” with Ukrainian musicians Siuzanna Iglidan and Mika Newton, and poet Lyuba Yakimchuk, as images from the war were shown on screens behind them.

The war in Ukraine had taken a particularly gruesome turn when Ukrainian forces entering the town of Bucha, recently held by Russian soldiers, found bodies of people who had been shot, some after being bound and tortured. Ukrainian authorities accused the Russians of war crimes, and European leaders called for tougher sanctions against Moscow. Russia said the atrocities had been committed by Ukrainians.



Biden reacts to leaked draft Supreme Court opinion on abortion



President Joe Biden weighed in on the leaked draft Supreme Court opinion showing the panel's conservative majority of justices is poised to overturn nearly 50 years of established abortion rights in America.

"It concerns me a great deal that, after 50 years, we're going to decide that a woman doesn't have the right to choose," Biden told reporters at Joint Base Andrews, en route to Alabama to visit a facility that manufactures Javelin anti-tank missiles. "But even more equally profound is the rationale used — and it would mean that every other decision relating to the notion of privacy is thrown into question."

"The idea that we're going to make a judgment that is going

to say that no one can make the judgment to choose to abort a child, based on a decision by the Supreme Court, I think goes way overboard," he said.

Biden called the decision "radical" if it holds and added, "The codification of Roe makes a lot of sense."

In an earlier written statement, Biden began with a caveat — lightly acknowledging the unprecedented nature of seeing a draft opinion before the court's formal ruling — before launching into a three-part defense of Roe v. Wade by his administration.

"We do not know whether this draft is genuine, or whether it reflects the final decision of the Court. With that critical caveat, I want to be clear on three points

about the cases before the Supreme Court," Biden said in a rare statement on an even rarer event.

"First, my administration argued strongly before the Court in defense of Roe v. Wade," Biden said, referencing oral arguments before the justices. "We said that Roe is based on 'a long line of precedent recognizing 'the Fourteenth Amendment's concept of personal liberty'... against government interference with intensely personal decisions."

"I believe that a woman's right to choose is fundamental, Roe has been the law of the land for almost fifty years, and basic fairness and the stability of our law demand that it not be overturned," Biden said. He said



his administration was already preparing for the outcome — but called on American voters to elect pro-choice candidates in November and on congressional lawmakers to codify Roe into law.

“Second, shortly after the enactment of Texas law SB 8 and other laws restricting women’s reproductive rights, I directed my Gender Policy Council and White House Counsel’s Office to prepare options for an Administration response to the continued attack on abortion and reproductive rights, under a variety of possible outcomes in the cases pending before the Supreme Court. We will be ready when any ruling is issued,” he continued.

“Third, if the Court does overturn Roe, it will fall on our nation’s elected officials at all levels of government to protect a woman’s right to choose. And it

will fall on voters to elect pro-choice officials this November,” he said. “At the federal level, we will need more pro-choice Senators and a pro-choice majority in the House to adopt legislation that codifies Roe, which I will work to pass and sign into law.”

The court has since acknowledged the draft is “authentic” but said it was not a decision of the court and not final.

The document, Politico said it obtained from a “person familiar with the court’s proceedings,” is marked “first draft” and dated February 10, 2022 — two months after oral arguments were heard in the case *Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health*.

“Roe was egregiously wrong from the start,” writes Justice Samuel

Alito, the opinion’s apparent author, in a copy of the draft posted online.

If Alito’s opinion were to hold, as written, it would dramatically upend abortion rights across America, effectively allowing each state to set its own policy.

“The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each State from regulating or prohibiting abortion,” the draft concludes. “Roe and Casey arrogated that authority. We now overrule those decisions and return that authority to the people and their elected representatives.”

The stunning leak comes at the first multi-state contest of the 2022 midterm election season and as several states have already enacted restrictions on abortion rights.

Orrin Hatch, Seven-Term Senator and a Republican Force, Dies at 88



During the opioid crisis in 2015, he introduced a bill to narrow the authority of government regulators to halt the marketing of drugs by predatory pharmaceutical companies. It later emerged that he had received \$2.3 million in donations from the drug industry over 25 years.

But there were no political repercussions. The senator was re-elected in 1982, 1988, 1994, 2000, 2006 and 2012, averaging nearly 65 percent of the vote.

Pennsylvania-born

Orrin Grant Hatch was born in Homestead Park, Pa., near Pittsburgh, on March 22, 1934, the sixth of nine children of Jesse and

Helen (Kamm) Hatch. His parents were Mormons who had moved from Utah in the 1920s to find work. After losing their home in the Depression, Jesse borrowed \$100 to buy a plot of land in the hills above Pittsburgh and built a house of blackened lumber salvaged from a fire.

Two of Orrin's siblings died in infancy. He was deeply affected by the loss of his brother, Jesse, a World War II Army Air Forces nose gunner who was killed when his B-24 was shot down in a bombing raid over Europe in 1945.

At Baldwin High School, Orrin was captain of the basketball team and president of the student body. He took two years off for missionary work, proselytizing in Ohio, and graduated in 1955. He then moved to Utah and worked

as a union lathe operator to pay his way through Brigham Young University.

In 1957, he married Elaine Hansen. They had six children: Brent, Marcia, Scott, Kimberly, Alysa and Jess. Complete information on his survivors was not immediately available.

After earning a bachelor's degree in history at BYU in 1959, Mr. Hatch studied law at the University of Pittsburgh on a full scholarship and received his juris doctor in 1962. He joined a Pittsburgh law firm, but in 1969 moved to Salt Lake City to open his own practice. He represented private clients in tax, contract and personal injury cases, and corporations fighting federal regulations.

In Ukraine War, a Long Journey Begins in Prosecuting Rape



She is appealing to other countries that are party to the international court to consider opening their own prosecutions into allegations of Russia's sex crimes by claiming universal jurisdiction — the legal principle that some violations are so odious they are an affront to humanity at large, and therefore can be tried by any nation's court system.

Earlier this year, a German court convicted a Syrian intelligence officer of crimes against humanity, and sentenced him to life in prison, for overseeing a security center in Damascus where detainees were tortured, raped and otherwise abused. The United States is not a party to the international court in The Hague and cannot prosecute abuse cases in American courts without

a referral from the U.N. Security Council, which Russia would almost certainly veto.

Russia-Ukraine War: Key Developments

On the ground. After a period of relative quiet, Russian rockets slammed into Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. The barrage hit an empty weapons factory and a nearby apartment building, and Kyiv's mayor said one person was found dead under the rubble.

As a permanent member of the Security Council, Moscow could also veto efforts to impose international sanctions against Russian individuals or organizations believed to have carried out sex crimes or violence against women in Ukraine.

Ms. Patten said economic penalties issued in recent years against officials who targeted female activists in Yemen, or failed to stop sexual abuse of detainees in Libya, have served as a warning to deter gender-based violence elsewhere. An annual report released by Ms. Patten's office this month concluded that U.N. investigators had verified nearly 3,300 cases of conflict-related sexual violence worldwide in 2021 — an increase of about 800 cases from the year before. If this sexual violence is happening on the scale that it is happening, with the brutality and the fact that justice remains painfully slow, it's not for lack of a normative framework," Ms. Patten said. "It's because there is no political will" to stop or at least punish it, she said.

In Ukraine, much of the evidence compiled so far in sexual assault cases has been collected by investigators for nongovernment organizations, like Ms. Gorbunova, or journalists. Many victims who have reported their assaults have done so anonymously, Ms. Patten said, refusing to identify themselves in phone calls to government hotlines.

The Russian authorities have denied all responsibility for civilian killings, abuse and other atrocities in Ukraine since the invasion, and President Vladimir V. Putin has denounced evidence to the contrary as "fake."

Kenya honors former President Kibaki with state funeral



Kenyans are paying their last respects to former President Mwai Kibaki in a state funeral service that was attended by African leaders.

Kibaki, has been praised by Kenya's current leaders as a respected statesman. He was 90.

He served as the president for two terms from 2002 to 2013. The presidents of Kenya, South Africa and South Sudan are among the dignitaries attending the state funeral in the capital, Nairobi. Hundreds of Kenyans stood by the roadside to watch a military procession escorting the hearse to the national stadium where thousands more had gathered since early morning.

"It is the second time I have seen something like this. It is sad but

very colorful," said Mercy Wairimu, a street vendor of sweets.

Kibaki will be buried at his ancestral home in central Kenya.

Before becoming president in 2002, Kibaki had a distinguished career as a public servant. He had served as finance minister, vice president, and official leader of the opposition in the National Assembly. He was often seen as a gentleman in a country full of more aggressive politicians.

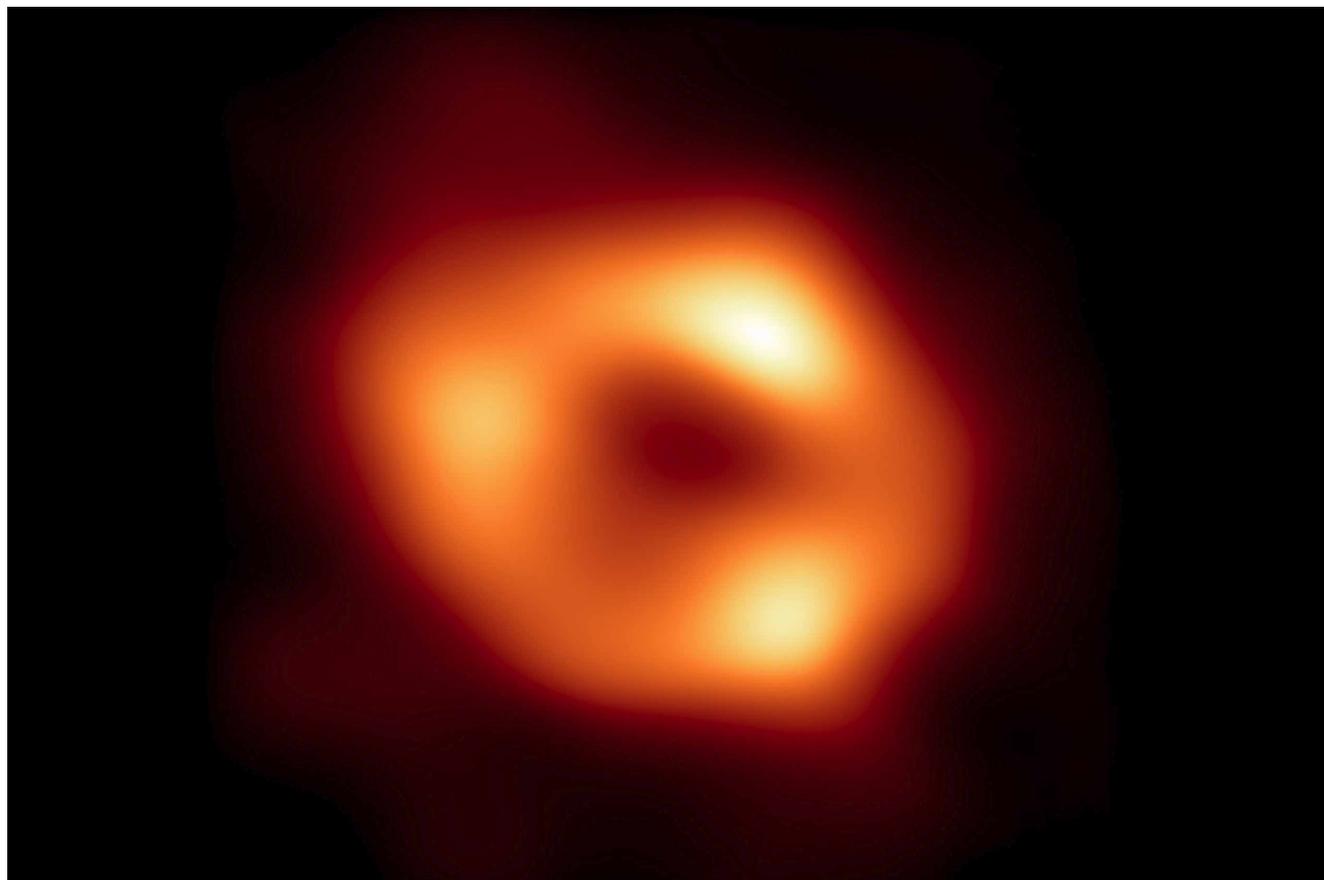
Kibaki's reelection to a second term in 2007 put a dent in his reputation as his victory was disputed by his opponent, Raila Odinga. Odinga asserted that the election result had been rigged and that he had really won the poll. Hundreds of people were killed in weeks of ethnic violence that followed. Amid the

stalemate, Kenya exploded into fighting along tribal lines that forced more than 600,000 people from their homes. The violence shattered Kenya's standing as a beacon of stability in East Africa.

The international community led by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan eventually brokered a fragile power-sharing deal between Kibaki and Odinga, who settled for a new role as Kenya's prime minister.

In the wake of the violence, Kibaki oversaw a new constitution for Kenya that was aimed at decentralizing powers and reducing persistent ethnic tensions that continue to flare up during electoral seasons. The new constitution was praised as having some of the most progressive human rights provisions in the world.

Astronomers capture 1st image of Milky Way's huge black hole



The world got a look at the first wild but fuzzy image of the supermassive black hole at the center of our own Milky Way galaxy.

Astronomers believe nearly all galaxies, including our own, have these giant black holes at their center, where light and matter cannot escape, making it extremely hard to get images of them. Light gets chaotically bent and twisted around by gravity as it gets sucked into the abyss along with superheated gas and dust.

The colorized image unveiled is from the international consortium behind the Event Horizon Telescope, a collection of eight synchronized radio telescopes around the world. Previous efforts had found the black hole in the center of our galaxy too jumpy to get a good picture.

The University of Arizona's Feryal Ozel called the black hole "the gentle giant in the center of our galaxy" while announcing the new image.

The Milky Way black hole is called Sagittarius A(asterisk),

near the border of Sagittarius and Scorpius constellations. It is 4 million times more massive than our sun.

This is not the first black hole image. The same group released the first one in 2019 and it was from a galaxy 53 million light-years away. The Milky Way black hole is much closer, about 27,000 light-years away. A light year is 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion kilometers).

The project cost nearly \$60 million with \$28 million coming from the U.S. National Science Foundation.

New Zealand rocket caught but then dropped by helicopter



Using a helicopter to catch a falling rocket is such a complex task that Peter Beck likens it to a “supersonic ballet.”

Rocket Lab, the company that Beck founded, partially pulled off the feat as it pushes to make its small Electron rockets reusable. But after briefly catching the spent rocket, a helicopter crew was quickly forced to let it go again for safety reasons, and it fell into the Pacific Ocean where it was collected by a waiting boat.

The California-based company regularly launches 18-meter (59-foot) rockets from the remote Mahia Peninsula in New Zealand to deliver satellites into space.

The Electron rocket was launched in the morning and sent 34 satellites into orbit before the main booster section began falling to Earth. Its descent was slowed to about

10 meters (33 feet) per second by a parachute. That’s when the helicopter crew sprang into action, dangling a long line with a hook below the helicopter to snag the booster’s parachute lines. The crew caught the rocket but the load on the helicopter exceeded the parameters from tests and simulations, so they jettisoned it again.

The roller coaster of emotions was caught in a livestream of the event, with people at mission control cheering and clapping as the rocket was caught, only to let out a collective gasp and sigh about 20 seconds later.

Still, Beck hailed the mission as a success, saying that almost everything went to plan and that the unexpected load issue was a tiny detail which would soon be fixed, a “nothing in the scheme of things.” “They got a great catch. They just didn’t like the way the load was feeling,” Beck said of the helicopter crew in a

conference call after the launch. He said a detailed analysis should reveal the reasons for the discrepancy in the load characteristics. He said he still hoped the company could salvage some or all of the spent rocket booster, despite it getting dunked in salt water which they’d hoped to avoid.

Rocket Lab named its latest mission “There And Back Again” — a reference to the movie trilogy “The Hobbit” which was filmed in New Zealand.

The company described the brief midair capture at 1,980 meters (6,500 feet) by the Sikorsky S-92 helicopter as a milestone. It says making its rockets reusable will enable the company to increase the number of launches it makes and reduce costs.

Elon Musk’s SpaceX company designed the first reusable orbital rocket, the Falcon 9. ●

SpaceX brings 4 astronauts home with midnight splashdown



SpaceX brought four astronauts home with a midnight splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico, capping the busiest month yet for Elon Musk's taxi service.

The three U.S. astronauts and one German in the capsule were bobbing off the Florida coast, near Tampa, less than 24 hours after leaving the International Space Station. NASA expected to have them back in Houston later in the morning.

NASA's Raja Chari, Tom Marshburn and Kayla Barron, and the European Space Agency's Matthias Maurer, embraced the seven astronauts remaining at the station, before parting ways.

"It's the end of a six-month mission, but I think the space dream lives on," Maurer said.

SpaceX brought up their U.S. and Italian replacements

last week, after completing a charter trip to the station for a trio of businessmen.

That amounts to two crew launches and two splashdowns in barely a month. Musk's company has now launched 26 people into orbit in less than two years, since it started ferrying astronauts for NASA. Eight of those 26 were space tourists.

"Welcome home," SpaceX Mission Control radioed at splashdown. "Thanks for flying SpaceX."

"That was a great ride," replied Chari, the capsule commander. As for the reintroduction to gravity, he noted: "Only one complaint. These water bottles are super heavy."

The newly returned astronauts said their mission was highlighted by the three visitors and their ex-astronaut escort who dropped by in April,

opening up NASA's side of the station to paying guests after decades of resistance. On the down side, they had to contend with a dangerous spike in space junk after Russia blew up a satellite in a missile test in mid-November. More than 1,500 pieces of shrapnel spread across Earth's orbit for years to come.

While the war in Ukraine has caused tensions between the U.S. and Russia, the astronauts have stood by their Russian crewmates, and vice versa. Flight controllers in Houston and Moscow also continued to cooperate as always, according to NASA officials.

As he relinquished command of the space station earlier this week, Marshburn called it "a place of peace" and said international cooperation would likely be its lasting legacy. Russian Oleg Artemyev, the new commander, also emphasized the "peace between our countries, our friendship" in orbit and described his crewmates as brothers and sisters.

Up there now are three Russians, three Americans and one Italian.

It was Marshburn's third spaceflight, and the first for the three returning with him. Chari and Barron's next stop could be the moon; they are among 18 U.S. astronauts picked for NASA's Artemis moon-landing program. Two others in that elite group are now at the space station.

A Global Movement to Save Soil

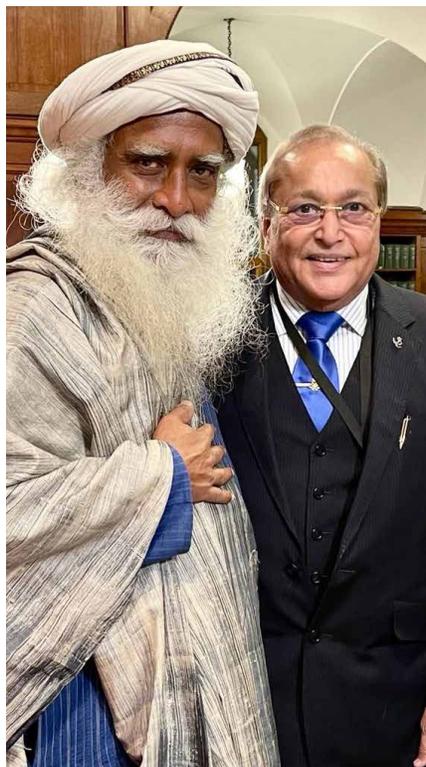


World-renowned Yogi and Visionary Sadhguru initiated his 100-day solo motorcycle journey from the United Kingdom to India traversing 25 countries over 30,000 km with an intention to Save Soil. The intention of this journey is to foster collaboration and conversation from global leaders, field experts and the global citizens.

The Save Soil Movement follows a well-defined three-pronged approach to bringing the (quite literally) get down and dirty- to save the soil.

The purpose

The first intention of the Save Soil Movement is to draw the world's attention towards the dying soil, the second is to inspire billions of people to lend their support towards policies to protect, nurture and sustain soils and the third is to raise and maintain



the soil's organic content to a minimum of 3 to 6% following national policy changes in 193 countries worldwide.

This movement has been supported and endorsed by several personalities of note including but not restricted to His Holiness Dalai Lama, Dr Jane Goodall, Hon Gaston Browne, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland and Deepak Chopra. It is driven by Sadhguru along with discussions and deliberations from several experts in the field. So far, these conversations have sparked ideas and lent to an increased interest in the matters of soil preservation and conservation.

The British Herald team wholeheartedly lends its support to this monumental, much-needed mission to revive the world's soil. Lord Rami Ranger, Patron of British Herald, also lent his participation towards the Save Soil Movement during their preliminary events in the UK. From Amsterdam, to Berlin and Prague moving to other countries with more support. ●

Sadhguru's 100-day motorcycle journey to Save Soil: Taking Europe by Storm



The aim: Bring together people worldwide to stand up for soil health and support leaders to institute national policies to Save Soil. Here are a few of the highlights from the journey so far.

Over 30 packed-out public events across 25 cities, reaching tens of thousands of people.

Events and meetings with business leaders, universities, governments, embassies and global institutions like the UN. Renowned public figures, influencers and scientific experts have spoken at events, including Toni Gaarn, Carice van Houten, Yann Arthus Bertrand, Prof. Johan Rockström and Louis Saha.

A concert in Rome with Italian artists including Elisa, Malika Ayane, Giovanni Caccamo, Noemi, and Carlo Pastore – hosted by Billboard.

6 Caribbean nations signed the Save Soil Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU) – a commitment to creating policies to raise the organic content of agricultural soils to healthy levels.

54 Commonwealth Nations support the Save Soil Movement. The Rt Honorable Patricia Scotland QC, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, has expressed alignment of the Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands (CALL) with the objectives of Save Soil and seeks to involve all 54 Commonwealth countries.

Government Ministers and representatives in multiple countries have expressed support and have received the MoU, including Italy, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania and Georgia.

World Food Programme (WFP) and the 4 per 1000 Initiative (launched by France at COP21, a coalition of 699 partners across 104 countries that aims to boost carbon storage in agricultural soils by 0.4% each year) sign Save Soil MoUs. On a mission to save

the world's soil from extinction, the save soil movement, founded by global visionary Sadhguru, has visited 18 countries in Europe in the past 40 days.

Children across the world have been writing to their governments about Save Soil. 100k+ letters have been sent in India. The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research invited all students in Germany to support Save Soil by submitting their artwork on soil for a global exhibition of art, poetry and more.

Local projects across Europe and beyond include:

- Murals in Germany, UK, Mauritius and India
- Light shows in Geneva and Bucharest
- Supporters from Italy walked hundreds of kilometres to meet each other in Rome, spreading awareness along the way.

After London and Berlin, the Save Soil global campaign hits Prague



World-renowned guru and spiritual leader Sadhguru visits Czech Republic as part of a 30,000 km motorcycle journey to spread the message that the world's soil is going extinct.

- Sadhguru is embarking on a 30,000 km motorbike journey through Europe, the Middle East and India to drive policy changes and raise global awareness for soil health
- 52% of the world's soils are already degraded; change is urgently needed
- Half of the topsoil on earth has been lost in the last 150 years

27.03.22 – Prague, Czech Republic:

As part of the 30,000 km Save Soil movement that began on 21 March 2022 from London, Sadhguru reached Prague after a two-day stop in Berlin.

The Save Soil movement aims to drive national policy changes in 193 nations toward raising and maintaining the organic content of soils to a minimum of 3-6%. In alignment with these objectives, Sadhguru met with the Deputy of the Minister of Environment and Deputy of the Minister

of Agriculture in the Czech Republic at the Embassy of India, presenting them with a Global Policy Draft and Solutions Handbook. The handbook has been created in consultation with top scientists considering the latitude, climate, economic

conditions, and traditional agricultural practices of the region. In response to a question about the challenge of the policy when large corporations are holding the land, Sadhguru asserted that policy change is in fact much easier in such a context as sensitive issues of livelihood don't come up and corporations can be addressed as business entities.

Sadhguru headed to his first public event at Top Hotel Praha and was joined on stage by actress and singer Olga Lounová and mathematician Karel Janecek. They discussed the Save Soil movement and probed the connection between mathematics and mysticism before a 2,000-strong audience of local enthusiasts and supporters.

When asked by an audience member about the misfortunes of war, Sadhguru explained that unless we as individual human beings make our minds peaceful, we cannot strive to become a peaceful planet. A reflection on the need of our times, Sadhguru described the Save Soil movement as not only an ecological endeavor but also a tremendous opportunity for humanity to be brought together by a unifying force.

Sadhguru is currently on a lone motorcycle journey of 30,000 km across 27 nations. The journey which began from London, UK, will pass through various nations in Europe, Middle East and India. It aims to raise awareness and build political consensus for urgent policy initiatives to prevent soil extinction.

The Conscious Planet Movement to Save Soil is a global civil movement to inspire a conscious

approach to saving our soil and planet. This is, first and foremost, a people's movement. Its aim is to activate the support of over 3.5 billion people (over 60% of the world's voting population) to make ecological issues an election priority for governments across the globe.

The Movement aims to urge and support governments in formulating policies that will address soil health in their country and make farming activity more soil friendly to halt and reverse further soil degradation globally. The primary recommendation of the Save Soil Movement is for governments across the world to legislate policies that will mandate a minimum of 3-6% organic content in all agricultural soil in their country.

World leaders, influencers, artists, subject matter experts, farmers, spiritual leaders, NGOs are among those who have pledged their

support to rekindle humanity's relationship with soil.

About Sadhguru

Sadhguru is a Yogi, visionary and a two-time New York Times bestselling author. He has been conferred three presidential awards in India, including one for his environmental work as well as the country's highest annual civilian award for exceptional and distinguished service.

Over the years, the founder of Isha Foundation has also launched large ecological initiatives that have created a blueprint for economic development that is ecologically sustainable.

He has spoken at the United Nations, World Economic Forum, World Bank, the UK House of Lords, TED, and countless global companies, and has also been invited to present at Oxford, Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Wharton, and MIT, among others.



The Netherlands: First stop on a 30,000 km journey to Save Soil



World-renowned guru and spiritual leader Sadhguru visits the Netherlands to spread the message that the world's Soil needs Saving.

- Sadhguru is embarking on a 30,000 km motorbike journey through Europe, the Middle East and India to drive change policy changes for soil health and raise global awareness
- 52% of the world's soils are already degraded; change is urgently needed
- Half of the topsoil on earth has been lost in the last 150 years

26.03.22 Amsterdam – Earlier this week, Sadhguru completed day 2 of his 100-day, 30,000 km journey to launch the Conscious Planet – Save Soil movement

– raising visibility about soil extinction and aiming to inspire

concrete policy changes to revitalize soil.

Sadhguru was greeted by a large group of local Save Soil supporters after arriving at the Hook of Holland, including Tjeerd de Groot, Member of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands, who expressed his immense gratitude to Sadhguru for the critical endeavor to Save Soil.

His first stop was the Koppert Experience Centre. Here, he took part in a panel discussion alongside Rob Baan (Koppert Cress) and Meiny Prins (CEO of Priva, founder of the “Sustainable Urban Deltas” initiative), with a mixture of startups, students, agro/horticultural experts and media in attendance. This was followed by a reception at the Embassy of India, where he was received by the High Commissioner of India to the Netherlands and addressed an audience about the unfolding

disaster of soil extinction and the migration of large populations into urban areas as a first step towards famine.

Over 2000 people attended the evening's large Save Soil public event in Rai Amsterdam, hosted by well-loved Dutch radio DJ Giel Beelen. On stage with Sadhguru was internationally-celebrated actress Carice van Houten of the popular TV series Game of Thrones. In her conversation with Sadhguru, Carice expressed her deep concern for the soil, especially as the mother of a little boy. Sadhguru spoke about the importance of preserving this legacy for her child and future generations. After a sweet and unexpected interruption when a little girl approached the stage to offer Sadhguru a pistachio, Sadhguru closed the talk saying that in case he doesn't make it to the end of his trip, the youth must walk these 30,000 kilometers and make change happen.



Google 6a announced the new affordable Pixel series form.



The Google Pixel 6 and Pixel 6 Pro succeeded all previous Pixel smartphones. Google has launched an affordable Pixel series form to their customers with unique features. Google pixel 6a succeeded Google 5a that launched in October 2021.

Price and Availability.

Google Pixel 6a rate is around \$449. But the company has currently not declared the global availability of Pixel 6a. Let's see if Google will launch their new affordable pixel phones in India.

Features.

- Magic Erasers: It automatically removes unwanted content from your photos.
- Face Unblur: Make sure the subject's face is always in focus.
- Motion camera features: This Will assist you in seizing movement photographs in distinct styles: Action Pan and Long Exposure.
- Instant and more competent voice typing:
- Provides ultra-fast real-time voice input with improved accuracy.
- HDR net for videos: The codec allows for high colour accuracy.
- Digital car key: Hold your Pixel 6 next to the door handle to lock/unlock your car.
- Colour Temperature Slider and Selfie Speech Enhancements: offers a colour temperature slider that lets you adjust the colour temperature of a scene to make it cooler or warmer.

NASA climate research scientist wins World Food Prize



A NASA climate research scientist who has spent much of her career explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate was awarded the World Food Prize.

Cynthia Rosenzweig, an agronomist and climatologist, was awarded the \$250,000 prize in recognition of her innovative modeling of the impact of climate change on food production. She is a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and serves as adjunct senior research scientist at the Columbia Climate School at Columbia University, both based in New York.

Rosenzweig, whose win was announced during a ceremony

at the State Department in Washington, said she hopes it will focus attention on the need to improve food and agricultural systems to lessen the effects of climate change.

“We basically cannot solve climate change unless we address the issues of the greenhouse gas emissions from the food system, and we cannot provide food security for all unless we work really hard to develop resilient systems,” she told The Associated Press during an interview ahead of the ceremony.

The Des Moines-based World Food Prize Foundation award recognized Rosenzweig as the founder of the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project. The organization draws scientists

from around the world and from many disciplines to advance methods for improving predictions of the future performance of agricultural and food systems as the global climate changes.

The foundation credited her work with directly helping decision-makers in more than 90 countries establish plans to prepare for climate change.

In her work, Rosenzweig has studied how farmers can deal with climate change and how agriculture worsens the problem. For example, she contributed to a research paper published last month that said global agri-food systems create nearly one-third of the total global greenhouse gases emitted by human activity.



Rosenzweig said the world needs to reduce such emissions and adapt to the changing climate. She noted that greenhouse gases come from many parts of food production, including the release of carbon and carbon dioxide through the clearing of forests for farmland and the oxidization of carbon through the plowing of fields. The use of fertilizer also releases atmospheric nitrous oxide, farm equipment emits fossil fuels and cattle release methane.

Rosenzweig, who describes herself as a climate impact scientist, grew up in Scarsdale, New York, a suburban area that she said led her to seek out life in the country. She moved to Tuscany, Italy, with her husband-to-be in her 20s and developed a passion for agriculture. Upon returning to the United States, she focused her education on agronomy.

She worked as a graduate student at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies in the early 1980s, when global climate

models were beginning to show the effects of human generated carbon dioxide on the global climate. As the only team member studying agronomy, she researched the impact on food production and has been working since then to answer those questions, she said.

Rosenzweig's work led to the Environmental Protection Agency's first projections of the effect of climate change on the nation's agricultural regions in the agency's assessment of the potential effects of climate change on the United States in 1988. She was the first to bring climate change to the attention of the American Society of Agronomy and she organized the first sessions on the issue in the 1980s.

She completed the first projections of how climate change will affect food production in North America in 1985 and globally in 1994, and she was one of the first scientists to document that climate change was already

impacting food production and cultivation.

The research organization she founded, AgMIP, develops adaptation packages, which could include the use of more drought-tolerant seeds and improved water management practices. In Bangladesh the group is working with rice farmers to develop new practices for managing rice paddies to reduce the significant release of methane produced by the existing process.

She said even the largest agribusiness corporations have shown a willingness to listen. She said some models colleagues have developed show how businesses could be effected by climate change and how they too have a role to play in reversing impact on climate.

"It's really a global partnership of all the global food system to come together to restrain climate change and maintain the food security for the planet," she said.

World Food Prize Foundation President Barbara Stinson, who announced the winner, credited Rosenzweig for innovations that helped countries respond to climate change.

Nobel Prize laureate Norman Borlaug created the World Food Prize in 1986 to recognize scientists and others who have improved the quality and availability of food. Rosenzweig will receive the award and make a speech during an October ceremony in Des Moines.

Virus found in pig heart used in human transplant



Researchers trying to learn what killed the first person to receive a heart transplant from a pig have discovered the organ harbored an animal virus but cannot yet say if it played any role in the man's death.

A Maryland man, 57-year-old David Bennett Sr., died in March, two months after the groundbreaking experimental transplant. University of Maryland doctors said they found an unwelcome surprise — viral DNA inside the pig heart. They did not find signs that this bug, called porcine cytomegalovirus, was causing an active infection.

But a major worry about animal-to-human transplants is the risk that it could introduce new kinds of infections to people.

Because some viruses are “latent,” meaning they lurk without causing disease, “it could be a hitchhiker,” Dr.

Bartley Griffith, the surgeon who performed Bennett's transplant, told The Associated Press.

Still, development is under way of more sophisticated tests to “make sure that we don't miss these kinds of viruses,” added Dr. Muhammad Mohiuddin, scientific director of the university's xenotransplant program.

The animal virus was first reported by MIT Technology Review, citing a scientific presentation Griffith gave to the American Society of Transplantation last month.

For decades, doctors have tried using animal organs to save human lives without success. Bennett, who was dying and ineligible for a human heart transplant, underwent the last-ditch operation using a heart from a pig genetically modified to lower the risk that his immune system would rapidly reject such a foreign organ.

The Maryland team said the donor pig was healthy, had passed testing required by the Food and Drug Administration to check for infections, and was raised in a facility designed to prevent animals from spreading infections. Revivacor, the company that provided the animal, declined to comment.

Griffith said his patient, while very ill, had been recovering fairly well from the transplant when one morning he woke up worse, with symptoms similar to an infection. Doctors ran numerous tests to try to understand the cause, and gave Bennett a variety of antibiotics, antiviral medication and an immune-boosting treatment. But the pig heart became swollen, filled with fluid and eventually quit functioning.

“What was the virus doing, if anything, that might have caused the swelling in his heart?” Griffith asked. “Honestly we don't know.” The reaction also didn't appear to be a typical organ rejection, he said, noting the investigation still is underway. Meanwhile doctors at other medical centers around the country have been experimenting with animal organs in donated human bodies and are anxious to attempt formal studies in living patients soon. It's not clear how the pig virus will affect those plans.

Bracing for her future: Human medicine rescues giraffe



Over the past three decades Ara Mirzaian has fitted braces for everyone from Paralympians to children with scoliosis. But Msituni was a patient like none other - a newborn giraffe.

The calf was born Feb. 1 at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in Escondido, north of San Diego, with her front limb bending the wrong way. Safari park staff feared she could die if they didn't immediately correct the condition, which could prevent her from nursing and walking around the habitat.

But they had no experience with fitting a baby giraffe in a brace. That proved especially challenging given she was a 5-foot-10-inch-tall (178-centimeter) newborn and

growing taller every day. So, they reached out to experts in orthotics at the Hanger Clinic, where Mirzaian landed his very first animal patient.

"It was pretty surreal when I first heard about it," Mirzaian told *The Associated Press* this week during a tour to meet Msituni, who was strutting alongside the other giraffes with no troubles. "Of course, all I did was go online and study giraffes for like 24/7 until we got out here."

Zoos increasingly are turning to medical professionals who treat people to find solutions for ailing animals. The collaboration has been especially helpful in the field of prosthetics and orthotics. Earlier this year, ZooTampa in Florida teamed up with similar experts to successfully replace the beak

of a cancer-stricken great hornbill bird with a 3D-printed prosthetic.

The Hanger team in California had fit orthotics for a cyclist and kayaker who both went on to win medals at the 2016 Paralympics in Brazil and customized a brace for a marathoner with multiple sclerosis who raced in seven continents.

And in 2006, a Hanger team in Florida created a prosthetic for a bottlenose dolphin that had lost its tail after becoming tangled in ropes from a crab trap. Their story inspired the 2011 movie "Dolphin Tale."

But this was a definite learning curve for all, including Matt Kinney, a senior veterinarian for the San Diego Zoo Wildlife



Alliance in charge of Msituni's case. "We commonly put on casts and bandages and stuff. But something that extensive, like this brace that she was provided, that's something we really had to turn to our human (medicine) colleagues for," Kinney said.

Msituni suffered from hyperextended carpi — wrist joint bones in giraffes' front limbs, which are more like arms. As she overcompensated, the second front limb started to hyperextend as well. Her back leg joints also were weak but were able to be corrected with specialized hoof extenders.

And given that she weighed more than 100 pounds (55 kilos) at birth, the abnormality was already taking its toll on her joints and bones.

While the custom braces were being built, Kinney first bought post-surgery knee braces at Target that he cut up and re-sewed, but they kept slipping off. Then Msituni wore medical

grade braces for humans that were modified for her long legs. But eventually Msituni broke one.

For the custom braces to work, they would need to have a range of motion but be durable, so Hanger worked with a company that makes horse braces.

Using cast moldings of the giraffe's legs, it took eight days to make the carbon graphite braces that featured the animal's distinct pattern of crooked spots to match her fur.

"We put on the giraffe pattern just to make it fun," Mirzaian said. "We do this with kids all the time. They get to pick super-heroes, or their favorite team and we imprint it on their bracing. So why not do it with a giraffe?"

In the end, Msituni only needed one brace. The other leg corrected itself with the medical grade brace. When they put her under to fit the custom brace,

Mirzaian was so moved by the animal's beauty, he gave her a hug.

"It was just amazing seeing such a big, beautiful creature just laying there in front of me," he said. After 10 days in the custom brace, the problem was corrected.

All told, she was in braces for 39 days from the day she was born. She stayed in the animal hospital the entire time. After that, she was slowly introduced to her mom and others in the herd. Her mom never took her back, but another female giraffe has adopted her, so to speak, and she now runs along like the other giraffes.

Mirzaian hopes to hang up a picture of the baby giraffe in her patterned brace so the kids he treats will be inspired to wear theirs.

"It was the coolest thing to see an animal like that walk in a brace," he said. "It feels good to know we saved a giraffe's life." ●

Olga Belka

UNDERWATER ARTIST & PORTRAITIST



As a professional artist, Olga Belka was passionate about what she did. But when she went on her first scuba dive, she recognised her purpose. It unlocked Pandora's box of inspiration. This led her to becoming a professional scuba diver to combine her two greatest loves.

She had to develop everything herself and master her own technique over the past 5 years she has been doing this. She even makes her own paints which allows her to paint the underwater scenes during a dive. Belka is extremely confident saying, "To be honest, if I give you my scuba and my paint, you would not be able to paint

underwater. I have many small secrets."

Olga has gone as deep as 29 metres and painted a pair of turtles, lounging undisturbed in their natural habitats. Completing a single painting may require multiple dives- sometimes up to 7 times, approximately spending 3 hours per dive. For a novice,



this may seem like a short time but those who have scuba dived know that this is thrice the average scuba diving time. Her entire underwater painting process is absolutely eco-friendly-waterproof paints that do not mix with water, fish are not fed and extreme caution is taken to not step on corals. For the last two years, she has begun underwater

portraits too, making her the first underwater portraitist she knows of. There is a mystical feeling to each one of her underwater portraits with expressions, stories and feelings of the models shining through in the canvas.

Olga Belka hopes that one day her art gets the due it deserves, finding its place in museums or

a gallery. Belka started off as she wanted to take everyone along on her journey deep under the water- painting underwater helps her reach the world of people who do not scuba dive themselves. Her realistic underwater paintings breathe life into the canvas that she takes along with her, to the depths of the oceans.

Holy disappointment, Batman! Gotham Knights only coming to next-gen consoles



After seven years of no Batman games, WB Games Montréal has finally released 13-minutes of footage from a new one. Sans Batman. And sans a version for Xbox One or a PS4.

The upcoming Bat-family game, Gotham Knights, will only be available on PC, PS5, and Xbox X/S despite previous announcements. “To provide players with the best possible gameplay experience, the game will release on PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S, and PC and will not be available for PlayStation 4 or Xbox One consoles,” Warner Bros. said in a statement.

The team at WB Montréal finally released some serious gameplay footage for the first time since 2020. That means we got an in-game video of Nightwing hanging on his glider, “The

Flying Trapeze,” and Red Hood, um, shooting people with “nonlethal rounds that still do...a lot of damage.” So great to have Jason Todd’s Red Hood in the game and not Batman. These characters have distinct fighting styles and attacks, and WB promises that the game can be played solo and co-op.

Gotham Knights is the much-anticipated follow-up to 2015’s Batman Arkham Knight, even if it’s the beginning of a whole new series. Inspired by the “Court Of Owls” arc from the 2011 DC reboot of Batman comics, Gotham Knights eschews the chronology from the four previous Arkham games and Batman entirely, a shame considering some people think he’s the best Batman ever. Instead, the game features Nightwing, Red Hood, Batgirl, and Robin, or three Robins and a Batgirl, to the layperson.

Anyone thinking coders got off light by not having to animate capes is wrong. Dead wrong. As dead as Batman is in this game. There’s a whole cut scene where Dick Grayson and Jason Todd talk about visiting his grave.

The footage shows a detailed game that looks like a serious upgrade from Arkham Knight. This is an impressively thorough open-world game that offers players an even more expansive map of Gotham. Perfect for [sigh] Red Hood use Mystic Leap powered by his “own soul energy.” You see, Red Hood is Batman’s second Robin, the deceased Jason Todd, who was resurrected by an assassin cult. Sometimes Batman gets a little too complicated.

Speaking of complicated, the game’s creators also promise a convoluted upgrade system, complete with meaningless numbers, arrows, and “mod chips.” As the old saying goes, “Gear with mod slots is better because mod chips power up gameplay properties.” Oh, did we say “old saying.” We mean, that’s how Geoff Ellenor, game director at WB Montréal, describes it. Unfortunately, it more or less looks like something that players will dread using.

Players will be able to bring “some vigilante justice to the bad people” on October 25, 2022.

'Bad Guys' repeats at No. 1, Liam Neeson's latest misfires



The DreamWorks animated heist movie "The Bad Guys" was the top film in U.S. and Canada theaters for the second straight weekend, while the latest Liam Neeson thriller suggested the actor's particular set of skills may be wearing thin with audiences.

"The Bad Guys," distributed by Universal Pictures, made \$16.1 million in ticket sales in its second weekend, holding well with only a 33% drop from last weekend. The film, adapted from Aaron Blabey's kids' graphic novel, has helped reignite family moviegoing.

April moviegoing was largely dominated by Paramount Pictures' "Sonic the Hedgehog 2" — which stayed in second place with \$11.4 million, bringing its cumulative total to \$160.9 million — and "The Bad Guys," with \$44.4 million in two weeks.

The latest Neeson thriller, "Memory," however, was mostly forgotten by moviegoers. The Open Road-Briarcliffe

Entertainment R-rated release launched with an estimated \$3.1 million in 2,555 locations. That's much in line with the last few films starring Neeson. In the past two years, "Blacklight" (a \$3.5 million debut), "Honest Thief" (\$4.1 million) and "The Marksman" (\$3.1 million) all opened similarly.

The last Neeson thriller to make a dent was 2019's "Cold Pursuit," which debuted with \$11 million and ultimately grossed \$62.6 million worldwide. But either due to oversaturation or lackluster reception ("Memory" has a 30% "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes), a once dependable box-office force has gone cold.

"Neeson's pre-pandemic crime pics did well, including the successful 'Taken' series, but audiences are showing little interest now," David A. Gross, who runs the movie consultancy FranchiseRe, wrote in a newsletter. "Moviegoing activity is improving, but 'Memory,' as well as 'Blacklight'

and 'The Marksman,' are hitting a wall."

The eighth-place "Memory" was the only new wide release on a quiet weekend in theaters ahead of the release of Marvel's "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness.

"The Walt Disney Co. release will effectively kick off Hollywood's summer season, one the industry is hoping will approach pre-pandemic levels. Studios last week trumpeted their summer slates at the industry convention CinemaCon, raising expectations for big-budget films like "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Jurassic World Dominion." The brightest spot in theaters currently continues to be "Everything Everywhere all at Once," which dropped just 2% in its sixth week of release with \$5.5 million. The film, an existential metaverse action comedy starring Michelle Yeoh, has had unusually long legs in theaters, and with \$35.5 million in sales so far, ranks as one of indie studio A24's biggest hits. ●

At 'Macbeth,' Daniel Craig, Ruth Negga on the unspoken word



The most commonly held taboo in the arts is uttering the word “Macbeth” inside a theater. Daniel Craig and Ruth Negga don’t buy it.

Shakespeare’s tragedy was said to be cursed before its first performance more than 500 years ago. Since then, the superstition forbids the show’s title to ever be spoken inside a theater. Instead it’s referred to as “the Scottish play.”

Before taking the stage for opening night of the Broadway revival, Craig and Negga were more brazen, preferring not to buy into the superstition that some tragedy will occur if someone utters its name.

“Individually, I don’t know we’re that powerful,” Craig told *The Associated Press*, adding that he

also doesn’t abide by the ways of undoing the curse, like walking in circles outside the theater and waiting to be invited back inside.

“I have my own superstitions about all sorts of things, but not particularly about this,” said Craig, who plays the Scottish anti-hero.

His co-star, who plays Lady Macbeth, was even more brash. “We say it all the time,” Negga said. Like Craig, she admits to being superstitious, just not about saying the name of the play inside the theater.

While Craig and Negga hold a looser attitude when it comes to the curse, Maria Dizzia, who plays one of the witches, wondered if they were truly left unscathed. “We said ‘Macbeth,’ and then we all got COVID,” Dizzia said. She added: “The

show closed for, you know, 10 days, which we felt was like a kind of curse that was put on the play.”

And director Sam Gold expressed second thoughts.

“I’m not a superstitious person, but this process will teach me to be one the next time. I definitely said the word ‘Macbeth’ a lot and everyone definitely got COVID,” Gold said.

It’s important to note that “Macbeth” was not the only show that had a shutdown due to a recent wave of COVID-19.

“The Music Man” had a string of cancelled performances after a COVID-19 outbreak. Other shows affected in some way, included “A Strange Loop,” “Company” and “Plaza Suite.”

Dolly Parton, Eminem, Richie get into Rock Hall of Fame



Eminem, Lionel Richie, Carly Simon, Eurythmics, Duran Duran and Pat Benatar have been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, a list that also includes Dolly Parton, who initially resisted the honor.

The honorees — voted on by more than 1,000 artists, historians and music industry professionals — “each had a profound impact on the sound of youth culture and helped change the course of rock ‘n’ roll,” said John Sykes, the chairman of the Rock Hall, in the statement released.

Parton had gone on social media to “respectfully bow out” of the

process, saying she did not want to take votes away from the remaining nominees and had not “earned that right.” The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation responded by saying ballots had already been sent and it was up to the voters to decide if Parton was elected. Parton later said she would accept an induction.

To be eligible, artists are required to have released their first record 25 years prior to induction. The hall also announced that Judas Priest and Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis are getting the award for musical excellence and that Harry Belafonte and Elizabeth Cotten will be honored with the Early Influence Award.

Other artists and groups that failed this year for induction in the performer category are A Tribe Called Quest, Rage Against the Machine, Dionne Warwick, Carly Simon, Judas Priest, Beck, Kate Bush, DEVO, Fela Kuti, MC5 and the New York Dolls.

Parton is most associated with country music and is in the Country Hall of Fame, but she has performed songs with a rock feel. Artists who have made both the Rock Hall and Country Hall of Fame include Brenda Lee, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Chet Atkins, Hank Williams and the Everly Brothers. The induction ceremony will be held Nov. 5 at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Caribbean Sun Sunglasses Launches New Website



With innovative polarization technology, quality material, and sleek designs, Caribbean Sun has created a collection of polarized sunglasses made to withstand a busy lifestyle.

Daytona Beach (US) – “Value, commitment to the customers, and performance through constant improvement” are just a few of the values that Caribbean Sun believes in when creating a high-quality pair of sunglasses. Since its start in 2004, it has been busy leaving its mark on the eyecare world and quickly growing into one of the top premium sunglass companies across the country.

“...I stepped out on my journey to create a sunglass that I could be proud to sell, one that was truly superior to any other sunglass

even at double the retail and so Caribbean Sun was born,” says Matthew Banker, Founder of Caribbean Sun

With innovative polarization technology, quality material, and sleek designs, Caribbean Sun has created a collection of sunglasses made to withstand a busy lifestyle. Whether customers are looking for men’s or women’s sunglasses, or a wide range of different styles and designs, Caribbean Sun can provide each customer with high-quality sunglasses at an affordable price. Colors come to life and become more vibrant than ever before when wearing a pair of Caribbean Sun sunglasses – where the difference is in the experience.

Been there, done that, made it better – this simple phrase embodies the core motivation

behind the creation of Caribbean Sun. Now, this company truly cares about the quality of its products and the satisfaction of a happy customer.

Caribbean Sun has officially launched its new website, which will act as a one-stop-shop to buy the best sunglasses on the market. And with free shipping plus an easy return or exchange policy, customers can trust that they’ll get the highest quality sunglasses for their money.

Better yet, Caribbean Sun is giving away one pair of high-quality polarized sunglasses from their collection to a lucky winner. Submit an email address to be entered for a chance to win the prize; it’s as simple as that. Visit the Caribbean Sun’s website today to see the world in a whole new light.

China withdraws as host for the 2023 Asian Cup



AFC ASIAN CUP™ CHINA 中国 2023

China withdrew as host of soccer's 2023 Asian Cup in the latest cancellation of the country's sports hosting duties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Asian Football Confederation praised Chinese soccer officials for making "this very difficult but necessary decision in the collective interests of the AFC Asian Cup."

The 24-nation tournament was due to be played in 10 cities in mostly newly built stadiums in June and July of next year.



China's withdrawal could let Qatar or Saudi Arabia step up as hosts while both are bidding in a contest to host the 2027 edition. India and Iran are also candidates for the 2027 edition with a decision expected early next year. Qatar has stadiums in place to host the 2022 World Cup

kicking off in November. However, a June 2023 start for the Asian Cup could be unlikely because of the extreme heat in the Qatari summer, making early 2024 a better option. The quadrennial Asian Cup is traditionally played in January and February. Qatar (2011) and Australia (2015) hosted the tournament when it was played in January, while the 2019 event in the United Arab Emirates was held from Jan. 5 to Feb. 1.

Qatar is the defending champion after it upset Japan 3-1 in the 2019 final to earn the country's first major soccer title.

Celtics roll past Heat 127-102, tie Eastern finals at 1-1



His team was down by 10 in the opening minutes, and Boston coach Ime Udoka was making no effort to hide his level of disappointment.

His message was simple.

“Wake up,” he told his team.

Oh, they listened. And the Eastern Conference finals are all knotted up, the series about to shift to Boston with the Celtics now holding the home-court advantage.

Jayson Tatum scored 27 points, Marcus Smart and Jaylen Brown had 24, and the Celtics went on a huge first-half run to roll past the Miami Heat 127-102 night in Game 2 of the series.

“Guys have pride and looked at a golden opportunity that we lost (in Game 1) and thought we could do much better,” Udoka said. “And we did that tonight.”

Smart was a rebound shy of a triple-double after adding 12 assists and nine rebounds.

Grant Williams scored 19 points for Boston, which used a 17-0 run late in the first quarter — fueled by five 3-pointers in six possessions — to take control. Payton Pritchard and Al Horford each had 10 for the Celtics.

“We were pretty confident,” Pritchard said.

Jimmy Butler had 29 points in 32 minutes for Miami, which fell to 7-1 at home in these playoffs. Gabe

Vincent and Victor Oladipo scored 14 points, and Tyler Herro added 11 for the Heat.

“These only count as one,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “That’s what the experienced players in the locker room and staff understand. We don’t like it. They played extremely well. You have two excellent teams, and we have to figure some things out.”

The Celtics — now 4-0 in these playoffs in the game immediately following a loss — made 20 shots from 3-point range to Miami’s 10. Game 3 in Boston.

“It’s a loss, whether you lose by one or 20,” Vincent said. “It’s regrouping; go back to the drawing board and get ready for Game 3.”

And the margin could have been worse: Boston led by as many as 34 points in the fourth, putting this game on the cusp of excellent Celtics history and terrible Heat history. The Celtics' record for the biggest postseason win ever is 40. The Heat's record for the most significant postseason loss ever is 36, and those numbers were within reach before a meaningless Miami run over the final moments.

Boston trailed by 10 in the first quarter, then outscored Miami

60-21 over the next 18 minutes — a 39-point turnaround leading to a 70-45 halftime lead.

The Celtics' 25-point halftime lead was the biggest in any road playoff game, topping a 22-point edge at the break at Chicago in 2009.

"They came out," Heat centre Bam Adebayo said, "and hit us in the mouth."

Brown had 11 points in the first quarter when the Celtics went

9 for 11 from the 3-point range. Tatum then had 17 points in the second, and Boston kept pulling away on a day where everything went the Celtics' way. They learned earlier in the day that two starters — Horford (virus-related issues) and Smart (mid-foot sprain) — were cleared to play in Game 2 after missing the series opener.

"I got to rest, get my health back, watch and see some things, and come out and execute in this game," Smart said.



A milestone for US Soccer; Equalizes pay for men and women



The United States Soccer Federation reached landmark agreements to pay its men's and women's teams equally, making the American national governing body the first to promise equal pay for both sexes.

The federation announced separate collective bargaining agreements with the unions for both national teams through December 2028, capping off years of often contentious negotiations.

The agreements resulted in part from a push by players on the more successful women's team, including stars like Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe. They were at

the forefront of the gender equity fight while leading the team to a Women's World Cup title in 2019. The struggle became so ingrained in the team's narrative that chants of "Equal pay! Equal pay!" erupted from the crowd as the Americans celebrated their victory in France.

Morgan and Rapinoe could still benefit from the deal, but the next Women's World Cup is in 2023, and the team's makeup will have changed by then.

"I feel a lot of pride for the girls who are going to see this growing up and recognize their value rather than having to fight for it. However, my dad always told me that you don't get rewarded for

doing what you're supposed to do — and paying men and women equally is what you're supposed to do," U.S. forward Margaret Purce said. "So I'm not giving out any gold stars, but I'm grateful for this accomplishment and for all the people who came together to make it so."

The men have been playing under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement that expired in December 2018. The women's CBA expired at the end of March, but negotiations continued after the federation and players agreed to settle a gender discrimination lawsuit filed by some of the players in 2019. The agreement was

conditional on the federation reaching labour agreements that equalised pay and bonuses for the two teams. Perhaps the biggest sticking point was World Cup prize money, which is based on how far a team advances in the tournament. While the U.S. women have been successful on the international stage with back-to-back World Cup titles, differences in FIFA prize money meant they took home far less than the men's winners. American women received a \$110,000 bonus for winning the 2019 World Cup; the U.S. men would have received \$407,000 had they won in 2018.

The unions agreed to pool FIFA's payments for the men's World Cup later this year and next year's Women's World Cup, as well as for the 2026 and 2027 tournaments.

Each player will get matching game appearance fees which the USSF said makes it the first federation to pool FIFA prize money in this manner.

"We saw it as an opportunity, an opportunity to be leaders in this front and join in with the women's side and U.S. Soccer. So we're just excited that this is how we were able to get the deal done," said Walker Zimmerman, a defender who is part of the U.S. National Team Players Association leadership group.

Women's union projections have compensation for a player who has been under contract to increase 34% from 2018 to this year, from \$245,000 to \$327,000. The 2023-28 average annual pay would be \$450,000 for a player making all rosters, with the possibility of doubling the figure

in World Cup years depending on results.

"I'm proud of you for never giving up and I commend U.S. Soccer for agreeing to do the right thing," President Joe Biden tweeted. "Let's keep up the fight until we close the gender pay gap in every industry."

The federation previously based bonuses on payments from FIFA, which earmarked \$400 million for the 2018 men's tournament, including \$38 million to champion France, and \$30 million for the 2019 women's tournament, including \$4 million to the champion United States.

FIFA has increased the total to \$440 million for the 2022 men's World Cup, and its president, Gianni Infantino, has proposed that FIFA double the women's prize money to \$60 million for the 2023 Women's World Cup, in which FIFA has increased the number of teams to 32.

For the current World Cup cycles, the USSF will pool the FIFA funds, taking 10% off the top and then splitting the rest equally among 46 players — 23 players on the roster of each team. For the 2026-27 cycle, the USSF's cut increases



to 20% before the split.

After missing the 2018 World Cup, the men qualified for this year's World Cup in Qatar starting in November. The women's team will seek to qualify this year for the 2023 World Cup, co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

"There were moments when I thought it was all going to fall apart and then it came back together and it's a real credit to all the different groups coming together, negotiating at one table," said federation President Cindy Parlow Cone, a former national team player who became head of the governing body in 2020. "I think that's where the turning point really happened. Before, trying to negotiate a CBA with the women and then turn around and negotiate CBA terms with the men and vice versa was really challenging. I think the real turning point was when we finally were all in the same room sitting at the same table, working together and collaborating to reach this goal."

The women ended six years of litigation over equal pay in February in a deal calling for the USSF to pay \$24 million, a deal contingent on reaching new collective bargaining agreements.

As part of the settlement, players will split \$22 million, about one-third of what they had sought in damages. The USSF also agreed to establish a fund with \$2 million to benefit the players in their post-soccer careers and charitable efforts aimed at growing the sport for women.

Wary of Human Rights Issues, World Cup Sponsors Edge Away from Qatar



For others, though, the rich paydays on offer can be too big to turn down. Qatar has for years written some of the biggest sponsorship contracts in sports, and that has only ramped up as the World Cup nears.

Its biggest capture to date has been David Beckham, the former England star who like Lineker was present in the hall when Qatar chosen as the host for 2022.

Qatar's multimillion-dollar agreement with Beckham, now also a sports team owner and investor whose celebrity transcends soccer, extends beyond the World Cup; it is, in many respects, a deal for the former England national team captain to endorse Qatar itself. That has led some people close

to Beckham to privately express misgivings about the nature of the arrangement. "It's a deal to promote and support the nation and what they're doing," a person with knowledge of the agreement said in describing it.

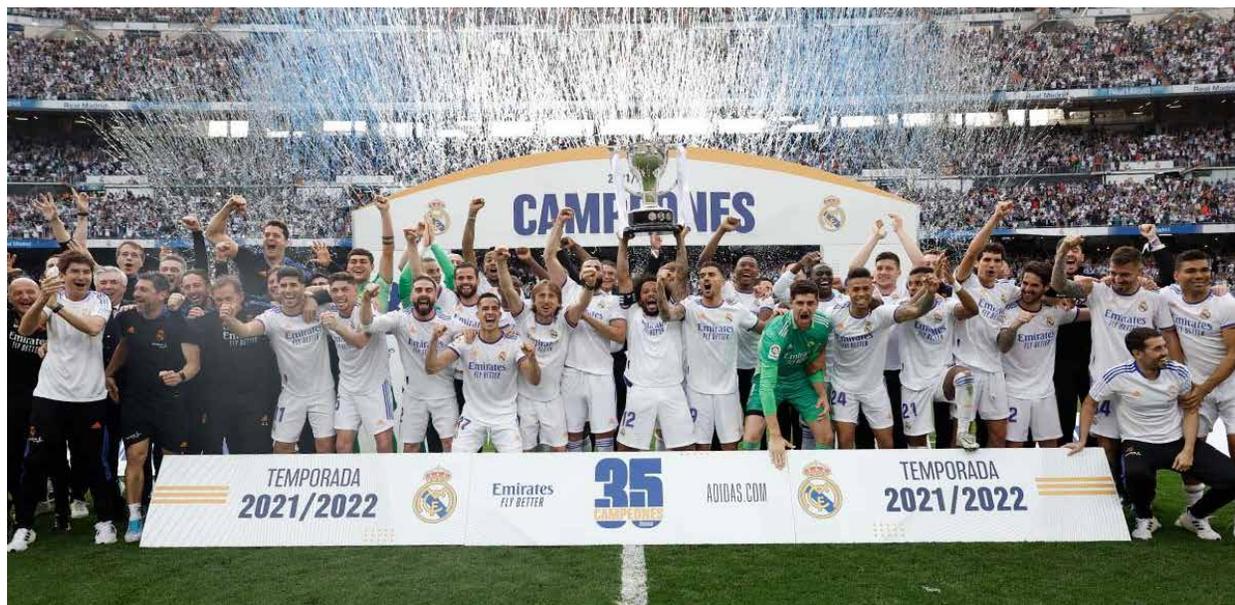
Beckham has not publicly spoken about what motivated him to sign with Qatar, where he has been a frequent visitor since agreeing to a deal more than 18 months ago. His spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment.

Beckham has so far avoided press scrutiny at events in Qatar, which have included an event with Afghan refugees; a promotional event for Qatar Airways; and an appearance on a panel at the Doha Forum, a flashy event that brings together business and

political elites. He was curiously absent, however, from the World Cup draw. There's so much risk attached to this said Tim Crow, a former chief executive of Synergy, a firm that has advised Olympic and World Cup sponsors. "I was kind of surprised he's decided to position himself with something for which there's so much risk, particularly for a guy who doesn't need the money."

Beckham's relationship with Qatar may lead to questions for one for his other partners, the sportswear manufacturer Adidas. The company provided few specifics about how it would activate its relationship with Beckham for the Qatar World Cup, saying only that he "is a valued, long-term member of the Adidas family and our partnership will continue as such."

Real Madrid win record-extending 35th La Liga title after thrashing Espanyol - Euro round-up



With a title-winning campaign few could contest, Madrid clinched its record-extending 35th Spanish league title, lifting the trophy with four rounds left after routing Espanyol 4-0 with its backup players. Led by a red-hot Karim Benzema, Madrid was in control from the start, successfully fending off every run made by its challengers and comfortably winning its second league title in three seasons.

The win also made their Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti the first manager to capture titles in each of Europe's top five leagues England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France. Rodrygo's double put Real 2-0 up at the break before Marco Asensio added a third after 55 minutes and La

Liga top scorer Karim Benzema sealed the points in the 81st. It was a record-breaking day for defender Marcelo, who won his 24th piece of silverware with Real to leapfrog Gento as the player with the most trophy wins in the club's 120-year history.

Barcelona thought it could have had a chance to catch Madrid after improving late in the season, but it never came close. Sevilla was near the top for a period but could not keep up, eventually seeing its chances disappear after a demoralizing 3-2 loss to Madrid at home after leading 2-0 at halftime a few rounds ago.

Defending champion Atlético Madrid got off to a slow start and never had enough momentum to contend. After its win over Espanyol, Madrid was 17 points ahead of Sevilla, 18 points in front

of Barcelona and 20 points ahead of Atlético.

Madrid led in all but six rounds early in the season, being at the top since the 14th round in November.

It was Madrid's third league title in the last six seasons, one more than Barcelona and two more than Atlético in that period. Before that, Barcelona had won six titles in eight seasons, with Madrid one and Atlético another. Benzema had a perfect partner in attack as Vinícius Júnior also had a breakout season, finally becoming an effective goal-scorer.

The Brazilian found the net 14 times, and with Benzema scored more than half of the team's 73 goals. That leaves Madrid with the league's best offense, with 12 goals more than Barcelona.



Carlo Ancelotti becomes the first manager to capture titles in each of Europe's top five leagues;

The other Madrid player with most goals is Marco Asensio, with 10. Title made Ancelotti the first coach to win all five top leagues, and his experience was key to keep Madrid from steering off track when things got difficult. He managed the squad well and it reached the decisive stages of the season in good form. Ancelotti had been criticized for not rotating his players enough in his first stint at the club from 2013-15, when he failed to win the league. He said the international breaks were turning points for the squad this season, especially the one after Madrid lost 4-0 to Barcelona at home.

." The season has been spectacular, Lots of regularity. Consistency and thanks to the players for their work and their attitude said Ancelotti "It's an immense joy," an emotional Marcelo told reporters in what is set to be the last of the 33-year-old's 16 seasons at the Spanish club.



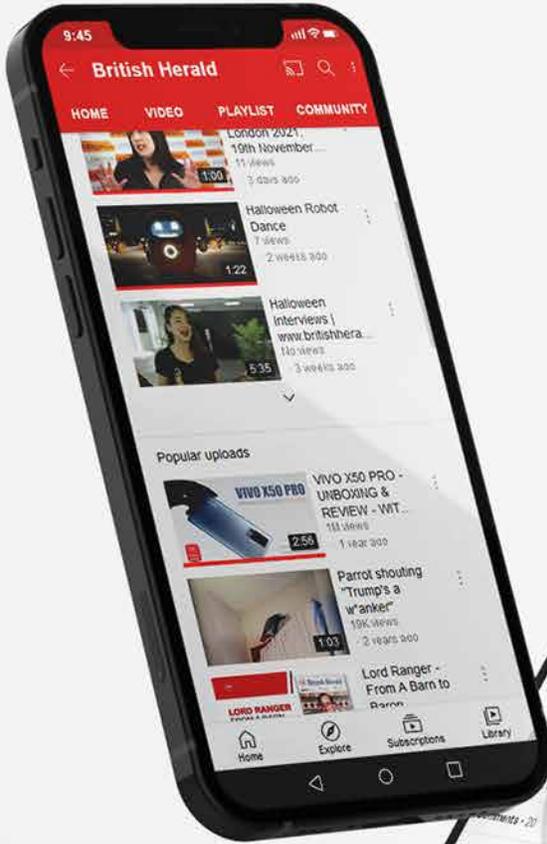
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