











JAPAN BIDS  
FAREWELL TO ABE  
Mourners offer flowers at the altar outside Nippon Budokan Hall which will host a state funeral for former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Japan. —REUTERS

## Iranian women are furious' over headscarf death

The tears come quickly to Masih Alinejad when she talks about the messages she's received in recent days from women in Iran protesting against their government after a young woman died in police custody over a violation of the country's strict religious dress code.

They talk about the risks, possibly fatal ones, in facing off against government forces that have a long history of cracking down on dissent. They share stories of saying goodbye to their parents, possibly for the last time. They send videos of confrontations with police, of women removing their state-mandated head coverings and cutting their hair. According to a tally by The Associated Press, at least 11 people have been killed since protests began earlier this month after the funeral of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died in custody after being detained by Iran's morality police. State media has said the toll could be as high as 35. "I feel the anger of people right now through their text messages," Alinejad told The Associated Press in New York City, where the 46-year-old opposition activist and writer in exile has lived since fleeing Iran following the 2009 election. "They have been ignored for years and years," she said. "That is why they are angry. Iranian women are furious now."

Amini's death spurred this latest explosion of outrage. She had been detained on 13 September for allegedly wearing her hijab too loosely in violation of strictures demanding women in public wear the Islamic headscarves. She died three days later in police custody; authorities said she had a heart attack but hadn't been harmed. Her family has disputed that, leading to a public outcry. Protests started after her 17 September funeral, and have taken place in more than a dozen cities. The Iranian government has pushed back, clashing with



demonstrators and clamping down on internet access.

Alinejad shares the outrage of the protesters; for more than a decade, she has been an outspoken critic of the theocracy that rules the country and its control over women through the required wearing of the hijab and other measures.

In 2014, she started My Stealthy Freedom, an online effort encouraging Iranian women to show images of themselves without hijabs. "Let me make it clear that Iranian women who are facing guns and bullets right now in the streets, they're not protesting against compulsory hijab like just a small piece of cloth. Not at all," she said. "They are protesting against one of the most visible symbols of oppression. They are protesting against the whole regime." Alinejad, who grew up following the rules on religious coverings in the small Iranian town where she was born, began pushing back against being forced to don certain garments when she was a teenager.

But even she, who now displays her full head of curly hair as a matter of course, didn't find it easy to overcome a lifetime of conditioning. "It was not easy to put it away, like overnight," she said. "It took three years for me, even outside Iran, to take off my hijab." She said the first time she went out without a religious covering, in Lebanon, she saw a police officer and had a panic attack. "I thought the police are going to arrest me." Her activism has made her no fans among Iranian officials and supporters of the government.

Last year, an Iranian intelligence officer and three alleged members of an Iranian intelligence network were charged in federal court in Manhattan with a plot to kidnap her and take her back to Iran. Officials in Iran have denied it. In August, an armed man was arrested after following the rules on religious coverings in the small Iranian town where she was born, began pushing back against being forced to don certain garments when she was a teenager.

engaged in the protests. "We deserve the same freedom," she said. "We are fighting for our dignity. We are fighting for the same slogan - My body, my choice." She worries about what will happen to the demonstrators in Iran as the government takes action to remain in control and shut down dissent if there is no outside pressure. "I fear that if the world, the democratic countries don't take action, the Iranian regime will kill more people," she said.

She called the women in the protests warriors and "true feminists." "These are the women of suffragists risking their lives, facing guns and bullets," she said. But even if, as has happened in the past, the government exerts enough control to quiet the protests down, it won't make the dissent go away, she said. "The Iranian people made their decision," she said. "Whether the regime cracks down on the protests, whether they shut down the internet, people of Iran won't give up. The anger is there." —AP

# SALAR

27 SEPTEMBER 2022

## Kashmir's Bakarwal tribe faces existential crisis

In Kashmir, a nomadic tribe is struggling to maintain its traditional lifestyle in the face of changing forest landscapes and weather conditions.

"People try to paint a rosy picture of our life but ours is, in fact, a saga of endurance and miseries," says Liaqat Khan, a shepherd from the Bakarwal tribe. The Bakarwals are part of a 3.4 million-strong nomadic community of the Jammu and Kashmir region, whose primary occupation is rearing cattle. At around 55km (34.17 miles) from Srinagar - the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir - they camp in Dardwodur forests. Nazira, 30, is a skinny mother cradling her newborn here. Her tribe arrived three days ago and camped in the alpine heights. "It's time for us to start winter migration," Nazira says, as she sticks her head out from her makeshift tent. For years, the Bakarwal tribe has been shuttling between Jammu and Kashmir. They spend six months in Kashmir during the summers, arriving in the valley in April. By October, they return to the plains of Jammu for the winters. "We belong to nowhere," says Zulfi, a young Bakarwal girl in Kashmir. "This is just our summer home."

The Bakarwals were officially declared as a "scheduled tribe" - tribal communities recognised by India's Constitution as socially and economically disadvantaged - by the federal government in 2001. Today, the tribe fears for the endurance of its tra-



ditional lifestyle due to increased wild animal attacks on their cattle - their main source of income.

The sale of their livestock has also dwindled. "Earlier, a day of hard work would fetch a good amount of money for a sheep or a goat but not anymore," says Mohammed Zubair, 50, a disabled nomad camped on the outskirts of Srinagar. The community also struggles with increased instances of inclement weather. "It's extremely difficult to travel to the high-altitude pastures of the Himalayas," says Liaqat Khan, a shepherd. In June, unseasonal snowfall and severe cold weather conditions in Chenab valley of Jammu and Kashmir left hundreds of tribal families stuck on roadsides, with little food or fodder. Another major concern for the tribe is their access to forest lands. Last year, hundreds of families from the community were served eviction

notices for "illegally" occupying forests in which they have lived for decades. Authorities also demolished several houses - the community lives in temporary tents and mud huts in these areas. A few months later, however, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said authorities would work to safeguard the rights of tribal communities in the region and provide them with rights certificates. The harsh realities of their current existence are pushing the tribe's younger generation to focus on getting a good education and living an easier life. The administration has also set up community schools to educate children of such tribes in forest areas. Despite various kinds of pressures on the community, many say they are determined to stick to their traditional lifestyle. "We aren't giving up on anything," says Zulfi. "Although we are uncertain about our lives, we are firmly holding on to our traditions." —BBC



### LETTERS

Write to us at [salar@salar.news](mailto:salar@salar.news)

## US and Russia engage in a digital battle for 'hearts and minds'

The battle over Ukraine extends across the world: Information warfare is quickly evolving as key nations seek to influence public opinion and gain political support.

During the Cold War, Russia and the United States are the two main combatants. Some efforts are clandestine, but plenty of material is broadcast to the public as each country attempts to, in the words of political linguists, constrain the power and influence of the other and win hearts and minds around the world.

Key government-sponsored media outlets in the current battle are Russia Today, often known as RT, and two US government-backed operations, Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

But it can be hard for many people to tell the difference between these outlets and independent news. As a propaganda scholar, I believe citizens of all nations deserve to know how their media have been filtered and when governments are seeking to influence their views.

My colleague Weston Sager and I developed a test for determining whether a particular media outlet is, or is not a government mouthpiece.

We examine key factors such as government control, funding, attribution and its resemblance to the news.

At their best, these types of outlets provide official government information at worst, blatant propaganda.

Here's how the main players in the US and Russia measure

up.

**Russia Today: Propaganda with some facts sprinkled in**

RT is a multilingual international media broadcaster that claims to be an autonomous, non-profit organisation.

But in reality, it has officially declared to the US State Department that it is an arm of the Russian government.

In lockstep with the Kremlin, RT has supported the 2008 Russian invasion of Georgia, the 2014 Russian invasion of the Crimean peninsula of Ukraine and the 2022 Russian invasion of mainland Ukraine.

The outlet has a history of publishing sensationalised and biased articles promoting Russian policies and accentuating the perceived failings of the United States and its allies.

For example, in 2015, RT devoted extensive coverage to the Occupy Wall Street movement. Not only did this storyline allow RT to selectively showcase people protesting in the United States, it helped further Russia's narrative that its economic system is superior to US capitalism.

More recently, RT has, without credible evidence, accused the United States of developing bioweapons in Ukraine and testing them on people there.

But this doesn't mean that RT can dispense with facts together, as propaganda often leverages truthful bits of information, nor that it is strictly anti-American.

In 2010, for instance, RT published an interview containing accusations that the



Republicans were exploiting racial fears ahead of midterm elections. Then RT publicly defended the Obama administration against Fox News host Glenn Beck's accusations that Obama was turning the United States into a socialist country.

Propaganda works by supporting themes that are in popular discourse at the time. It does not necessarily follow a linear path and may be counter-intuitive at times.

In the wake of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, RT was blocked in many nations around the world to limit the spread of Russian propaganda.

Nevertheless, RT continues to publish its content, especially in less developed countries where the Russian government is working to increase its international reputation and influence.

**Major US outlets present mostly facts that support American values**

Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty are the US government's primary international media outlets, though there are other channels as well.

In 1942, during World War II, the US government established VOA to broadcast pro-Allied messages and to combat Nazi propaganda abroad. In the 1950s, the CIA founded RFE/RL to counter Soviet propaganda in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Both outlets are now overseen by the US Agency for Global Media, a part of the executive branch of the federal government. The agency receives over USD 800 million in annual funding from Congress.

Similar to RT, VOA and RFE/RL claim that they are independent media outlets. In support of that claim, they often point to a vaguely defined firewall that is supposed to shield their editorial integrity from US government influence.

But the firewall is often strained under the weight of political pressure. In 2020, President Donald Trump's newly appointed CEO of the US Agency for Global Media rescinded the firewall regulation, which compromised VOA's independence in advance of the 2020 US presidential election.

In 2021, the firewall was legislatively strengthened, but questions remain about its effectiveness in preventing government influence.

Governmental influence over the editorial direction of US state media can also come through legislation. In 2021, Congress introduced a bill that would instruct the agency to facilitate the unhindered dissemination of information to Islamic majority countries on issues regarding the human rights and religious freedom of Uyghurs.

Additional editorial pressure comes from federal law. VOA material must be consistent with US foreign policy objectives, represent America, present the policies of the US clearly and effectively and include editorials that reflect the views of the US government.

Under the same law, RFE/RL is required to support the US government abroad. Additionally, federal law also

more pointedly provides a new pathway for folding this into a larger outlet that would be expressly required to counter state-sponsored propaganda which undermines the national security or foreign policy interests of the US and its allies.

VOA and RFE/RL have a history of providing slanted and incomplete portrayals of major events and issues. Scholarship has highlighted how, during the Cold War, RFE spread rumours as fact and displayed a consistent pattern of downplaying or ignoring evidence that contradicted RFE's vision of Eastern Europe as a totalitarian dystopia early in the Cold War.

US government editorial pressure has also come indirectly through funding cuts, which VOA experienced after senators balked at spending tax money to produce unpleasant news surrounding Watergate.

The Reagan administration was known to object to critical VOA coverage and also steered its editorial voice to align with the administration's political agenda. Today, VOA often publishes stories about the US that promote American values, such as recent articles titled 'Refugees Shape America' and 'US Celebrates Traditional Food, Dance'.

On the other hand, RFE/RL is more focused on countering propaganda. It includes coverage that is often critical of US adversaries, such as "We Have To Pay For Our Indifference": A Russian Deserter Speaks

Out After Ukraine War Memoir Hits A 'Nerve and Putin Hints At Changing Routes' For Ukrainian Grain Exports, Warns Of Food Catastrophe.

Even though VOA and RFE/RL sometimes publish pieces that show unflattering aspects of the United States, such as The Global Legacy of 6 January, this is by design, as the outlets would lose credibility if they ignored important topics covered in independent media.

**Concealed influence**

Because VOA and RFE/RL rely on facts, the US State Department has argued that US government media are less threatening than Russian disinformation.

But the US approach is still risky: VOA and RFE/RL content more closely resembles independent news, so it is more difficult for readers to identify it as government-run media.

This is especially problematic in cases in which the outlets are targeting US citizens, who may not be able to tell that they're interacting with their government.

Despite what VOA and RFE/RL claim, they are not independent. Both are funded by the US government and are used to deliver US policy abroad.

Even though VOA and RFE/RL may look like news, they aren't; like RT, their underlying purpose is to bolster their government's influence around the world.

—The Conversation







Prannoy one spot to enter the top 15, and Lakshya remains at 9th

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 SEPT

Ace Indian shuttler H.S Prannoy jumped one spot to enter the enter top-15 in the latest BWF World Rankings, released on Tuesday...

Ind vs SA: India aims for final tune-up ahead of T20 WC



T'PURAM, 27 SEPT

India will be looking to round off their T20 World Cup preparation with a marked improvement in their death bowling besides providing crucial game time to its untested players...

is one of the World Cup reserves, is yet to recover from COVID-19 and will be missing the three games against the Proteas...

stands at 9.05 but he conceded more than 12 runs per over against the Aussies.

Deepak Chahar, who is also on standby for the World Cup, did not get a game in the previous series and he could get a chance if the team decides to rotate its pacers...

Weather Update: At this time it is raining in many states of India. It is also raining continuously in Kerala. There is a possibility of rain here from 6 am to 8 am on Wednesday...



India skipper Rohit Sharma, expectedly, singled out death bowling as an area that requires improvement following the series win over Australia.

Head To Head Ind vs SA 1 T20I 2022. Matches Played: 20. India Won: 11. South Africa Won: 8. No Result: 1.

Kohli's power game is coming back at right time: Manjrekar. Virat Kohli has got back his 'power game' and things have started falling in place for him ahead of the T20 World Cup...



Women's ODI Rankings: Kaur moves up to 5th Place

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Riding on her stupendous show against England, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Tuesday jumped four spots to reach the fifth spot in the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings.

I-League Committee sticks to a 3+1 rule

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

The League Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Sunday allowed I-League clubs to register six foreigners to play.

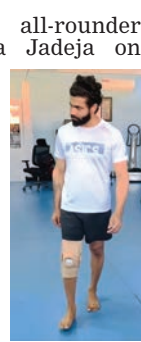
The Committee recommended (to the executive committee) to increase the number of foreigners to 5+1 (5 foreigners from anywhere in the world, and one from Asia) on the match-day squad but permitted only four of them (under the prevailing 3+1 rule) in the playing eleven for this season beginning on October 29.

The meeting between the Indian officials and their counterparts at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland, went off well on Tuesday as a resolution on amendment of the IOA constitution in order to hold its elections before December could be achieved, according to sources.

Ravindra Jadeja takes baby steps on road to recovery

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja on Tuesday shared a video of his rehab from the National Cricket Academy, Bengaluru. The south-paw had undergone knee surgery and is currently in the process of recovery.



The player takes small steps with extreme care during the walk to make sure he doesn't put too much pressure on his injured leg.

Failed to defend targets because of dew: Batting coach Rathour

T'PURAM, 27 SEPT

Defending targets in T20 Internationals has been a grey area for the Indian team but batting coach Vikram Rathour surprisingly cited 'dew' being a factor which was not the case when the team played in the recently concluded Asia Cup.



Since the Super 4s of the Asia Cup, India has played six T20Is and won three of them while losing three.

However, all three defeats -- against Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Australia -- have come while defending targets.

"We are working on that area of getting better at defending targets. But to be fair to our bowlers, toss plays a vital role and every time we have not been able to defend the places where there has been dew, so it gets easier to chase," Rathour said on the eve of the first T20I against South Africa here on Wednesday.



Szalai eyes coaching career after Hungary's retirement

BUDAPEST, 27 SEPT

Hungary's outgoing captain Adam Szalai already has his mind on a coaching role as he ended his international career on Monday. Szalai, who is signed to Swiss side Basel until June 2023, announced on Wednesday that Hungary's final group game against Italy in the Nations League would be his last international.

Carlsen accuses Hans Niemann of recent cheating

NEW DELHI, 25 SEPT

Chess superstar Magnus Carlsen for the first time openly accused American Hans Niemann of cheating Monday, saying the rising star had done so more recently and more often than he previously admitted.

The furor: In a letter published on Twitter and addressed "Dear Chess World," Carlsen said: "I believe that Niemann has cheated more and more recently than he has publicly admitted. His over-the-board progress has been unusual." He did not specify the exact form of the alleged cheating, but added there was "more than that I would like to say". Niemann has acknowledged cheating online twice, when he was 12 and 16, but says he has never played fraudulently in a face-to-face match and is even willing to play nude to prove his good faith.

Kanoh suspended from bowling in international cricket

DUBAI, 27 SEPT

Thailand's Rosanan Kanoh has been suspended from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect after the ICC's Expert Panel confirmed that the off-spinner uses an illegal bowling action, the world cricket governing body said on Tuesday.



The 23-year-old was reported by the match officials following her side's match against Bangladesh on September 23.

The ICC Expert Panel called Kanoh's bowling action illegal after reviewing match footage.

The Expert Panel reviewed match footage of Kanoh's bowling action and concluded that she employs an illegal bowling action and as such, in accordance with Article 6.5 of the regulations, she is suspended from bowling in international cricket," the ICC said in a statement.

Kanoh's suspension shall remain in force until such time she submits to a re-assessment of her bowling action and the assessment concludes that her bowling action is legal. The spinner has played eight WT20I for Thailand so far, picking two wickets.

Shubman Gill hits maiden county century for Glamorgan

LONDON, 27 SEPT

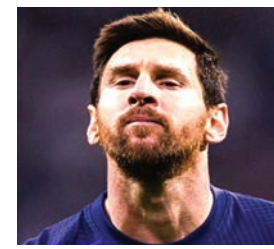
Indian batter Shubman Gill on Tuesday scored his maiden county century while playing for English club Glamorgan in the county championship. Playing against Sussex, the 23-year-old got to the three-figure mark in 123 balls as Glamorgan went past 250 for the loss of four wickets in the first innings.

His innings included 16 fours and two sixes. Gill eventually got out for 119 as he mishit a lofted shot over mid-wicket that landed straight into the hands of Jack Carson off Sean Hunt's Glamorgan delivery. 280 for the loss of five wickets.

Lionel Messi is to leave PSG on a free transfer in the summer

LONDON, 27 SEPT

According to Betevé in Spain via Miquel Blazquez, he plans to refuse any new contract offers with the Ligue 1 champions. And that would mean Messi would become a free agent at the end of the season. Messi, 35, endured a tough first season at the Parc des Princes. He scored just six league goals in his lowest tally since becoming a Barcelona regular in 2005-06.



The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner has already managed four in eight appearances this term. After scoring a sublime chip on international duty last weekend, Messi revealed he was finally enjoying his football again after his struggles. The ex-

Barcelona captain said: "I feel good, I feel different from last year. I knew it was going to be like this. 'I'm more comfortable with the club, the dressing room, my teammates, the game.' I feel very good again, so I'm starting to enjoy it again." Messi was even linked with a move back to Barcelona last season but SunSport understands he has always wanted to honor his two-year deal with PSG so would stay until at least 2023.

England rally in 6-goal Germany thriller to ease pressure on Gareth



LONDON, 27 SEPT

Gareth Southgate hopes England will feel the benefit of being put under intense pressure in recent days at the World Cup after fighting back from 2-0 down to salvage a 3-3 draw against Germany on Monday.

The Three Lions had already been relegated from the top tier of the Nations League and will head to Qatar on a six-game winless run. The knives were being sharpened for Southgate after his faith in Harry Maguire backfired for two German goals early in the second half.

Centre-back Maguire has been publicly backed by the England boss despite being dropped at club level by Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag. Kai Havertz then curled brilliantly into the top corner after Maguire was disposed of in the German half.



League group. Giacomo Raspadori, who scored the winner against England on Friday, poked the ball home after Wilfried Gnonto had pounced on a poor Hungarian back pass to give Italy the lead in the 27th minute. "We needed these matches to restore enthusiasm, even if the World Cup remains an open wound and we can not go back," said Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Chennaiyin FC rope in Kerala winger Prasanth

CHENNAI, 27 SEPT

Chennaiyin FC on Tuesday announced the signing of Kerala winger Prasanth K. on a one-year deal for the 2022-23 Indian Super League (ISL) season. The 25-year-old Kozhikode-born player will be joining the Marina Machans after spending five years at Kerala Blasters FC. Talking about the club's new signing, Chennaiyin FC co-owner Vita Dani said, "Prasanth is a great solution to boost our depth in attack ahead of the upcoming season. Having played in Chennai earlier, he should fit in perfectly." Prasanth has made 76 appearances so far in his professional career and has three goals and as many assists to his name. In 2017, he made his professional debut with Chennai City in the I-league when sent on loan by Kerala Blasters.



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