\$6.00

VAST FIELDS FULL OF MINES HINDER

GRIM PICTURE IN SOUTH

Array of Trip Wires and **Booby Traps Slows**

ORIKHIV, Ukraine - It was a

on a mine and tumbled onto the grass in the buffer zone between the two armies. Nearby lay other Ukrainian troops, their legs in tourniquets, waiting for medical evacuation, according to videos posted online and the accounts of

Soon, an armored vehicle arrived to rescue them. A medic jumped out to treat the wounded and knelt on ground he deemed safe — only to trigger another mine with his knee.

sive that even Ukrainian officials say is off to a halting start, interviews with commanders and soldiers fighting along the front indicate the slow progress comes down to one major problem: land

mines. The fields Ukrainian forces must cross are littered with dozens of types of mines - made of plastic and metal, shaped like tins of chewing tobacco or soda cans, and with colorful names like "the

Ukraine's army is also hindered by a lack of air support and the deep network of defensive structures the Russians have built. But it is the vast array of mines, trip wires, booby traps and improvised explosive devices that has Ukrainian forces bogged down only a few miles from where they

"I couldn't imagine something like this," said a Ukrainian private

Mines have long been a staple of Russian warfare, used extensively in Afghanistan and Chechnya and earlier phases of the fighting in Ukraine, stretching back to 2014. But the minefields in southern Ukraine are vast and complex, beyond what had been

Continued on Page 8



There are many types of mines. This one sprays shrapnel.

Beijing Targets Canada Critics From Overseas

Meddling With Ottawa Part of Global Aims

By NORIMITSU ONISHI

RICHMOND, British Columbia The polls predicted a re-election victory, maybe even a land-

But a couple of weeks before the vote, Kenny Chiu, a member of Canada's Parliament and a critic of China's human rights record, was panicking. Something had flipped among the ethnic Chinese voters in his British Columbia dis-

"Initially, they were supportive," he said. "And all of a sudden, they just vanished, vaporized, disappeared."

Longtime supporters originally from mainland China were not returning his calls. Volunteers reported icy greetings at formerly homes. Chinese-lanfriendly guage news outlets stopped covering him. And he was facing an onslaught of attacks - from untraceable sources — on the local community's most popular social networking app, the Chineseowned WeChat.

The sudden collapse of Mr. Chiu's campaign — in the last federal election, in 2021 — is now drawing renewed scrutiny amid mounting evidence of China's interference in Canadian politics.

Mr. Chiu and several other elected officials critical of Beijing were targets of a Chinese state that has increasingly exerted its influence over Chinese diaspora communities worldwide as part of an aggressive campaign to expand its global reach, according to current and former elected officials, Canadian intelligence officials and experts on Chinese state disinformation campaigns.

Canada recently expelled a Chinese diplomat accused of conspiring to intimidate a lawmaker from the Toronto area, Michael Chong, after he successfully led efforts in Parliament to label China's treatment of its Uyghur Muslim community a genocide. Canada's intelligence agency has warned at least a half-dozen current and former elected officials that they have been targeted by Beijing, including Jenny Kwan, a lawmaker from Vancouver and a critic of Beijing's policies in Hong Kong.

The Chinese government, employing a global playbook, disproportionately focused on Chinese Canadian elected officials representing districts in and around Vancouver and Toronto, experts say. It has leveraged large diaspora populations with family and business ties to China and ensuring that the levers of power in those communities are on its side, according to elected officials, Canadian intelligence officials and experts on Chinese disinformation.

"Under Xi Jinping's leadership, China has doubled down on this assertive nationalist policy toward the diaspora," said Feng Chongyi, a historian and an associate professor at the University of Technology Sydney. China's role in Canada mirrored what has happened in Australia, he added.

Chinese state interference and its threat to Canada's democracy Continued on Page 10

UKRAINE'S FORCES

Counteroffensive

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

grisly scene of bloody limbs and crumpled vehicles as a series of Russian mines exploded across a field in southern Ûkraine. One Ukrainian soldier stepped

several soldiers involved.

Five weeks into a counteroffen-

witch" and "the leaf."

named Serhiy, part of a unit that rescued the soldiers wounded by the explosions. "I thought mines would be lain in lines. But whole fields are filled with them, every-

previously known, soldiers who



Kelly Hanna, whose leg was amputated in 2020, received at least 18 artery-opening procedures on her legs from a Michigan doctor.

Patients Lost Limbs as Doctors and Health Care Giants Prospered

This article is by Katie Thomas, Silver-Greenberg and Robert Gebeloff

Kelly Hanna's leg was amputated on a summer day in 2020, after a Michigan doctor who called himself "the leg saver" had damaged her arteries by snaking metal

OPERATING PROFITS

'The Leg Saver'

wires through them to clear away plaque.

It started with a festering wound on her left foot. Her podiatrist referred Ms. Hanna to Dr. Jihad Mustapha. Over 18 months,

Creators Lead

Data Rebellion

By SHEERA FRENKEL

and STUART A. THOMPSON

Loffstadt has written fan fiction

exploring alternate universes for

"Star Wars" heroes and "Buffy the

Vampire Slayer" villains, sharing

But in May, Ms. Loffstadt

stopped posting her creations af-

ter she learned that a data com-

pany had copied her stories and

fed them into the artificial intelli-

gence technology underlying

ChatGPT, the viral chatbot. Dis-

mayed, she hid her writing behind

Ms. Loffstadt also helped orga-

nize an act of rebellion last month

against A.I. systems. Along with

dozens of other fan fiction writers,

she published a flood of irreverent

stories online to overwhelm and

confuse the data-collection services that feed writers' work into

"We each have to do whatever

we can to show them the output of our creativity is not for machines to harvest as they like," said Ms.

Loffstadt, a 42-year-old voice ac-

tor from South Yorkshire in Brit-

Fan fiction writers are just one

group now staging revolts against

A.I. systems as a fever over the

technology has gripped Silicon

Valley and the world. In recent

months, social media companies

such as Reddit and Twitter, news

organizations including The New

York Times and NBC News, au-

Continued on Page 18

her stories free online.

a locked account.

A.I. technology.

For more than 20 years, Kit

To Protest A.I.

he performed at least that many artery-opening procedures on Ms. Hanna's legs, telling her they would improve blood flow and prevent amputations.

They didn't — for Ms. Hanna or many of his other patients. Surgeons at nearby hospitals had seen so many of his patients with amputations and other problems that they complained to Michigan's medical board about his conduct. An insurance company told state authorities that 45 people had lost limbs after treatment at his clinics in the past four years.

Dr. Mustapha is no back-alley operator working in the shadows of the medical establishment, an investigation by The New York

Device Makers Finance Cottage Industry for Risky Procedures

Times has found. With the financial backing of medical device manufacturers, he has become a leader of a booming cottage industry that peddles risky procedures to millions of Americans - enriching doctors and device companies and sometimes costing patients their limbs.

The industry targets the roughly 12 million Americans with peripheral artery disease, in

which plaque, a sticky slurry of fat, calcium and other materials, accumulates in the arteries of the legs. For a tiny portion of patients, the plaque can choke off blood flow, leading to amputations or death.

CYDNI ELLEDGE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

But more than a decade of medical research has shown that the vast majority of people with peripheral artery disease have mild or no symptoms and don't require treatment, aside from getting more exercise and taking medication. Experts said even those who do have severe symptoms, like Ms. Hanna, shouldn't undergo repeated procedures in a short period of time.

Continued on Page 14



A Surprise at Wimbledon

The unseeded Marketa Vondrousova beat Ons Jabeur in straight sets in the women's final. Page 25.

'They Just Think It's Baseball, but Weird': In Texas, an Unlikely Craze for Cricket

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas — Drive northwest out of Houston, and as cow pastures wrestle back the flat expanse from the

ACROSS COUNTRY

city's tentacled sprawl, there arise along the road, suddenly, improbably, many, many

cricket fields. Head south to find a small cricket stadium nestled in the suburbs, or west to find fields sprouting in county parks.

The game of cricket — a batball-and-wicket contest of patience and athleticism that was born in Britain and is barely understood by most Americans

- has surprisingly taken hold in the land of Friday night football. A surging population of South Asian immigrants around Houston and Dallas imported their favorite sport to their adopted home, where it has grown amid a Lone Star culture of competition

in all things, especially sports. Cricket's swift rise in Houston has attracted international attention and helped make Texas the launching pad for the sport's first American professional league, Major League Cricket, whose inaugural season began on Thursday outside Dallas.

"One of the unknown things about Houston is the diversity of the population from many cricket-playing countries," said

Tim Cork, a deputy consul general at the British consulate in Houston. "There are Indians, Pakistanis, there's obviously a huge number of Brits here, Australian accents wherever you go."

The number of people of Indian heritage in Texas has doubled over the last decade to half a million, according to estimates from the Census Bureau's annual survey, with 73,000 in Harris County, which includes Houston, and 64,000 in suburban Fort

Bend County.

"When I came to this country, the only sport I knew was cricket," said KP George, the county judge in Fort Bend, who immigrated from India in 1993. When he was elected in 2018, none of the county parks had a cricket field, he said. Now there are seven, and each is reserved for play months in advance.

'There's a huge demand," he said. "We're working on a couple Continued on Page 21

INTERNATIONAL 4-11

Poisoned by Bootleg Liquor

Iran's ban on alcohol has led to a wave of deaths linked to a flourishing and unregulated market.

2 Polluters Meet on Climate The U.S. envoy John Kerry travels to

China as Washington and Beijing restart talks on global warming.

NATIONAL 12-21

Hollywood's Moment of Angst The movie and television business is

being buffeted on a dizzying number of fronts. The strike by actors is only the latest disruption.



SPECIAL SECTION

Turn Off the Stove

It's summer, and for many of us it is simply too hot to actually cook. So we offer 24 recipes that skip the heat.

ARTS & LEISURE Meet Postmodern Barbie

Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling on the complexity found in turning dolls with a history into movie characters.

A Return to 'Justified'

Timothy Olyphant seems relaxed about reprising the role of Raylan Givens, which transformed his career. PAGE 14

SUNDAY STYLES

Where the Trees Tell Tales

The Folly Tree Arboretum in East Hampton, N.Y., has gathered 250 specimens with interesting histories, like the useless Osage orange. PAGE 10



Messi Officially in M.L.S.

The superstar is expected to join Inter Miami this week on a contract that runs through the 2025 season.

Gay Broadcaster's Path

An openly gay broadcaster in minor league baseball has major league aspirations. It hasn't been easy.

SUNDAY BUSINESS

Making the Next 'Squid Game' Netflix is thinking globally but acting

locally, building worldwide audiences by focusing on regional tastes. PAGE 1

More Doom Than Balloons

Listening in on the pre-release preparations at a chatbot start-up revealed workers' fear, panic and dread. PAGE 1

PAGE 2

SUNDAY OPINION

Nicholas Kristof

