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China bans men it sees as not masculine enough from TV

September 2, 2021 apnews.com reported: "China's government banned effeminate men on TV and told broadcasters Thursday to promote "revolutionary culture," broadening a campaign to tighten control over business and society and enforce official morality.

President Xi Jinping has called for a "national rejuvenation," with tighter Communist Party control of business, education, culture and religion. Companies and the public are under increasing pressure to align with its vision for a more powerful China and healthier society.

The party has reduced children's access to online games and is trying to discourage what it sees as unhealthy attention to celebrities.

Broadcasters must "resolutely put an end to sissy men and other abnormal esthetics," the National Radio and TV Administration said, using an insulting slang term for effeminate men — "niang pao," or literally, "girlie guns."

That reflects official concern that Chinese pop stars, influenced by the sleek, fashionable look of some South Korean and Japanese singers and actors, are failing to encourage China's young men to be masculine enough...

Rules that took effect Wednesday limit anyone under 18 to three hours per week of online games and prohibit play on school days.

Game developers already were required to submit new titles for government approval before they could be released. Officials have called on them to add nationalistic themes. The party also is tightening control over celebrities." ... "

Don't expect an easy life and be ready to struggle, Chinese President Xi Jinping warns officials



President Xi Jinping

September 2, 2021 scmp.com reported: Chinese officials have been warned by President Xi Jinping to "discard their illusions" about having an easy life and "dare to struggle" to protect the country's sovereignty and security.

"The great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation has entered a key phase, and risks and challenges we face are conspicuously increasing," Xi said, according to state news agency Xinhua. "It's unrealistic to always expect easy days and not want to struggle."

He told an event on Wednesday to mark the new semester at the Central Party School, where cadres are trained, that: "[We] must not yield an inch on issues of principle, and defend national sovereignty, security and development interests with an unprecedented quality of mind."

His remarks to hundreds of mid-level cadres from around the country did not elaborate on the need to

struggle but were made amid growing tension with the United States on a range of fronts, including geopolitics, the economy and technology.

Beijing has reacted strongly to what it sees as provocations that touch on its core interests, including staging military drills near Taiwan last month in response to US expressions of support for the island." ..."

Taliban kill folk singer days after banning music in Afghanistan, family says

August 31, 2021 foxnnews.com reported: "An Afghan folk singer has been executed by the Taliban just days after the Islamic fundamentalist group declared that 'music is forbidden in Islam,' according to his family.

Fawad Andarabi's family told the *Associated Press* that he was shot dead Friday when enforcers returned to his home after earlier searching it and even drinking tea with him.

'They shot him in the head on the farm,' his son, Jawad, said of the killing in the Andarabi Valley for which he was named.

'He was innocent, a singer who only was entertaining people,' the grieving son said of his dad, who played a bowed lute called a ghichak and sang traditional songs about his country..."

In Israel, Being Fully Vaccinated Now Means Three Shots

August 31, 2021 wsj.com reported: Israel is upping the vaccine ante, pressing citizens to get Covid-19 booster shots and saying those who don't will face restrictions on traveling, dining out and other activities.

Holders of Israel's vaccine passports must get a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine within six months of their second dose, or lose the so-called green pass that allows them more freedom.

"We are updating what it means to be vaccinated," said Israel's coronavirus czar, Salman Zarka, at a press conference Sunday unveiling the new policy.

A study released by the Israeli health ministry on Sunday found that within 12 days, recipients of a third shot were 10 times less likely to become severely ill and 11 times less likely to become infected than people who had received their second dose five months earlier.

Israeli health officials say they don't know whether additional boosters, beyond the third dose, will be needed. But they are moving aggressively to get as many people as possible vaccinated with a third shot, as the more contagious Delta variant of the virus spreads. All Israelis over the age of 12 are now eligible to receive a booster if five months have passed since their second shot.

Other countries with widespread vaccination programs are expected to authorize booster shots in the coming months. U.S. regulators are likely to approve in mid-September a Covid-19 booster shot of those manufactured by Pfizer Inc. and partner BioNTech SE, Moderna Inc. and Johnson & Johnson, for vaccinated adults six months after their previous dose, rather than the eight-month gap previously announced, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday."..."

After meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in the White House on Friday, President Biden said he would also consider lowering the timeline for Americans to five months after the second shot.

Pfizer and the two other companies whose vaccines have been authorized by U.S. federal regulators say booster shots are shown to increase protection against the risk of infection and illness from the coronavirus."..."

Fauci: COVID Booster Shots Will Be Needed Every 8 Months

August 31, 2021 infowars.com reported: "In a Sunday appearance on MSNBC's "Meet The Press," Fauci claimed the federal government is taking a "flexible" approach to when Americans will be urged to take a booster shot. "We're still planning on eight months. That was the calculation we made," the NIAID director told host Chuck Todd.

"This rollout will start on the week of September the 20th. But as we've said all along, Chuck, in the original statement, that's the plan that we have, but we are open to data as they come in."

"We're not changing it, but we are very open to new data as it comes in. We're going to be very flexible about it," he added. This comes after Joe Biden called for COVID boosters every 5 months." ..."

Uncertainty lingers for Americans trying to leave Afghanistan after U.S. withdrawal

August 30, 2021 cbs.com reported: "No American citizens made it out on the last five flights out of Kabul, General Frank McKenzie said Monday, noting that "although we continued our outreach...none of them made it to the airport" in the final hours of the U.S. presence in Kabul.

The administration doesn't know exactly how many Americans remain. "We believe there are still a small number of Americans, under 200 and likely closer to 100, who remain in Afghanistan and want to leave. We're trying to determine exactly how many," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday.

U.S. military forces oversaw the evacuation of about 6,000 Americans in recent weeks, and the Biden administration insists the U.S. is committed to Americans who still want to leave Afghanistan." ..."

IAEA: North Korea restarting one of its nuclear reactors

August 30, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "North Korea appears to have restarted a nuclear reactor that is widely believed to have produced plutonium for nuclear weapons, the UN atomic watchdog said in an annual report, according to *Reuters*.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has had no access to North Korea since Pyongyang expelled its inspectors in 2009 and now monitors North Korea from afar, largely through satellite imagery.

'There were no indications of reactor operation from early December 2018 to the beginning of July 2021,' the IAEA report said of the 5-megawatt reactor at Yongbyon, a nuclear complex at the heart of North Korea's nuclear program..."

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