



Kaunas University of Technology
Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

Cultural Background Transference when Translating Soft and Hard News

Master's Final Degree Project

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Translation and Localisation of Technical Texts (6211NX031)

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Summary

Since the development of innovative technologies, the current information era has seen an increase of communication and communicative writing in the news industry. New digital media platforms, such as the Internet, social media, news apps, etc., provided faster and easier accessibility to news than traditional news providing platforms (television, newspapers, radio). The increase of communicative writing and the need for more information on various scale, encouraged more news production on both professional and non-professional levels. For the convenience of culturally diverse audiences and different cultural factors (languages, religions, values, etc.), a lot of news have been translated on a global scale. Since it is physically impossible for a journalist representing every culture and writing in every language to provide fast and credible original sources of news, the translation process is applied in the industry. In fact, there are so many translated news, that translation of news has become a natural part of news production and providing to different audiences. An increased amount of sensationalism in international news, requires a detailed research on news translation and transference of cultural background in the target language – Lithuanian. This project focuses on researching the main types of news (soft and hard news) which are translated based on information from a single or the most dominating source in the target text. 25 articles of soft international online news and corresponding translations, as well as 25 articles of hard international news and corresponding translations, summed up to 100 articles used for analysis of transference of cultural background through translation strategies in news. News articles in the source language (English) and the target language (Lithuanian) were collected from such sources as *BBC News*, *New York Post*, *France 24*, *Daily Mail*, *The Guardian*, *Nippon*, *Euronews*, *The Moscow Times*, *CNN*, *15min*, *LRT*, *DELFI žinios*, *Verslo žinios*, *Lietuvos rytas*, *Kauno diena*, etc. For thorough analysis of translation process and transference of cultural background, translation strategies on a word and textual levels were identified and analysed. For the analysis on a word level, the model of media news translation strategies consisting of eight predetermined translation strategies was chosen. For the analysis on a textual level, the set of most used translation strategies and extra-textual elements, applied in news translation to deal with cultural diversity and provide more comprehension on foreign cultural background, were used. Additionally, a type of translator who performed the process of translation and greatly impacted transference of foreign cultural background, was identified in every analysed translated article of soft and hard news. This project analyses the process of translation and transference of cultural background on different levels of translation: type of translator, textual translation strategies, translation strategies on a word level, which all are related and cannot be achieved without one another.

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Santrauka

Šiuolaikinėje informacijos eroje, nuo pat inovatyviųjų technologijų plėtros, padidėjo poreikis komunikacijai ir komunikacija grįstam teksto kūrimui. Naujosios skaitmeninės žiniasklaidos platformos (internetas, socialinė žiniasklaida, mobiliosios naujienų programėlės) teikė greitesnę ir lengvesnę naujienų pasiekiamumą nei tradicinės naujienų agentūrų platformos (televizija, laikraščiai, radijas). Padidėjęs komunikacija grįsto teksto kūrimo kiekis parodė informacijos poreikį įvairiu mastu, o tai paskatino naujienų kūrimą ir platinimą profesionaliame ir neprofesionaliame lygiuose. Dėl kultūriškai įvairios auditorijos ir kultūrinių faktorių (kalbos, religijos, vertybės ir t. t.), daugybė naujienų yra verčiamos į skirtingas kalbas globaliniu mastu. Visų kultūrų ir rašto kalbų atstovams yra fiziškai neįmanoma greitai sukurti originalių ir patikimų naujienų straipsnių, dėl to, naujienų pramonėje dažnai taikomas vertimas. Dėl daugybės verčiamų naujienų straipsnių, vertimas tapo natūralia naujienų kūrimo ir pateikimo skirtingoms auditorijoms proceso dalimi. Padidėjęs tarptautinių naujienų sensacingumas, verčia sutelkti dėmesį į naujienų vertimą ir atlikti detalų naujienų vertimo ir kultūrinio konteksto perteikimo tyrimą lietuvių kalboje. Šiame projekte tiriami pagrindiniai naujienų tipai – lengvosios ir rimtosios naujienos. Išverstus straipsnius sudaro vertimas pagal vieną arba labiausiai dominuojantį naujienų straipsnį anglų kalba. 25 lengvųjų naujienų straipsniai bei jų vertimai, ir 25 rimtųjų naujienų straipsniai su atitinkamais vertimais, iš viso sudaro 100 naujienų straipsnių, kurie panaudoti kultūrinio konteksto perteikimo ir vertimo strategijų tyrimui. Naujienų straipsniai šaltinio kalba (anglų) ir straipsniai tiksline kalba (lietuvių) buvo surinkti iš įvairių interneto šaltinių, pavyzdžiui, „BBC News“, „New York Post“, „France 24“, „Daily Mail“, „The Guardian“, „Nippon“, „Euronews“, „The Moscow Times“, „CNN“, „15min“, „LRT“, „DELFI žinios“, „Verslo žinios“, „Lietuvos rytas“, „Kauno diena“, ir t. t. Detaliai vertimo proceso ir kultūrinio konteksto perteikimo analizei atlikti, naujienų straipsniuose identifikuojamos ir analizuojamos vertimo strategijos žodiniame ir tekstiniame lygmenyse. Analizei žodiniame lygmenyje, buvo pasirinktas žiniasklaidos priemonių vertimo strategijų modelis, kurį sudaro aštuonios vertimo strategijos. Analizei tekstiniame lygmenyje buvo panaudotos dažniausiai taikomos tekstinės vertimo strategijos ir papildomi konteksto elementai. Jų tikslas – spręsti kultūrinės įvairovės problemas išskylančias naujienų vertimo metu ir suteikti tikslinei auditorijai daugiau suvokimo apie svetimą kultūrinį kontekstą. Be to, kiekviename išverstame analizuojamų naujienų straipsnyje nustatomas naujienų vertėjo tipas, kuris vertimo metu paveikia kultūrinio konteksto perteikimo kiekį. Šiame projekte analizuojami naujienų vertimo procesas ir kultūrinio konteksto perteikimas skirtinguose lygmenyse, kurie naujienų vertimo metu yra neatsiejami vienas nuo kito.

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Introduction

News transmitted over various media platforms over the years have become increasingly more significant part of daily lives of people. Besides spoken word, news has become one of the most important communicational tools in the current era of information. News present information about local events, as well as introduction of foreign culture, its background and political situation. Without international news, people would be left ignorant of what events are taking place all around the world, even if they are not directly related to the target culture. News can bring readers to up-to-date information, provide interesting storytelling, warn about breaking news, introduce different cultural backgrounds. Anything that would pick up an interest of an audience can become a subject of news.

Two most significant types of news are called soft and hard news. Soft news is closely related to 'infotainment' and focuses on entertaining stories which include such subject as sports, fashion, art, lifestyle, celebrity gossips, etc. On the other hand, hard news is often called traditional news that provides most important and urgent information of the day about such subjects as crime, politics, social movements, war, tears and trauma (trauma news), etc. It is also important to mention that news can be distinguished not only by specific characteristic of the type but also by its function, subject or even how it communicates with an audience (opinion articles, interviews, features, etc.).

The amount of news being produced daily is ever increasing. At current stage, sensationalism of current international news and the number of articles on the same subject from various news providers is forcing a lot of professional as well as amateur news providers to efficiently use various media platforms, especially, the Internet and social media. Despite the constant need of new and urgent information to be provided on a global scale, it is physically impossible for every news provider to be an original source of the article. Therefore, through cooperation and giving credit to an original source, news translation is being performed all around the world, to satisfy very diverse audiences of different cultures. When translating international news, it is important to introduce a foreign cultural background because of events which are not to the target culture. A constant need to transfer a foreign cultural background in international news on both professional and amateur level, requires a more detailed study on the process of translation and how it impacts a transference of a cultural background.

The aim of the project is to analyse soft and hard news translation from the perspective of cultural background transference. Articles of soft and hard international news found on the Internet sources in the source language (English) and their corresponding translations in the target language (Lithuanian) will be analysed. During the analysis, the data of applying translation strategies on a word and textual levels will be collected and its impact on a cultural background transference will be determined. **Objectives:**

1. To present the theoretical overview of soft and hard news translation characteristics.
2. To theoretically ground the significance of a cultural background transference when translating soft and hard news.
3. To present the empirical findings on word and textual level analysis when translating soft and hard news.
4. To analyse the transference of the cultural background when translating soft and hard news.

Research results in the field of translation studies were disseminated at the KTU students' conference *SMILES 2020: Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities in Contemporary Society*, presentation – 'Translation of Trauma News'.

1. Theoretical overview of news translation

Curiosity by many might be considered one of the most instinctual feelings people tend to have. Due to this instinct, people seek knowledge on various things of the past, relevant information on current events or even try to predict the future. Therefore, a journalism — the industry that provides immeasurable amounts of information about events throughout the world daily, have become an extremely important part in daily lives of every person. Before the age of innovation took its roots, there were three main ways to provide news (besides a spoken word from person to person): newspapers, radio and television. Development of modern technologies, especially communication technologies, benefited many fields and journalism was not an exception. Innovative technologies changed the scale, rate and easiness with which daily information in the form of news could be produced, shared and received by people all around the globe. Various newly founded digital platforms, such as creation of websites, online blogs and journals, audio descriptions, easy transmission of live audio or video feed, etc. have majorly increased communicative opportunities for the news industry on different levels of professionalism (Fahmy, 2008). In addition to obvious benefits, modern innovations provide more control and interaction for the target audience. Receivers of news have more control over a choice from various systematically and computationally placed headlines which introduce a reader to a theme, or an event described in an article. Providing a smart choice of many different headlines to interest a potential reader is also a benefit of modern technologies. News found over the Internet sources provide a bigger variety of possible choices and as a sign of professionalism usually include unwritten conventional rules of headlines. The term — headlines — was first mentioned in the journalistic hand-book *Headlines and Deadlines* which was written in 1933 by two *New York Times* journalists T. M. Bernstein and R. E. Garst. With time a conventional and telegraphic style of writing headlines became the standard for many written news providers. The headlines is recognised as an unofficial register of headlines and used in written news sources modifying grammar and syntax of a target language, as well as, including the journalistic jargon. News over various internet sources, such as news websites, photojournalism, online blogging, video blogging, etc., provide a user interface which allows an audience to interact in a form of reviews, comments and feedback (Eun-Ju, Edson & Tandoc, 2017). There are hundreds of millions of new articles and pieces of news to receive daily. News is frequently translated. Translation of news has been used for many years starting with a form of spoken word. Innovative technologies and massive amount of circulating news, helped to really utilise translation in the news industry. Various types of news are translation, transference, or recreation of originally written articles, or a combination of articles, to satisfy many different audiences from various cultures. Translation of news not only breaks the language barrier but also allows to provide the same news on a global scale.

1.1. Types of news

Whether the topic of discussion would be news production, consumption, sharing or translating, it is very important to understand that there are many different types of news that could be categorised and sub-categorised accordingly. The main importance of understanding differences between certain types of news during processes of producing and translating, are differences in characteristics which consequently means that different types of news require different approaches. Producing and translating different types of news without understanding certain characteristics, such as an urgency of information, personalisation, storytelling, factualism, need of additional (extra-textual) elements, etc., might prove consequential for news providers. Even though the purpose of news is to provide information, different types of news tend to instigate varying emotions, for example, some news

might be more shocking, more informative, specialised for specific groups with a certain knowledge or have a factor of entertainment. The most common and widely known distinction of news among journalists, audiences and in study research throughout various fields, are soft and hard news.

Both types of news have specific characteristics that under normal circumstances should clearly distinguish two types of news. Unfortunately, even with a large body of theoretical and empirical research accumulated by various communication scholars and linguists over more than 40 years, there is no clear and definitive distinction between concepts of soft news and hard news (Reinemann, Stanyer, Scherr & Legnante, 2011; Nguyen, 2012). Even though some news is easy to separate and categorise to either soft news or hard news, it becomes much harder to distinguish one type when it has certain characteristics of both categories. It is hard to define a clear distinguishable line where soft news ends and hard news begins, and vice versa. Therefore, it depends on human perception and understanding of seriousness, closeness and emotional impact of news. Different people theoretically and practically might categorise the same piece of news into different types. Moreover, Reinemann et al. (2011) argue the point that with current innovative technologies, circulating news and various traditional and digital platforms, soft news has become more and more indistinguishable from the phenomena called tabloidization or 'infotainment'. Tabloidization can be explained as a process of transforming news, literature, etc. into a more popularised, lurid and sensational form. Tabloidization or 'infotainment' can often be found as a synonym of soft news and it describes a combination of providing information and entertainment to an audience, hence the term infotainment. Seeking to prove the point on the absence of a clear distinction between concepts of soft and hard news, Reinemann et al. (2011), provide two different existing concept definitions. One concept offers a very straightforward and point proving definition of both types of news and how to distinguish. Hard news is referring to urgent occurrences which happen instantly and cannot be predicted or even with the possibility of prediction does not lose its impact on the audience. Such news always has a factor of urgency and delaying the timing of reception will result in a diminished impact of the story. In this concept, hard news is considered new because it must be covered and published to audiences immediately and focus on recent or currently undergoing events and consequences. Delaying this news will result in people finding about it through different sources, hearing from other people, seeing over television, etc. and lose both emotional impact and feeling of 'new' news. On the other hand, soft news cover is non-scheduled and the timing of reception can be delayed or even manipulated to fit the needs of an audience or providers for the maximum intended impact. Soft news is not as strict as hard news and provide more freedom in storytelling because the purpose of soft news or by the other term 'infotainment' is not only to inform but also provide entertainment to the reader (Shoemaker & Cohen, 2006). The second concept provided by Reinemann et al. (2011) provides a distinction between soft news and hard news with an analysis of the given example which is more specific and includes different features. According to the concept news categorised as hard news refers to breaking news or urgent events involving leaders of countries or well-known public figures, major issues appearing in societies on mass, significant disruptions of daily routines for many people, various manmade or natural disasters, etc. Therefore, information and urgent timing of reception are important in these coverages to the need of impacted people (countries, citizens, societies or communities) to be able to recognise and understand the situation as well as prepare and accordingly respond to the public affairs. On the other hand, features of soft news seems quite opposite, creating a clear distinction between the two types of news. Soft news feels reader or spectator friendly; it is often personalised and does not put any emotional load or time pressure on the target audience. While hard news tends to pressure people into making changes to daily lives and routines. Soft news does

not impact or force any changes unless it is a choice of implementation by readers or spectators themselves (Patterson, 2000). Within a margin of error based on human perception from different people, news can be categorised as soft news or hard news by a feeling of familiarity, urgency, emotional load, impact on daily routines, focus of the article, etc. For example, a coverage of a crime story focusing on penal policies, consequences and general causes as well its impact on others is undeniably recognised as hard news, however if the focus of the coverage shifts to crime itself or specific people involved, it may be popularised and include more elements of storytelling rather than pure factual information, categorisation becomes harder. From the perspective of characteristics, soft and hard news are very different, however, when that perspective depends on the human perception, it is unavoidable that depending on certain factors, opinions will vary.

Hard news demand immediate reporting of the news and frequently are very hard to manipulate the timing because such stories tend to be covered by many different sources worldwide. Hard news is characterised as news having short-term lifespan because the information provided in coverages tend to make an emotional impact on daily routines of people, or at least particular groups that can in some way relate to the event covered in hard news (Lehman-Wilzig & Seletzky, 2010; Boukes & Boomgaarden, 2014). Some studies try to analyse and find a relation between the amount of information (evidence) and politics (Baum, 2003). Meaning that the number of politics involved in a coverage of either soft or hard news may provide a better understanding, or at least make a clear distinction between the two types (Hyun & Kim, 2015). As it was mentioned above, hard news tends to focus on consequences rather than people themselves. Hard news includes coverages about war, international relationship, crimes, big scale politics, etc., which often forces people to change their daily routines. One of the biggest and most recent examples of how worldwide serious news changes daily routines of billions of people, is hard news related to COVID-19, including all regulations and limitations that had to be adapted in daily lives. Therefore, when providing or consuming news people tend to be more interested in bigger scale events rather than smaller ones, simply because it might affect them too. Noone is to say that hard news about crimes, murder, domestic violence, abuse of children, rights of minorities or socio-cultural shifts, etc. are not as important as serious trauma news. It is just the fact that people tend to focus on political news, international relation, wars, etc. (Gambier, 2006). Trauma news are considered the most serious and darkest form of hard news. The concept of tears and trauma in journalism was for a while, in empirical research it received a lot of attention only in the first decade of 21st century due to the state of world and increasing sensationalism in trauma news (Dworznic, 2006; Alexander & Klein, 2000).

Characterisation of soft news seems a lot wider because oppositely to hard news, it does not have many standard limitations and rules. Stories categorised as soft news tend to cover news that not necessarily have to be new or recent but have a close relation to the aspect of an entertainment. The concept is closely related and often considered interchangeable with the infotainment. Usually soft news covers stories related to fashion, art, culture, society, lifestyle, health, sports, etc. This type of news is expected to be more colourful, written in a casual style, does not bring up serious events and is less time sensitive. The timing of writing, filming or recording can be delayed and manipulated by the needs of providers or different audiences (Lu & Chen, 2011). Despite playful storytelling of soft news and serious providing of facts in hard news, different definitions of distinction and varying perception of people, makes some journalists and scholars argue that the middle line where soft news end and hard news begin remains blurry.

Categorising news into soft and hard news is undeniably the most common distinction in empirical research related to journalism, but it can also be distinguished on different aspects. For example, news can be divided into groups based on how they should be written and prepared. Some linguists, such as Carsten Reinemann, James Stanyer, Sebastian Scherr, Guido Legnante, etc., as well as some journalists, such as freelance journalist TJ Rigg mentioned this dividing system in practice in 2017 or Pakistan journalist Fakhar Naveed mentioned it in 2016, etc. write about (mentioned in articles and practical work) dividing news into separate groups based on unique features of writing and providing different styles of storytelling to an audience. One of the models with some type of consensus, distinguishes 4 types of news: hard news, sports news, feature news, columns and editorials.

These groups can be divided into even smaller groups categorising news based on the subject rather than writing style. In fact, an audience is more used to categorising news based on subjects or local/global scale. In this system of 4 groups (hard news, sports news, feature news, columns and editorials), hard news is considered to be more of traditional daily news on crimes, traffic accidents, politics, national news, international news, education.

Sports news has quite an obvious description as it is, usually a new piece of information about a particular sports' match, exhibition or event. Various occurrences promoting an active and healthy lifestyle are usually included among sports news as well. Sports news has some unique features because not only it provides the result (outcome) but also include elements of storytelling as well as statistical data. A coverage of a sport event often has a summarised list/ story of the most important or impactful events during the match or exhibition and provides them to a reader, to make an illusion of storytelling. Even without witnessing the event live on television or radio, a reader can understand which player was most impactful and performed the best. Also, it is typical for sports news to include additional (extra-textual) elements, such as pictures, videos and social media captures.

Feature stories is another group that is distinguished by its unique writing style in a narrative form. This type of news is written in a narrative and provide a perspective of a particular person based on whose narrative is being used. Therefore, feature news very often profile people or organisations in coverages. Typically, news is considered written fluently and coherently if it can answer five Ws and H (Lee, 2006). The concept of five Ws and H provide six storytelling questions that must be answered or found in typical news to achieve coherence. These questions include: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Interestingly, feature stories often ignore these fundamentals.

The last group mentioned in this system is called columns and editorials. This type of news most often can be found in tabloids, magazines and journals of 'infotainment'. Usually, columns and editorials are separated from the rest of the news despite the choice of a media platform. Columns and editorials is a type of news and storytelling which is completely based on a single opinion or a set of opinions. The main difference between columns and editorials is the matter of whose opinion is provided (Belmonte, 2007). Columns are stories based on opinion of the author of the article, in other words - columnist. On the other hand, editorials represent stories which are heavily edited or impacted by the opinion or a set of opinions of an editorial board.

When reading news via the Internet sources, watching video blogs or reading online, turning pages of newspaper, journal or magazine, etc., members of the target audience have a clear choice among different headlines that are often categorised based on subject fields. One of the reasons why television news, newspapers and very rapidly increasing in popularity – online news – are so popular,

is the convenience of patterns and organisational structures. News based on different subjects are separated to different pages or websites. If a reader decides to choose international news, a website with many headlines of news about international relations or events abroad will be provided; choosing local news or national news will provide headlines to choose from regarding local news of where publisher is established. The same pattern goes for 'infotainment' or soft news. Professional news providers usually provide an organised structure, in which news on different subjects are separated from each other. Organisational structure provides people with control which is enjoyed by most.

One more genre of news is the citizen journalism which over the last decade gained more popularity in the news industry among various audiences. Citizen journalism, very often called citizen blogs, add another dimension to the participation of an audience. With the help of modern technologies and the development of new digital platforms, members of an audience are not only able to interact through comments and reviews but also provide news themselves. Citizen journalism provides a feeling of contribution for a user of online news to interact, write their own stories (despite the credibility), receive the reaction of the target audience and participate in the process of providing news. Naturally, some researchers and news agencies instantly deny the role of a contributor, stating that a user cannot take the role of journalist because of the lack of guidelines, established editorial norms, objectivity and expertise (Carlson, 2003; Kammer, 2013). News agencies perceive citizen journalism as an amateur product. Even if the content of the specific piece of news from citizen journalism is considered good, lack of technicalities, high standards, grammar and syntax rules, and absence of editorial work, proves the status of an amateur product. The main issue stopping citizen journalism from becoming more professional is the lack of credibility (Swasy, Tandoc, Bhandari & Davis, 2015). During the empirical research where people of the audience were provided with the choice of either citizen journalism or credible news, traditional news dominated citizen blogs in favour of credibility. Therefore, it leads to the conclusion that credibility is an extremely important aspect in choosing news to consume. The most popular news providers all around the globe are considered professional because of credibility, long-standing traditions of high standards in the journalism, editorial work and production value. However, less credible choices and journalism are also very popular options, especially under local media circumstances and in places where poor accessibility makes the choice of news providers scarcer. Nonetheless, the lack of credibility and professionalism does not stop citizen journalism from trending, especially in the 'infotainment'. Due to its popularity, citizen journalism is being included, promoted and to some extent accepted in some of the most popular news agencies around the world. Citizen journalism has been sharing the same platforms as traditional news, despite its credibility. For example, *CNN* – one of the biggest news providers in the United States of America – shares its media platforms with citizen journalism and has a section 'iReport' dedicated to it. Naturally, disclaimers of credibility and lack of editorial work are provided. *CNN* does not take responsibility over credibility of information, grammar and syntax mistakes in citizen blogs. Promoting already trending citizen journalism is a beneficial act for news agencies because it gains more popularity and attracts potential members of an audience. Similar promotions of citizen journalism are done by some of Lithuanian news providers, such as, *15min* and *DELFI žinios*.

There are many types of news that can be categorised by subject field, style of providing information, media platform, etc. However, classifying news into soft and hard news seems to remain the main form of distinction in empirical research related to journalism, social sciences and linguistics. Despite differences of genre, media platforms and additional objectives, the fundamental purpose remains the same – to convey a particular piece of information (a message) to the target audience.

1.2. News translation as a form of a journalism

Different types of news require different approaches during the process of producing and providing news to the target audience. Each media platform has its own unique benefits and limitations for providing news. When producing news (writing, translating, filming, recording) two perspectives should be considered. The first perspective – requirements for a piece of news to be produced, meaning that unique elements for certain types of news should not be absent in the final coverage of the information. Each media platform has its own benefits and limitations, the plan of providing news and choosing media platforms should also be considered at an early stage of producing news. The second perspective – needs of the target audience. During the process of creating news to be published as a final product, timing must be considered, for example, an urgency and relevance in hard news and a possible time manipulation for the biggest impact in soft news. Another very important factor is the upbringing and social environment of the target audience. Cultural factors must be considered before publishing news. If these aspects are not taken into consideration, news agencies may receive more trouble than just lost popularity and disagreement but also possible insult to the country, religion, traditions; be accused of misinformation or wrongful labelling.

Original news has been a spoken word and later it was developed into newspapers – the main journalistic source of providing news to people. There are hundreds of millions of copies published of daily, weekly and monthly newspapers everyday and it still remains traditional and the most popular way of receiving news worldwide. It is an undeniable fact that the beginning of information era and development of digital technologies have made a huge impact on news industry, making production of news heavily reliant on new digital media platforms (Boczkowski, 2009). To some extent, the development of new media platforms and changed accessibility worldwide, contributes to shaping extents and limitations of some definitions that have been established for some time already. Distinction between soft and hard news can be taken as one of the examples. Boczkowski (2009) argues that digital platforms helped to make a clearer distinction between soft news and hard news because it highlighted the contrast between the two. Due to free accessibility of news for all ages and all around the world a phenomenon of softening news has occurred (Widholm & Appelgren, 2020). Evidence shows that occasionally, there are attempts to make hard news softer and popularise it (Boczkowski, 2009; Scott & Gobetz, 1990; Boukes & Boomgaarden, 2014). In general, soft news tends to be more universal for various age groups and different media platforms (especially, over the Internet, social media, video and online blog, etc.). Softening hard news does not always work in favour of popularity and bring benefits. Softening some news seem fundamentally impossible. For example, how can trauma news (which are considered the most serious and harshest information of reality) be softened and popularised when fundamental characteristics of trauma news are meant to shock, bring harsh negative emotions and possible tears to a receiver of the news. Providing hard news with a softer ‘tone’ is not a trend or development that would make a huge impact or benefit the industry in any way. As of now, it is simply a denied (by an audience) effort.

Different media platforms have different benefits and limitations. The most popular media platforms from consumers point of view worldwide are television, newspapers and the Internet (online news, blogs, vlogs and social media). Newspapers and television have been norms for many years already, however with the development of digital platforms online news have become a trend and grew in popularity immediately. Usage of the Internet for providing news made already huge news industry even bigger. Newspapers which usually must be bought and are hard to get in countrysides or places with poor accessibility to bigger cities; television news are strictly scheduled. On the other hand,

online news is free, have better accessibility worldwide, provides control over the timing of receiving and allows to choose from a huge variety. With such a big variety of articles to read, the art of creating an attractive yet correct and not misleading headline becomes of a big importance. If one story picks an interest of a reader, there is a lot of information still to be found or different perspectives to be provided about the same event in different sources of online news. It is hard to compete with such benefits. Online news has become a key part in economic and social cultural life in many societies and over the years has grown dramatically as the platform receiving a lot of attention from various study research (Mitchelstein & Boczkowski, 2009). Online news allows immense variety of news (in a form of digital data) to be placed on the same websites. Majority of well-know news agencies started using this platform to their advantage immediately. It is not an unusual nowadays to see popular news providers occupying many different platforms. For example, the newspaper – *The Guardian* – published in the United Kingdom, received a lot of recognition worldwide due to providing news on the Internet media platforms. News providing agencies like *CNN* or *BBC News* also provide news over different platforms as both have hugely successful and credible television news programmes as well as worldwide recognised online news. The accessibility of the Internet and social media encouraged a lot of major news providers to launch mobile apps providing news via the Internet.

Online news is one of the most prominent and trending media platforms for news providing. The platform is very big, easily accessible, provides the possibility to store data (digital) in more volume than any other media platform. The Internet provides a lot of new benefits and downgrades various limitations different media platforms may have. The only problem that might occur when searching for online news is credibility. Online news is a very wide platform for news providing, therefore, a huge number of various professional, semi-professional and amateur sources provide daily news. A reader is forced to stay loyal to a brand (news agency) which is recognised for credibility in different platforms or find more information through many different sources of the Internet and risk the credibility of it. Online news is the media platform which is most easily adapted through various circumstances. Another benefit for news agencies on this platform is the possibility for promoting new things, advertising, linking social media accounts, etc. Online news is the best platform to promote audience interaction and contribution. Eun-Ju & Tandoc (2017) discuss how online news provides an audience with the possibility to participate in debates and give feedback which in turn contributes to the process of news production and allows news providers to get more familiar with the needs of the target audience. In addition, Kammer (2013) states that an audience contribution to the process of news providing is not a new phenomenon and to some extent it was already used in television, newspapers, magazine, etc., but it has become a far more prominent feature in online news than any traditional media platform. Extra-textual elements can be easily utilised in online news. Extra-textual elements are elements of the article that are not imbued in the text itself but rather used as additional tools to provide more context and background information. Extra-textual elements include images, videos, chronological timelines, glossaries, maps etc. (Bani, 2006). Even though additional elements are used in different media platforms as well, for example, video in television news, images and chronological information in newspapers, etc., it does not come even close to the possible amount of these elements in online news. With possibilities of graphical storytelling, acoustical elements, easily accessible additional information, advertising, participation of the target audience in the process of producing news and easy accessibility of the platform worldwide (even when news from different platforms are harder to acquire), it is no surprise that online news instantly overtook in popularity, such platforms as radio, journals, tabloids and even newspapers in many parts of the world. For example, based on data provided by *Statista Research Department* (August 24,

2020), the most popular media platform to receive news in the United Kingdom by four nations (Northern Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland) unanimously is television followed by online news and social media. Online news on the Internet have grown in popularity so much despite being one of the newest media platforms and it keeps being innovated constantly (faster speed of the Internet, artificial intelligence, algorithms that follow activity of customers and advertise/ recommend products, etc.). It can be assumed that it might become the most popular media platforms for news.

News have always been an important part in daily lives of everyone, but the development of digital platforms has increased news influence over societies. An unimaginable amount of news is being printed, translated or published daily. Despite secondary objectives, the main purpose remains the same – to provide the information. Some news focus on older events (often a case for ‘infotainment’ or soft news) while other news provides information on recent or still undergoing events. For example, trauma news (one of the harshest forms of hard news), due to the urgent need to publish information often cover undergoing events. Therefore, in some media platforms, especially online news, trauma news is being updated daily as the target audience is introduced to more details on accident itself while investigation is going on (damage, consequences, actions of government, possible help solutions). Such news is important and relevant to know on a global scale, however, it is physically impossible for representatives of every country, culture and language to be at the site of an unexpectedly unfolding accident or disaster and provide ‘live’ news. A lot of news are being translated to provide the same piece of information to people all around the world, to accommodate varying cultural needs and defeat the language barrier. Translation of the whole article, an original article with some transferred segments or transediting of many different sources, either way translation of news has become a huge part of the process of providing news worldwide. In fact, translation has been in news production for a long time and can be considered as a legitimate form of producing and providing news. News agencies specialised in providing news since the creation of the industry in the 19th century. Of course, at the beginning operations were limited for domestic markets. With the development of innovative technologies and collaboration with other news agencies it became a global scale industry that is today, therefore, a process of translation was always needed in news production to deal with a huge diversity of languages (Bielsa, 2007). Nowadays, translation of news is a very common thing and not only to share and provide information to different news agencies but also to improve themselves as news providers. Some of the biggest news providers worldwide, offer news in more than one language. For example, *CNN* online news website provides the opportunity to choose which online news edition (U. S.; International; Arabic; Espanol) a member of the target audience would like to read. Provided news are not only structurally organised to give priority to more relevant news to the region but also are translated into different languages.

As it was established above, translation of news is a huge part of a news providing process. However, some questions, such as what exactly news translation is; how news are being translated; are there any requirements for news translation; etc., may arise. News translation in its simplest form can be defined as a process of rewriting an entire story in a different language for a completely new target audience (with possibly different culture, values and beliefs) which is still unfamiliar with the story or the development of it (Conway, 2010). Bielsa (2007) points out that in news translation a particular knowledge about the subject of translation, guidelines of different type of news and media platforms, etc. are required. Therefore, since news translators and journalists share the same requirements and responsibilities it is a must that a translator would be just as competent in the journalistic field as a journalist/ author of the original piece of news. News translators are required to understand the

framework of journalistic work, different types of news, media platforms, potential impact, characteristics of linguistics and extra-textual elements. All factors must be considered and a plan to some extent must be made before producing news (for a journalist or translator). Roles of journalist and translator very often can be considered as one and the same because in many newsrooms, translation is not performed by professional translators (van Doorslaer, 2010). Therefore, journalists themselves become mediators between different languages. One could argue that news translators have more responsibilities in transferring the piece of news to a different target culture. Understanding features, requirements and limitations of news or media platforms is not enough. News translation includes many processes and requires a lot of knowledge as it is more than just a direct translation from one language to another. Bielsa (2007) argues that the main objective of news translation is a fast transmission of information from one language or culture to a different one in such a way that a new (translated) product would be easy to communicate with for the intended target audience.

The news translator is, maybe because of the nature of the medium in which she writes, a recreator, a writer, limited by the idea she has to recreate and by the journalistic genre in which her translation has to be done. (Jose Manuel Vidal, 2005, pp 386)

(Quoted by Bielsa, 2007, pp 137)

During the process of translating news, it is important not to only be knowledgeable in the target culture, subject of the article but also be, linguistically adept and have a knack for storytelling (or rather forming coherent sentences and text). A news translator must be capable of understanding linguistic rules of the target language, making no grammar or syntax mistakes. Unfortunately, nowadays with a huge number of digital and printed news being published daily, a lot of mistakes are noticeable in many news and translations (a lot more in online news). It is important to recognise cultural items, be able to act as a mediator and translate them to a different target audience, especially, when translating international news. A wrongly translated political perspective determined to be mislabeling or misinformation, might lead to political or even international confrontations (Zanettin, 2016). Since newspapers, journals and magazines are more invested in the editorial work, these mistakes are less noticeable or often absent. However, a lot of online news published daily lacks editorial work which is only the evidence distinguishing amateur level online news which may lack the credibility, necessary for professional news providers. To be a good reader (text understanding) and being able to read between the lines when it is necessary, is another good quality to have as a news translator. Understanding the history or the motivation behind the article, time of reception, the target audience, level of formality, additional knowledge, argumentative features of the information provided in the original source, etc. are key factors behind a professional news translation and an interesting, coherent and factually correct product of news translation. Knowledge of these factors provides ability to recognise key facts and key sentences which are necessary to transfer to the target language for the target audience. After all, key facts and sentences are incredibly important, especially in a massive circle of producing and reproducing (translation, recreation) news worldwide (Catenaccio, Cotter, De Smedt, Garzone, Jacobs, Macgilchrist, Lams, Perrin, Richardson, Van Hout & Van Praet, 2010). Without understanding the subject or context itself, news translators will have a problem to know which pieces of information are necessary, which can be interchanged, or which can be omitted. Knowing key information is especially important when transferring news from one media platform to the other. When talking about online news, space may seem almost unlimited for information to be provided (of course, the length of the article must be in consideration with the ability of a reader to partake in consuming the information without getting bored or thinking that it is

too long and missing on it). In addition, many extra-textual elements as well as links (hyperlinks) to different sources or related articles are usually provided. On the other hand, media platforms, such as radio or television, have a limited time frame or limited amount of space, dedicated for each article which may or may not include extra-textual elements. Information provided above establishes the fact that journalistic factors, such as genre, available space, relevance of time, etc. and factors related to linguistic features, text understanding and cultural aspects are equally important and valuable in the interlingual transfer of news (news translation). In fact, Bielsa (2007) points out five major features that characterise news translation and distinguishes it from different forms of translation:

1. Transferring the information is the main objective of a news translator.
2. News is translated for a mass audience, therefore, a news translator must use a clear and direct language to communicate with the target audience.
3. News translators translate news for geographical, temporal and cultural context which is also limited or characterised by the media platform in which news translation is performed.
4. Translation of news is often limited by time and space which require the translator to adapt.
5. Usually in news translation, a translator of news is also expected to take on the role and responsibilities of backtranslator and proofreader.

(Bielsa, 2007, pp 141-142)

Journalists and news translators must be versatile or specialise in different types of news, practices, communicative writing, etc. Various news providers tend to more frequently rely on versatile translators, because of globalisation strategies rather than news providing for domestic audiences (Valdeon, 2020, 2021). In news translation, journalists/ translators very often must edit the target text, to achieve coherent context within characteristics of different genres, addition of extra-textual elements, limitations of media platforms as well as cultural aspects, linguistic rules and practices of the medium. Bielsa (2007) states that 5 major features provided above are quite adaptable. The first feature points out the main objective of news to provide correct, coherent and communicative information. Bielsa (2007) points out that a piece of news undergoes quite a transformation during the process of translation (due to cultural factors). However, the most important information must be transferred as a target product of news and that is where the skill of text understanding becomes important in recognising key information. The second feature points to the fact that news is being translated for mass audiences, therefore a direct and clear manner of speech/ writing is needed. News is a communicative writing. In journalism and news translation, hidden information or metaphorically speaking writing and reading between the lines should be avoided. Providing the most important information in a coherent and simple manner is the best way to be able to communicate with the target audience which often consists of people with different cultural backgrounds. Keeping the news translation context as simple, direct and neutral as possible is the right way to do it. The third feature points out the necessity for being versatile and having knowledge of different types of news, cultural background, etc. Journalists and news translators always have the job conditioned by many different factors, such as characteristics of genre, cultural needs, urgency of news, etc. The fourth feature also points out to the ability to be versatile, however, in this case, limitations of available space and time are highlighted. Unlike the previous feature that requires a certain knowledge, this task needs linguistic skills. Different media platforms have different limitations when providing news. Linguistic knowledge and text understanding skills become very valuable. Recognising key sentences that provide the most important and necessary information, allows a news translator and editor/ editorial board (at professional level) to shape the article around those key sentences. Digital media platforms

like the Internet (online news, social media, news apps) are a lot more lenient towards limitations of time and space. Nonetheless, news articles should not be too long even in online news. In addition, online news is rich with extra-textual elements which reinforce cultural background and provide comprehension for the target audience. The fifth feature provided by Bielsa (2007) points out to additional responsibilities of backtranslator and proofreader which often must be taken on by news translators. Proofreading refers to reading an already translated product from a technical point of view and making sure that sentences are coherent, no grammar, syntax or punctuation errors are found, and sentences are stylistically correct in the target language. On the other hand, the role of a backtranslator puts more focus on the context. In any normal translation project, a backtranslator would be a professional translator who has not participated in the process of translation. Unfortunately, this is not always the luxury within the news industry, especially among less professional news providers in digital media platforms. A backtranslator has to perform a backwards translation (from the target language back to the source language) to check if all information is understood and correctly translated without misinterpreting facts in the source and giving a second opinion on a level of coherency. The process of backtranslation very often helps with correcting coherence issues and therefore, providing a voice to the translator (more success in a communicative style for the target audience) (Ozolins, 2009). This statement is more targeted to a literature translation, but it can be applied to a popularised news writing in ‘infotainment’ (soft news). Journalists and news translators work with an immense variety of different genres, topics, cultural environments, etc., therefore, versatility is a valuable trait of a journalist/ news translator.

One form of news translation that has seen an incredible rise in usage in 21st century, is transediting. As the term, transediting refers to translation of news by using many different sources of translation, in other words, converting numerous source texts into one translated article of news (Valdeon, 2014; Schäffner, 2012, 2020). Both, Valdeon (2014) and Schäffner (2012) distinguishes three different types of adaptations in transediting: ‘cleaning-up transediting’ which relates to a standard efficiency in expression; ‘situational transediting’ which relates to the new social context of the target text and its intended function; ‘cultural transediting’ which relates to needs and conventions of the target culture. As a form of translation, transediting is very useful to combine different media platforms and is very often used in translation of online news. Development of innovative technologies and new media platforms, for example, online news, television news, social media, allows to easily incorporate elements from different sources and different media platforms into one target text.

This chapter established what is news translation, its main objective and factors to consider during the process of translation. Whichever type (genre) of news would be the object of translation, hard news (trauma news, crime news, politics, etc.) meant to shock, show negative side in damage and consequences of accidents and event occurring unexpectedly; or soft news (fashion, celebrity interviews, art, sports, etc.) meant to entertain, translation of news have the same main objective - to transfer the key information from one language to another, from one audience to another, from the source culture to the target culture. During the process of news translation, various factors (characteristics of different types of news, benefits and limitations of media platforms, knowledge of the subject of the article, cultural traits and needs of the target audience, text understanding to identify key information, linguistic rules of the source language and the target language) must be taken into consideration before a piece of news can be backtranslated and proofread. Ideally, backtranslator should be a different translator who was not involved in transferring the information from the source language to the target language. Only after correcting all grammar, syntax and punctuation mistakes

as well as forming a coherent text for communication with the target audience, a translated piece of news can be published in the chosen media platform.

1.3. Impact of translation on cultural background

The process of translation involves two different language which represent different cultures. Therefore, news translation is not only a communicative form of translation but also a transference between two or more diverse cultures (Li, Ran & Xia, 2010). Every culture has some cultural aspects besides a respectable language or languages which makes a culture unique. Unfortunately, during the process of translation the aspect of uniqueness very often becomes an issue in inter-cultural translation of news. During the process of news translation, a translator will often encounter numerous cultural factors and elements which can be classified into six types: geographical environment, lifestyle, tradition and customs, religious belief, historical and cultural allusions, literary knowledge (Hao, 2017). When translating in journalism, especially, international news, it becomes important for a translator to identify which cultural aspects are important and which are related indirectly to the source or the target culture. In other words, whether a cultural background will be transferred to the target language or not, depends on the choice of translation and application of translation strategies by a translator or journalist (in less professional news providing). Transference of a cultural background can be achieved through quite a few different taxonomies and methods.

Traditionally, transference of a cultural translation is performed and analysed through different forms of translation (by applying various textual translation strategies), however, when analysing foreign cultural elements after the process of transediting some more unique studies can be applied. For example, analysing transedited soft news through the level of engaging the audience and applying Nord's translation-oriented text functions to the final product of transediting (Lu & Chen, 2011). The idea of the study is to see how foreign elements are being translated from many different sources (in English) into a single article in the target language (Chinese) through transediting. Ideally, the level of engagement to the target audience must remain similar to the level of engagement to the source audience, while text-oriented function also must remain the same for a quality translation of news. Therefore, even when concentrating on transference of a cultural background, some modifications must be applied for conveniences of the target audience and culture.

Another study, also introduces different translation theories such as Functional Theory and Theory of Equivalence, however, chooses application of Domestication and Foreignisation Theory for analysis of English-Persian news (Sharifabad, Yaqubi & Sepora, 2013). The study analyses translation of phrasal verbs in translated news headlines in a descriptive manner. To produce a high-quality translation, especially when cross-cultural aspects of translation are involved, requires an effective application of translation strategies. Domestication and foreignization strategies in news headlines show how well foreign cultural images are transferred in headlines of news which are supposed to be 'faces' of news articles and demand an attention of a reader.

Different types of translation or rather application of translation strategies on a textual level, is a more frequently used method for transferring a cultural background or denying it. Li, Ran & Xia (2010) perform the study on translation of cultural images in news translation through textual translation strategies in a form of different types of translation. Li, Ran & Xia (2010) provide examples of cultural elements being translated from English to Chinese language through explanatory translation, literal translation and free translation. Explanatory translation refers to transference of a cultural

background with additional explanation for the target culture and audience. Literal translation refers to an oblique translation without applying any textual translation strategies for cultural factors. Free translation refers to experimenting with foreign cultural background through different textual translation strategies. Hao (2017) further expanded the method in hard news translation and in addition to literal translation, free translation and literal translation plus explanation (explanatory translation), also introduced transliteration and transliteration plus explanation. These strategies refer to translating elements as they sound or by letter to the target language. It could also be related to such translation strategies as indigenization and transference of cultural elements.

Various types of translation could easily be substituted by a set or model of translation strategies. Bani (2006) suggests four most used translation strategies to deal with cultural diversity in news translation. These translation strategies consist of cutting or summary, inclusion of explanation, generalisation and substitution. It is important to mention that these textual translation strategies are closely related to different types of translation mentioned before. Cutting or summary, generalisation and substitution can be considered a part of free translation which modifies cultural context during the process of translation. Inclusion of explanation is considered an equivalence of an explanatory translation. It is important to mention that Bani (2006) in analysis of translation of Italian press news, does not suggest any textual translation strategies related to literal translation as it does not require any textual translation strategies, therefore it is a choice of a translator to apply translation strategies on a word level by using using different model. In addition, Bani (2006) suggests extra-textual elements which can be used in news translation as useful tools for transferring or at least providing a certain cultural explanation. The model will be analysed in more detail in the following subchapter.

1.4. News translation strategies

This chapter will focus on a detailed version of those changes during the process of news translation. In other words, this chapter will discuss news translation strategies which allow to make small adaptations and textual modifications to the piece of news in accordance with required rules of the target language, characteristics of news and media platforms as well as cultural factors. With sensationalism in journalism and its increased usage because of innovative technologies, it became a more focused study and research through different fields of science, over the last few decades. Since the beginning of the 21st century, translation in journalism is a focus of research from three different approaches: discourse analytical and linguistic; sociological; communicative (Valdeon, 2020; Davier, Schäffner & van Doorslaer, 2018). Many works over the last decade from sociological and communicative approaches are based on Mona Baker's research. Just like translation can be understood as something translated as closely as possible to match the original or some information is left for assumption, a translator also can be seen from two different perspectives: as a medium who makes information available for a different culture and in a new language, or as someone who colludes during a process of establishment and reinforces unequal relationship among people by providing assumable information which can be found hidden between the lines (Bielsa & Bassnet, 2009). It was already established that in news translation, a communication between a piece of news and the target audience should be as direct and clear as possible. Therefore, during the process of news translation, more focus should be put into sociological and communicative aspects of transferring piece of information from one language to another.

Valdeon (2020) mentions how Mona Baker's work influenced many translation studies from sociological and communicative approaches. Therefore, it is logical to introduce Baker's Taxonomy

(Baker, 1992) which consists of eight translation strategies to modify non-equivalent translation elements on a word level: 1) *translation by a more general word* (common strategy to use simpler words or terms which are more frequently used in common language and are appropriate for various audiences of different age groups, cultural backgrounds, beliefs, etc.); 2) *translation by a more neutral/ less expressive word* (used to neutralise expressive or cultural elements for mass audiences); 3) *translation by cultural substitution* (when culture-specific item is changed with another culture-specific item of the target audience); 4) *translation using a loan word or a loan word plus explanation* (nowadays in most translation studies this strategy is related to and used as synonym to transference, when foreign element is kept unchanged in the target text); 5) *translation by paraphrase using a related word* (this strategy refers to the fact that each language has its own linguistic rules which have to be upheld in order to achieve coherence in the target text while keeping terms proposed in the source text); 6) *translation by paraphrase using unrelated words* (this strategy refers to upholding linguistic rules but incorporating more neutral or less expressive lexicon for the element of the target text); 7) *translation by omission* (it might seem a drastic strategy to delete certain elements which are deemed unnecessary in the target text, however it has become quite common strategy throughout many genres of translation especially where space limitations are impeding process of translation); 8) *translation by illustration* (used as the strategy to avoid over-explanation about specific cultural or non-cultural elements that can be pictured as physical entities and provide more contextual background through visual communication). Baker's (1992) taxonomy of translation strategies was and to this day still is the most applicable set of translation strategies. Therefore, throughout the years it has become a foundation for many modified sets of translation strategies for world level and text level in different genres of translation, including news translation.

According to Bielsa & Bassnet (2009), a news translator should not consider an original article as finished product but rather a basis for elaboration in creating a new article in the target language by conveying required information to readers with a maximum efficiency. Various translation strategies used in many different forms of translation are applied. These strategies go beyond linguistic issues and focus on forming a coherent context for the target audience and its cultural needs which distinguishes news translation from traditional translation (in some cases called literal translation) and shows its uniqueness (Tsai, 2005). Nevertheless, most of these translation strategies are used throughout different forms of translation. In news translation, there are some sets of translation strategies for translating news in different media platforms, however, all these strategies are easily adaptable and interchangeable over different media platforms. Especially, that is the case for online news which has much less limitations than other platforms but share a lot of characteristics with different media platforms. In the following part of the chapter, some of the theoretically established sets of news translation strategies in different media platforms will be introduced.

One of such models, with a predetermined set of media news translation strategies, is for translating texts of news agencies for radio (OFM) news (van Rooyen & Naude, 2009). The model uses the same translation strategies as any other form of translation and different genres of news, however, these eight translation strategies presented in a single set is all that news translators would need for translating source texts for radio news or different transmission platforms. The set of media news translation strategies by van Rooyen & Naude (2009) have been successfully applied in empirical research before to fit different media platforms at least to some extent. Most translation strategies are interchangeable, however, some of translation strategies are used more frequently and some are not used at all or avoided throughout different media platforms. This model is focused to apply smaller

changes all throughout the text (or piece of news) to modify it according to needs rather than focusing on bigger segments. Therefore, the modification made by applying even one of these translation strategies can vary in space from one word to more than one sentence. Van Rooyen & Naude (2009) focused the study on communicative rather than literacy texts and in result distinguished a model of eight news translation strategies for translating texts of news agencies:

- Transference
- Indigenisation (domestication)
- Cultural substitution
- Generalisation
- Specification
- Deletion or addition
- Transposition
- Translation couplet

These eight translation strategies focus on modifying elements transferred from the source language to the target language when translating news in media. Transference is the translation strategy of transferring an element (word, phrase, sentence, quote, etc.) from the source language to the target language without changing (modifying within linguistic rules/ translating) the element itself. In other words, it mixes two different languages as an element of the source language remains in the text which is translated into the target language. Transference strategy could be applied to elements, such as latin phrases, globally known acronyms and abbreviations of organisations, scientific formulas and laws of science, etc. Often it involves international words outside the source language rather than elements of the source language itself.

Indigenisation or domestication strategy refers to modifying foreign elements in the translation of news. This translation strategy is helpful in providing a news translation in accordance with linguistic rules and conventions of the target language. For example, when translating from the source language (English) to the target language (Lithuanian) additional endings to names and surnames must be added. Lithuanian language is quite complex, therefore, grammar and syntax differentiate from much simpler English language. When translating in accordance with language conventions, traditional Lithuanian endings to names and surnames are added. In most cases, throughout the whole translated text or at least once at the beginning of the article a traditional Lithuanian version of name and surname is used while the original to the nationality of a person is provided in brackets.

Cultural substitution strategy refers to elements that must be changed completely when translating news for target audiences from different target cultures. Some cultural objects and context mentioned in the source text may be misunderstood, unknown or lack the impact in a different culture. Therefore, to reach a better communication level with the target audience, familiar cultural concepts, aspects and objects are added which can be considered cultural equivalents/ substitutions in many cases.

Generalisation is the translation strategy that changes some cultural elements into neutral ones which could be understood all around the world or at least for most of a mass audience. In different models of translation strategies or in different forms of translation, generalisation is often called – globalisation. The main objective when applying this strategy is to change cultural element or an element of a particular language and make it as neutral as possible that people from different cultures would be able to communicate with it in the same way.

Specification is a translation strategy which sometimes may be misunderstood with cultural substitution as both strategies can be used to modify cultural elements. On the other hand, specification is often used to provide more context, make an influence, attract the attention from a reader or emphasize the impact, etc. Specification is not limited by cultural objects but rather used to freely change various terms from the source text to enrich it. The objective of specification is to enrich (enhance) the target text by changing the term without changing the context. One of the examples could be a word *attacker*, which could mean a person who in any way or form attacked someone, used in a crime news. In another case or a different article on the same matter a word *murderer* would be used, and it immediately provides more expression, explanation on the form of the attack. It also makes the article a lot more serious, as a reader understands that it was an issue of someone dying.

Deletion and addition are very commonly used translation strategies in different forms of translation. Just as the name suggests it literally means adding more information toward the element or term. On the contrary, deletion refers to deleting unnecessary elements or information which is not of any importance for the context during the process of translation. Deletion strategy in many cases of translation is used as a synonym with the term - omission. Both deletion and addition strategies depending on how used can vary in scale, which means that these strategies can be applied to a single word or segments of information.

Transposition is a translation strategy which is used to change different parts of speech when translating from the source language to the target language. Transposition always must be applied in accordance with figures of speech, grammar rules, syntax, etc. of the target language. Therefore, when applying the strategy of transposition parts of speech may change for example, a verb might become a noun, a noun might become a verb, and an adverb might become an adjective and vice versa, etc. Also, if linguistic rules of the target language require so, a subject and an object of a sentence might be switched with each other to form a sentence with more coherence.

The final strategy provided in the set of van Rooyen & Naude (2009) is translation couplet. The translation couplet (*couplet* originates from a French language) means that two different translation strategies may be applied to the same element. The translation couplet is not distinguished translation strategy but rather a reminder that there is an element of flexibility during the process of translation and different kinds of translation strategies may be adapted and used together to modify certain elements of the source text to provide a product of news translation.

In the following part, a different model of news translation strategies and characteristics will be introduced. This particular model focuses on press news, however, it is very important to remember how interchangeable news translation strategies are even throughout different media platforms, especially, in translation of online news. In press news (newspapers, journals, magazines) it is easy to determine which texts are translated and which are not, mostly due to the need to reference source materials because of legal and economic copyright issues (Bani, 2006). Unfortunately, within online news it is harder to find the trail of translation within many different news providers. Even though professional and worldwide known news providers do reference other agencies in case of translation, minor news providers (less professional) do not always reference source materials even if the text is identically translated from the source. During the process of news translation in press, translation can be characterised by the imperative of quickness, especially Italian press news which is analysed in the empirical research of Bani (2006). These two characteristics include speed in translating and speed in translation exploitation. Speed of translating refers to the need of translating recent news, especially

when talking about hard news which tend to have a short-term lifespan due to diminishing impact over the time. Translation processes tend to be done within a day (in hard news), even weekly or monthly publications have tight schedules and deadlines. On the other hand, speed of translation exploitation refers to consumers' point of view. At this point translation strategies come in handy because there is a need of shaping the text for the genre of news. It is important to remember that in most cases news reading is considered a light activity, therefore, news must be limited and provide enough information for context and background, but not too much to change the characteristics of the genre. Unfortunately, during the process of translation, terms of readability and speed very often become a simple domestication of text and context (Venuti, 1995).

Bani (2006) states that usually there are four stages in the process of translating press news. The first stage is already limited within the limitations of possible translation languages and its linguistic characteristics. When applying this idea to a different media platform, this stage should include the choice of media platform as it would greatly impact following choices due to limitations and characteristics of the medium.

The second stage of translating news focus on choosing the right source material. According to Bani (2006), usually there are four reasons for choosing a source material when translating news. One of the biggest reasons is the reputation of the source or the author. It is only natural to choose a source material with worldwide recognition and translate credible and trustworthy news. Other possible reasons may include stylistic issues, subject matter as well as outsiders' (international) point of view on local matters (a very popular topic and point of reference in Italian news).

The third stage of translating press news requires choosing the translator. Bani (2006) distinguishes two characteristics based on a translator's type in news media: invisibility and loyalty. The invisible translators (usually does not get much of credit in the publication itself) tend to be uncredited in the eyes of the target audience. Therefore, the only possible reference to the process of translation remains references of the source material. The main task of invisible translators is to make the translation as similar to the source material (usually refers to a literal translation) and according to Venuti (1995) to make it a coherent story so it would not require any additional efforts from the target audience. The second aspect of characterisation for translators is loyalty. A loyal translator is often considered an expert who is given a specific task. This type of translator already has some type of expertise within the news agency or have already translated for it as freelancer, therefore, know in which section their translation will be published and to what limits the translation can be pushed. A loyal type of translator is often seen as having more freedom, because translators can reformulate the text to some extent, of course, without distorting the facts.

The fourth stage of the translation process includes editorial work and final correction before publishing a final product of news translation. After the process of translation is done from the translator's perspective, in a form of draft it is given to the editorial board. Backtranslating and proofreading are done at this stage. Of course, every news provider has their own system within their physical and financial capabilities on how the editorial board works. For example, Bani (2006) states that Italian newspaper *Intenazionale* has three different proofreaders to check the target text. Finally, when all the editorial work is done the translation is published in the newspapers as a piece of news.

At the beginning of translating news, elements such as the target audience, the media platform, genre and subject matter are already clear, therefore, the process goes according to specific characteristics

and limitations. Unfortunately, it is impossible to modify or create a plan for making cultural modifications in the target text without starting to translate. It is always easier during the process of translation when both the source culture and the target culture have corresponding aspects, however, it requires more effort if the cultures differ from each other (Nord, 1997). Therefore, in the press news translation Bani (2006) introduces the concept of most used textual translation strategies and extra-textual elements to deal with cultural diversity issues during the process of translating news. The objective of textual translation strategies is to simplify the unfamiliar text for a reader to comprehend and enjoy it. Bani (2006) points out four most used news translation strategies to modify the text for different cultural factors:

- Cutting or summary
- Inclusion of explanations
- Generalisation
- Substitution

Even though the names in different sets of commonly used strategies can be changed, it is an undeniable fact that these translation strategies are interchangeable and are built on the Baker's Taxonomy foundation by Mona Baker (1992). Translation strategy of cutting or summary refers to eliminating unnecessary elements of foreign culture or simplifying (summarising the main idea/ most important information) for readers of the target audience. The concept behind this translation strategy is very similar and, in many cases, identical to the concept of deletion and sometimes domestication by deleting foreign elements on a word level, in the model of van Rooyen & Naude (2009).

The inclusion of explanations refers to segments of foreign cultural background which are unfamiliar to the target audience in a different cultural setting. In case the elements and segments from the source text must be transferred to the target text despite being unfamiliar to the target audience, explanations of the cultural elements are included. It might be provided in different forms, such as paraphrasing the source text, including circumlocutions, transferring the foreign element and including explanation in brackets, etc. This translation strategy is useful to render foreign elements of the text into coherent and intelligible context for different target cultures.

The third textual strategy provided by Bani (2006) is generalisation. The main objective of generalisation is to neutralise cultural elements. Throughout different forms of translation or even different models of news translation strategies, generalisation may also be called globalisation or neutralisation. The specific cultural element must be changed into a neutral term or phrase which cannot be related to any specific culture but can be easily understood by a culturally diverse audience. The translation strategy of generalisation is often applied when there are difficulties finding cultural equivalents in the target language/ culture or when the target audience is a mass of cultural diversity.

The final textual strategy commonly used in news translation to deal with cultural diversity is a substitution. Throughout different translation genres or sets of translation strategies it might be called a cultural substitution. The main objective of this translation strategy is to identify segments related to the foreign culture and substitute them with possible equivalents (even indirectly related) in the target culture. Usually, this strategy is applied by translators of news, when trying to create a relation between the source culture and the target culture or change the context and focus only on an indirect relation to the target culture.

The four translation strategies mentioned above are designed for textual modifications, to make the context of the target text intelligible and coherent for the target audience in its culture. The main task of these translation strategies is to make the text into an easier reading for the members of the target audience, since news as a genre is supposed to be a light reading for leisure time (except for breaking or urgent news regarding health and safety). Apart from the mentioned textual translation strategies, different elements are used to help and contextualise the text and story behind it. Elements which are not included in the text itself but usually around the body of text and provide additional information to contextualise an article, are called extra-textual elements. Bani (2006) distinguishes some of the extra-textual elements which can be used to enhance the comprehension of foreign cultural background for the target audience and suggests the usage of seven: subheading, pictures, maps, chronologies, glossaries, subject related bibliography, information about the article's author.

Different extra-textual elements have different objectives to contextualise the target text in different cultural areas. Subheading provides an opportunity to give short titles (subheadings) to certain segments of the article or paragraphs. The main purpose of this element is to provide a certain context on what the segment of the article will be about or why it is written, in other words, to provide additional information that will contextualise a specific segment of the target text. Pictures is one of the most used extra-textual elements not only in news translation but in the whole industry of journalism. Pictures provide a visual communication and a visual context to the target text which is being read. Visual context is a very powerful tool in online news, as it is often used to attract a reader and contextualise the whole article. Many providers of online news use pictures and headlines as the 'face' of the article which attracts a reader to click on it and read the whole article. Maps are used to provide a context in a geographical space, while chronologies are used to contextualise a time of events. It is more often used in hard news to provide a timeline and sequence of events. Glossary is the element which is harder to encounter in traditional news in comparison to different extra-textual elements. It provides explanations of difficult or unknown terms and includes explanations of cultural elements. Subject related bibliography is less frequently used element in different media platforms of news. However, even though it may not always be indicated as such, a table with headlines and hyperlinks to related articles on the subject can be considered as a subject related bibliography. The final extra-textual element provided by Bani (2006) is information on the article's author. It is helpful for the process of contextualisation, as it can provide background of the author, credibility and possible motives for writing or translating the article as well as influences if it is column or editorial based on an opinion. This extra-textual element is a lot more common in soft news, especially opinionated articles of 'infotainment' in tabloids or magazines.

Translation strategies very often can be considered interchangeable in different models, genres or media platforms. The model of van Rooyen & Naude (2009) has interchangeable translation strategies with the set of strategies of Bani (2006). The main difference between these two sets, is application in practice and empirical research. The set of media news translation strategies established by van Rooyen & Naude (2009) provides a chance for various modifications of the target text regarding media platforms, cultural elements, characteristics of genre, etc. at a word level. On the other hand, the set of translation strategies of Bani (2006) puts the focus on changes made due to cultural diversity of the target audience. These changes can vary in scale and be considered either word level or text level, changing sentences or whole paragraphs. In either case, it strongly influences a cultural context in the target text. Both sets of strategies can be applied by professional translators in journalism to make a reading of news a coherent and effortless task for the target audience.

2. Analysis and interpretation of the research results

This chapter will provide all methodological means and tools applied for the empirical research as well as analysis of the research results. The empirical research will be done in two main types of news – soft and hard news. The analysis will include translation strategies on a word and textual levels, extra-textual elements for comprehension of cultural background, and a type of translator influencing transference of foreign cultural background during the process of translation. At the final stage of the analysis of the research results, findings in soft and hard news and their impact on transference of cultural background will be compared.

2.1. Research methodology

In the empirical research, the analysis of translation strategies and their impact on transference of a cultural background in soft and hard news has been made. Since the analysis focus on the process of translation, the source language is English and the target language – Lithuanian. The target of the empirical research is to analyse a specific amount of soft news articles and their corresponding translations as well as articles of hard news and their corresponding translations to identify translation strategies applied on a word and textual level. Choosing articles for the empirical research included a couple of requirements. Firstly, articles had to be in accordance with characteristics of either soft or hard news. Secondly, all articles in the target language had to have a reference that the whole article (rather than a segment or comment as in transediting) is based on information from a news provider in the source language. After finding an article in the target language, a correct article in provided source was identified as the source of translation. The analysis of soft news consisted of 25 articles in the source language which sum up to 19,802 words and 25 corresponding translated articles in the target language which sum up to 11,049 words. The analysis of hard news consisted of 25 articles in the source language which sum up to 24,644 words and 25 corresponding translated articles in the target language which sum up to 12,993 words. All news used for the empirical research are online news, meaning that these articles were published on the Internet as media platform. Articles in the source language (English) were taken from such Internet sources as *BBC News*, *CNN*, *The Moscow Times*, *Page Six*, *Vanity Fair*, *New York Post*, *France 24*, *Daily Mail*, *Nippon*, *The Guardian*, *Euronews*, *NBC News*, *CNBC*, *Al Jazeera*, *Politico*, etc. Articles in the target language (Lithuanian) were taken from such Internet sources as *Sportas.lt*, *DELFI žinios*, *LRT*, *Verslo žinios*, *Lietuvos rytas*, *Respublika*, *Kauno diena*, *15min*, etc. Analysis and interpretation of research results consist of three main parts.

All translation strategies on a word level in translated articles of soft and hard news will be identified and have their frequency calculated in the final tally for comparison. The model of media news translation strategies on a word level used for the analysis, is the set of eight translation strategies for news translation between different media platforms by van Rooyen & Naude (2009). The set of eight translation strategies is used to apply (in case of the empirical research, to analyse already applied translation strategies) translation strategies on a word level based on required characteristics of types of news, benefits and limitations of the media platform, linguistic rules, cultural needs and transference of a foreign culture. The model of eight translation strategies by van Rooyen & Naude (2009) consisting of the following strategies: indigenisation, cultural substitution, generalisation, specification, deletion and addition, transposition, translation couplet; is employed in this project as a tool for analysing the transference of cultural background in news translation.

Translation strategies on a word and textual levels complement and are dependant on each other. Therefore, it is important to analyse textual translation strategies in translated article of soft and hard news. For analysis of textual translation strategies, the set of four most applied strategies by Bani (2006) were chosen. It is important to mention that these textual strategies in news translation focus on dealing with cultural diversity and helps to analyse the transference of a foreign cultural background. Textual translation strategies suggested by Bani (2006) consist of the following translation strategies: cutting or summary, inclusion of explanation, generalisation, substitution. This model is employed in this project as a tool to analyse the transference of cultural background, when modifying text segments for cultural contextualisation in news translation.

In addition, to textual translation strategies, Bani (2006) also talks about extra-textual elements as an additional tool for transference of a foreign cultural background. Bani (2006) distinguishes 7 extra-textual elements applied in news translation to help with cultural diversity. These 7 extra-textual elements consist of: subheading, pictures, maps, chronologies, glossaries, subject related bibliography and information about the article's author. These extra-textual elements will also be counted and briefly analysed in the empirical research.

When talking about news translators, Bani (2006) names two different types of translators in journalism. One type of translator is invisible, which refers to an oblique manner of translation and usually involves a lot of transference of a foreign cultural background. Another type of translator in journalism is called a loyal translator, who has a specific task to modify the context of the article which usually neutralises foreign cultural background or substitutes it with the target culture. Based on the context and translation strategies applied on a textual level, a type of translator will be identified in each translated article of soft and hard news.

At the final stage of the empirical research, the frequency and reasons for each translation strategies on a word and textual levels in soft and hard news translation will be compared. The positive and negative impact that each translation strategy brings to transference of a foreign cultural background will be analysed and compared in soft and hard news.

2.2. Results and interpretation of the analysis

The master's thesis will focus on comparing soft and hard news translation in the media platform of the Internet. As it was established in the research methodology, for the empirical research, two different models of translation strategies operating on different levels of the target text, were used. In the analysis and interpretation of the research results, findings of thoroughly analysed soft and hard news by applying the same models of translation strategies will be provided. For the empirical research, 25 translated news articles of soft news and their source texts, as well as 25 translated articles of hard news and their source texts from the Internet, were analysed. The source language of the original articles was English, while the target language of translated articles was Lithuanian. The tasks of the empirical research were to find out tendencies and frequencies of different translation strategies used in soft and hard news translation, to compare their impact on transference of cultural background. The chosen news articles of online news were analysed by two different models of translation strategies applied on different levels. The first model was media news translation strategies by van Rooyen & Naude (2009) which operates and allows to perform modifications related to cultural difference, changing of media platform, linguistic rules, etc. on a word level. The second model of news translation strategies applied in the online news of the research was the model by Bani

(2006). This model presents 4 textual translation strategies and 7 extra-textual elements which are applied on a textual level to modify the text and solve cultural diversity issues during the translation. Bani (2006) names two different types of translators in news – invisible and loyal. Both types of translators differently impact transference of cultural background and influence choice of translation strategies on a textual and word levels. At the final stage of the empirical research, tendencies and frequencies of translation strategies from both models in analysis of soft and hard news translation and their impact on transference of cultural background, will be compared.

2.2.1. Analysis of soft news

The following part of the analysis and interpretation of the empirical research results will focus on soft news translation by analysing various cases of applied translation strategies (transference, indigenisation, cultural substitution, generalisation, specification, deletion and addition, transposition, translation couplet) from the model of van Rooyen & Naude (2009). These translation strategies were analysed on a **word level**. During the analysis of 25 translated (the target language - Lithuanian) articles of online soft news and their source (the source language - English) texts, 914 cases of applied translation strategies were found. Every translation strategy presented in the model of media news translation strategies will be analysed separately. Examples will be provided, analysed and the choice will be motivated for some of these 914 found cases.

Transference is the translation strategy which is used to bring foreign elements from the source language or any other language if it is used in the source text to the target language. Usually, this strategy is applied when there are no equivalents to be found in the target language or culture, as well as cases, when domestication of elements is not an option. Therefore, journalists/ translators in news translation, use the translation strategy of transference to bring some untranslatable terms or hoping that in original form they will make a bigger impact. Elements of transference may include abbreviations, phrases, companies, names and surnames, etc. Among 914 cases of translation strategies used, it was determined as transference 185 times. Therefore, 25 translated articles of soft news contain 185 applications of transference on a word level during the process of translating online news from English language to Lithuanian language. Based on the results of this empirical research, it is the third most frequently used translation strategy in soft news translation on a word level.

One of the most frequent usages of transference is names and surnames of people. Due to Lithuanian linguistic rules surnames should be domesticated by adding traditional Lithuanian endings. However, it is not always applied. Quite frequently foreign names and surnames are just transferred to the target text. It is important to note that even though a lot of elements (for example, names and surnames) repeated throughout the article in which they were found, they were counted as an application of the strategy due to the importance of statistical data and quantity of applied strategies in the empirical research. Here are some examples (see Appendix 1 No. 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 14, 16, 23 and Appendix 2 No. 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 14, 16, 23) of transferring names and surnames to the target text: *'Harry'*; *'Meghan Markle'*, *'princesė Charlotte'*, *'karalienė Elizabeth II'*, *'Kylie Jenner'*, *'Kim Kardashian'*, *'Ziggy Marley'*, *'Tokihiko Nakamura'*, *'Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer'*, *'Allison Fox'*, *'Chau Smith'*, etc. There are some inconsistencies even throughout the same article in the target language, when in one instance the surname might be domesticated and in the other instance – transferred. During the analysis and interpretation of research results it was noticed that a lot more female names and surnames, especially the ones that have a male surname in a foreign language, tend to be transferred.

On the other hand, a lot more male names and surnames tend to be more easily adaptable with traditional Lithuanian endings and are domesticated (indigenised).

Another example of the transference translation strategy is translation of some global brands, projects or codenames that rarely are translated into different languages. The only available option of translation to these elements, is indeed the transference. Here are some examples (see Appendix 1 No. 2, 7, 9, 4, 8, 10, 15, 23, 25 and Appendix 2 No. 2, 7, 9, 4, 8, 10, 15, 23, 25) of brand names, codenames or project names being transferred to the target language: ‘“Cliveden House” *viešbutis*’, ‘Haas’, ‘Alfa Romeo’, ‘Google’, ‘Twitter’, ‘Instagram’, ‘Youtube’, ‘Marathon Adventures’, ‘Triple 7 Quest’, ‘EverGiven’, ‘#7DJ’, etc. The number of transferred elements always depends on the subject of the article, as well as the level of generalisation (simplification of the text in this case). For example, when the subject is space there always tend to be specific codenames, abbreviations, etc. This sentence (see Appendix 1 No. 6 and Appendix 2 No. 6) in the source language (English) is written ‘SpaceX launched Falcon 9 rocket with 60 more Starlink internet satellites’ and translated to the target language (Lithuanian) ‘„SpaceX” ketvirtadienį paleido sunkiąją raketą „Falcon 9”, nešusią 60 nedidelių palydovų, papildysiančių pasaulinę plačiajuosčio interneto ryšio sistemą „Starlink”’. In this example alone, noticeably there are 3 different instances of the application of the transference translation strategy. Some more interesting examples of transference can be found when the foreign term is already borrowed in the source language (English), therefore during the process of translation an already transferred element gets transferred again to a different language. Such cases can be portrayed in the following examples (see Appendix 1 No. 12, 15, 17 and Appendix 2 No. 12, 15, 17) of the transference: ‘Le Figaro’, ‘Chateau de Vauvenargues’, ‘Chateau de Kernuz’, ‘Bulletin de la Societe prehistorique Francaise’, ‘escalera mecanica’ or ‘haka-mairi’ which is the name of Japanese cultural tradition to visit graves and give the respect to dead. With many translations in the front of international news, it is no surprise that there are many elements which can only be translated with the translation strategy of transference. The transference is the third most frequently applied translation strategy (of the model) in soft news translation on a word level.

Indigenisation, also known as the domestication translation strategy, is closely related to the translation strategy of transference. Therefore, in the analysis of some of the transference examples, the translation strategy of domestication was already briefly mentioned. The usual objective of the indigenisation is to apply linguistic rules on a transferred (foreign) element in accordance with linguistic rules of the target language (in this case – Lithuanian language). It is important to mention that changes (for example, timezone with providing a note next to it that it is a time of the target audience) from the source text to the target text (specifically for the target country, community, society, etc.) may be considered indigenisation as well. The translation strategy of indigenisation is the second most frequently applied translation strategy on a word level in the process of translating soft online news from English language to Lithuanian language. During the analysis of data, 231 cases of domesticated elements were found in translated articles.

Just like the translation strategy of transference, the indigenisation is heavily based on foreign elements, therefore, it is no surprise that majority of elements to which the translation strategy is applied to, are names and surnames of foreign origin but with Lithuanian traditional endings. Some of the examples (see Appendix 1 No. 1, 2, 13, 14, 15 and Appendix 2 No. 1, 2, 13, 14, 15) of domesticated names and surnames are provided: Joachim Löw becomes ‘*Joachimas Lowas*’, prince George becomes ‘*princas George’as*’, Thomas Markle becomes ‘*Thomas Markle’as*’, Mike Tyson is translated as ‘*Mike’as Tysonas*’, Jean-Claude Juncker is translated as ‘*Jeano-Claude’o Junckerio*

kadencijos pabaiga’, Jimmy Kimmel becomes ‘*Jimmy Kimmelis*’, ‘Ursula von der Leyen’ is translated as ‘*Ursulos von der Leyen tėvas*’, Kajipon Marco Zangetsu becomes ‘*Kajiponas Marco Zangetsu*’, etc. Just like in the analysis of transference examples, the noticeable majority of female names and surnames were transferred, it is the contrary in this case. There is a lack of visible evidence of domesticating female names and surnames of foreign origin. Most domesticated surnames are of male gender. Similarly, to names and surnames of individuals, family names (surnames) can also be easily domesticated: David and Victoria Beckham become ‘*Victoria and Davidas Beckhamai*’, Kardashians and Jenners become ‘*Kardashianų ir Jennerių klanui*’ and the Smiths becomes ‘*Smithai*’ (see Appendix 1 No. 2, 9, 23 and Appendix 2 No. 2, 9, 23), etc. Repetitive surnames throughout the article provide many units of the applied translation strategy for quantitative research.

Besides surnames, there are different types of terminological elements that originate in foreign countries and must be domesticated due to the lack of cultural equivalents. Here are some of the examples (see Appendix 1 No. 14, 16, 17, 21, 23 and Appendix 2 No. 14, 16, 17, 21, 23) of indigenisation applied to foreign terms: ‘*Isle of Man*’ is translated as ‘*Meno saloje*’, ‘*Bundestag*’ is translated as ‘*išrinkta į Bundestagą*’ but the inclusion of explanation is added, ‘*Bundeswehr*’ is translated as ‘*inicijuoti bundesvero*’ but inclusion of explanation is added, ‘*the Saint-bellec Slab*’ becomes ‘*Saint-Beleco plokštė*’ ‘*Abbasid Caliphate*’ is translated as ‘*Abbasido kalifatui*’, ‘*Guinness World Records*’ is translated as ‘*Guinnesso pasaulio rekordų knyga*’, etc. Indigenisation might also be applied to brand names, especially if the name is used in modern language on the level of slang, for example, ‘*Instagram*’ is translated as ‘*Instagrame*’ arba ‘*marijuana*’ is translated as ‘*marijuaną*’ (see Appendix 1 No. 3, 14 and Appendix 2 No. 3, 14). In the case of the latter, the choice is quite weird to apply indigenisation to the ending of ‘*marijuaną*’ while leaving that foreign letter ‘j’ in the middle of the word, even though there is a proper equivalent of the term as well as many synonyms in the language of the target culture.

Lastly, quite a different form of indigenisation is related to changes of foreign time zone to the one of the target audience (in this case – Lithuania). The following examples (see Appendix 1 No. 5, 6 and Appendix 2 No. 5, 6) provide evidence of a changed time zone during the process of translation: ‘*(15 val. Lietuvos laiku)*’, ‘*(13.01 val. Lietuvos laiku, - red. past.)*’, ‘*8.23 val. vietos laiku (Lietuvos - 10.23 val.)*’ and ‘*1 val. 19 min. vietos (8 val. 19 min. Lietuvos) laiku*’. As provided above, most indigenisation examples in the data of research consist of domesticated names and surnames. In any different language results could be quite different just because of quite complex linguistic rules of Lithuanian language. However, within the set parameters of the empirical research and Lithuanian language as the target language, the translation strategy of indigenisation is the second most frequently applicable strategy of the model in soft news translation.

Cultural substitution is the translation strategy that allows a translator or journalist to change foreign elements with already existing equivalents in the target culture. Cultural substitutions are not necessarily targeted to the culture or country but also can be targeted to the target society or community, depending on the target audience for which the article is translated for. In other words, in more specific magazines, journals of ‘infotainment’, science, etc., the target community with the specific knowledge might become the target of the cultural substitution as well. Therefore, modern slang or subject specific jargonism can be considered an element of the cultural substitution. Also, some of more technical elements (timezone, metric system) of the text which changes in different languages or cultures can be very similar to the indigenisation. During the analysis of the empirical research, 102 cases of cultural substitution were found, which makes cultural substitution the fourth

most frequently applied translation strategy of the model. In addition, there is less repetition of the same cultural substitution unit throughout the single article, therefore, unlike transference and indigenisation, the research on cultural substitution elements brings more variety.

Traditionally news providers use cultural items of the target audience rather than more globally accepted (neutral) ones. Therefore, a lot of technical elements require adaptation during the process of translating news to a different target culture. Here are some of more technical cultural substitution examples (see Appendix 1 No. 5, 6, 21, 23 and Appendix 2 No. 5, 6, 21, 23) related to different time zones and measurement systems: '11:01 A.M. U.K. time' becomes '13 val. vietos laiku (15 val. Lietuvos laiku)'; 'today at 1:19 a.m. EST (0619 GMT)' becomes '1 val. 19 min. vietos (8 val. 19 min. Lietuvos) laiku'; '5 a.m.' becomes '5 valandą ryto'; 'He weights 8 pounds, 7 ounces' is translated as 'Kūdikis sveria 3 827 g.'; '1300 feet in length' becomes 'ilgis beveik 400 metrų', etc. In the case of measurement systems, the motivation for change might be generalisation (to apply the element for more neutral, larger audience). In the case of American culture, the measurement system is different from the one used in Lithuania. Regarding time zone changing examples provided above, it is important to notice not only change in time zones but also the format of time. In some cultures, it is traditional to use a 12-hour time format, however in Lithuania (the target language and culture of the empirical research) a 24-hour clock is much more common and traditional. Cultures which use a 12-hour clock format, in addition must use abbreviations of Latin words *a.m.* (*ante meridiem* - before midday) and *p.m.* (*post meridiem* - after midday) to know which cycle is the subject of conversation. Similar examples of cultural substitution involving Latin terms might be '950 AD' becomes '950 m.' or '775 AD was filled in' becomes 'buvo užpilti 775 m.' (see Appendix 1 No. 16, 21 and Appendix 2 No. 16, 21). In Lithuanian culture people do not specifically add any identification that it is years after Christ, therefore if there is no indication that it is years before Christ everyone understands that the provided years are of the current era. On the other hand, some cultures use Latin abbreviation *AD* (*Anno Domini* - the year of the Lord) to identify the current era after Christ. Another example of cultural substitution (see Appendix 2 No. 6) might involve change of currency as each currency has a different market value and the number cannot be held equivalent without recalculation '10 mlrd. dolerių (8,3 mlrd. euri)'. One more example (see Appendix 1 No. 17 and Appendix 2 No. 17) of the technical aspect of cultural substitution might be '2m by 1.5m' translated as '2 m x 1,5 m'. It is a simple modification but the word 'by' is changed with 'x' as it is a symbol of multiplication, and symbolically means length x width to get square surface area.

In different languages there are a lot of cultural equivalents in terminology as well as abbreviations of various worldwide known organisations, countries, unions, etc. The following examples (see Appendix 1 No. 10, 11, 14, 15 and Appendix 2 No. 10, 11, 14, 15) are of culturally substituted abbreviation or acronyms: 'U. S.' or 'USA' (United States or United States of America) become 'Jungtinės Amerikos Valstijos' or 'JAV'; 'World Health Organisation' or 'WHO' become 'Pasaulio sveikatos organizacija (PSO)'; 'European Union' or 'EU' become 'Europos Sąjunga (ES)'; 'the UN' (the United Nations) becomes 'Jungtinės Tautos' (can be abbreviated to JT), etc. There are a lot of cases in translation when names of art (music, paintings, movies, etc.) must be translated to the target language, therefore a cultural substitution is used to provide the name known for the target audience in the target language. In some cases, translation is oblique while in different cases a cultural substitution is contextually different. Here are some examples (see Appendix 1 No. 13, 15, 19 and Appendix 2 No. 13, 15, 19) of translating names of different forms of art: the movie *Dangerous Acts Starring the Unstable Elements of Belarus* is translated as '„Pavojingi žaidimai”'; the movie *In Bloom*

is translated as ‘„Pačiame žydėjime”’; the book *Undisputed Truth* is translated as ‘„Nenuginčijama tiesa”’; the painting of Pablo Picasso *Guernica* is translated as ‘„Gernika”’, etc. One more example (see Appendix 1 No. 2, 15 and Appendix 2 No. 2, 15) could be geographical and architectural places of the world: St. George’s Chapel is translated as ‘Šv. jurgio koplyčia’; ‘burial site of St. James’ is translated as ‘apaštalo Jokūbo kapą’; *Sagrada Familia* is translated as ‘Barselonos Šv. Šeimynos bažnyčia’, etc. There are a lot of culture specific names of architectural and geographical wonders that have their own equivalent translation in different languages.

It is important to mention that cultural substitution can be as easily applied to a regular terminology which is unfamiliar to the target audience of different cultures. Which means that regular words or even slang elements can be culturally substituted as well. Here are some examples (see Appendix 1 No. 2, 13, 14 and Appendix 2 No. 2, 13, 14) of a regular terminology being culturally substituted: ‘frockcoat’ is translated as ‘apsirengė karinėmis uniformomis’; ‘where to begin?’ is translated as ‘och, nuo ko pradėti?’; ‘Tyson began to go of the rails’ is translated as ‘M. tysono gyvenimas vėl tapo banguotas’; ‘nee Ursula Albrecht’ is translated as ‘mergautinė pavardė Albrecht’, etc. In general, news translation tends to be oblique, but on occasion an example (see Appendix 1 No. 15 and Appendix 2 No. 15) can be found ‘from the Arctic Circle to Antarctica’ becoming ‘nuo Antarktidos iki Lietuvos’, which attempt to more closely relate to the target culture than the source article ever intended. It is an intentional cultural substitution to relate to the target audience and attract readers.

The translation strategy of **generalisation** (or globalisation) focuses on neutralising the cultural objective or expressiveness of a phrase. In other words, the objective of generalisation is to make the target text as neutral and simple to understand as possible. Usually, as the translation strategy, generalisation is applied to make culturally specific elements understandable and approachable for culturally diverse audience. The process of simplifying the target text does not necessarily mean neutralising the cultural element but also making a news article into an easier read as it is considered a light activity. The simplification may be achieved in different ways, for example, using a single word defining all listed items in the source text, omitting unnecessary and hard to understand information or numerical values, neutralising culture-specific elements, neutralising expressive words, etc. During the empirical research of the thesis, 70 cases of applied generalisation were found.

On some occasions, generalisation can be misleadingly confused with cultural substitution. It is not in translation strategies, objectives or definitions but rather an application with some elements. It was briefly mentioned in the analysis of cultural substitution examples in soft online news, that the motivation behind the change is important with some elements of the text. More specifically, the fact that Americans, British and some other parts of the world use the Imperial measurement system rather than the metric system, begs the question, what an application of a translation strategy intends to do. If the motive of change is culture specific (for the target audience of Lithuania), the translation strategy to apply would be cultural substitution. On the other hand, if the objective is to change the system for the global audience, the applied strategy should be - generalisation. These type of examples (see Appendix 1 No. 4, 16, 21 and Appendix 2 No. 4, 16, 21) might look like this: ‘8 pound, 7 ounces’ becomes ‘3 827 g.’; ‘valued at £1,500’ becomes ‘1500 svarų (apie 1,7 tūkst. eurų)’; ‘valued at £110,000’ becomes ‘110 000 svarų sterlingų (apie 127 tūkst. eurų)’ and ‘1300 feet’ becomes ‘beveik 400 metru’. Analysing this type of example, it is important to know the motivation behind the change. Otherwise, the ambiguity might appear.

Another objective of generalisation is to neutralise foreign elements (cultural elements or publicly known) for the target audience which is unfamiliar with it. For example, in American culture people like giving celebrities nicknames or couple names. However, in Lithuanian culture, most of those foreign nicknames would not be known or understood, therefore, such element is neutralised (see Appendix 1 No. 3 and Appendix 2 No. 3) in this example - '*J-Rod*' becomes '*Jennifer Lopez ir Alexas Rodriguezas*'. In this example, Alex Rodriguez has a nickname in tabloids as *A-Rod* and Jennifer Lopez - *J-Lo*, therefore as a couple they are often called in tabloids and social media as *J-Rod*. Further, more examples (see Appendix 1 No. 3, 13, 19 and Appendix 2 No. 3, 13, 19) providing neutralisation of foreign elements are provided: '*the former Yankees third baseman*' becomes '*buvęs „Yankees” beisbolo žaidėjas*'; '*Tyson eventually joined {...} called the Rutland Road Crew*' becomes '*M. Tysonas priklausė ir gaujai*'; '*film told with a verite matter-of-factness*' becomes '*filmas pasakoja apie tai kartu ir labai dalykiškai, ir su žavingu lengvumu*', etc. Therefore, generalisation of cultural objects allows to simplify the text for a diverse target audience.

The translation strategy of generalisation can also be applied to neutralise expressive elements of the source text. Some generalisation applications (see Appendix 1 No. 13, 15, 20 and Appendix 2 No. 13, 15, 20) found in the data of soft news translation for the empirical research look like this: '*unbeatable monster, destroying everything in his path*' is translated as '*nesustabdomas*'; '*Tyson's titanic cocaine habit was out of control {...} wandering round with a big bag of cocaine and 'a straw coming out of it like it was a milkshake*' is translated as '*jam ypač trukdė priklausomybė narkotikams, kuriuos vartodavo įvairiose vietose ir dažnai*'; '*self-described 'arts-junkie*' is translated as '*paniręs į literatūrą, muziką ir meną*'; '*space plasma hurricane*' is translated as '*gamtos reiškiny*', etc. In some cases, generalisation can be applied to deal with such expressive elements like profanity – '*I'm a f***** student of war*' translated as '*Aš tarsi karo studentas*'. Neutralisation of expressiveness is not always necessary, especially in soft news. Nonetheless, it is a useful tool to have in the need of globalising or dealing with issues like profanity in interviews.

Lastly, generalisation can be used to simplify and define a bigger portion of the source text into less words, a single phrase or a single word. Sometimes it helps to condense indirectly relatable and unnecessary information from the source article by simplify it to the target audience in a way they could relate to, or at least have a light activity of reading without having any issues of context comprehension. Further, some of the examples (see Appendix 1 No. 4, 13, 22, 23, 25 and Appendix 2 No. 4, 13, 22, 23, 25) defining bigger portions of the text in less words will be provided: '*The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Harry and members of both families have been informed*' is translated as '*tada apie kūdikio gimimą buvo informuoti Williama ir Catherine šeimų nariai*'; '*Lewis would dominate Tyson over eight rounds before knocking him out to retain his title*' is translated as '*Kovą ringe laimėjo L. Lewisas*'; '*Cancer Research UK has teamed up with the Universities of Cambridge, manchester, university College London, and Stanford and Oregon in the US*' is translated as '*šeši Jungtinės Karalystės ir JAV universitetai bei organizacijos*'; '*four siblings and their families*' is translated as '*giminaičiams*'; '*swollen knee, busted and bleeding lip*' is translated as '*susižeidė*' and '*anniversary of a truly landmark historical event, the Apollo 11 moon landing*' is translated as '*„Apollo-11” misijos metinės*'. The translation strategy of generalisation is used to simplify the text and make it more approachable for a diverse target culture. In the case of Lithuania, the culture is not as diverse as some other countries. There is not much of a need of globalising or neutralising articles. As a type of news

– soft news is quite lenient towards expressive writing. Consequently, generalisation is on the other side of the spectrum of how frequently translation strategies from the model are applied.

Specification as the translation strategy is used to make neutral elements into more expressive or clarifying ones. Terms and elements applied with the specification strategy become more expressive, which means it reinforces them as well as makes a bigger impact to the target audience. In soft news writing and translation, some type of expressiveness is allowed as it leans towards the entertainment side of ‘infotainment’. The translation has two objectives. One form of application is to specify certain facts or values, especially when the translation is performed later than the original piece of news and updated information is usually available. The other form of specification is providing more expressiveness to the article through modified terms and making soft news reading into a lot more exciting activity through a ‘colourful’ target text. During the empirical research of online news, 25 translated articles of soft news contained 37 cases of the applied specification elements.

News providers usually publish articles on recent or still undergoing events, unless a piece of news has more elements of storytelling as features, columns, editorials or some descriptive articles. On some occasions (a lot more frequently in hard news rather than soft news), articles are updated with newer information as time goes by. Usually, the fact that news translation is performed a few hours or day (traditionally) after the source was published, means that more accurate information is available to the journalist or translator of the target article in the process of translation. Here are a few examples (see Appendix 1 No. 6, 15 and Appendix 2 No. 6, 15) of the specification used to provide more accurate information: ‘*now deposited more than 1,000 Starlink satellites into orbit*’ in the target text is provided as ‘*Iš viso orbitoje jau bus 1 083 sistemos „Starlink” kosminiai aparatai*’; ‘*Approximately nine minutes later, the rocket’s first stage returned to Earth*’ is translated as ‘*pirmoji pakopa 8 minutės ir 25 sekundės po starto sėkmingai nusileido*’ and ‘*helped thousands of Jews*’ is translated as ‘*padėjo apie 6000 žydų pabėgti*’. Naturally, some of the facts or numerical values tend to be more up to date in the target text. This type of specification is more frequent in hard news translation, especially when the subject of the article involves damages related to public.

The other form of specification translation strategy is used to reinforce and provide more impact to certain words (terms), phrases or sentences by making them more expressive. During the empirical research of soft news, it was clearly noticeable that specification for expressiveness was dominant over specification for clarity. Only a few examples of clarification were found, however, most specification applications throughout 25 translated articles of soft news were done to make the target text more impactful for audience positive emotions, as well as make it more attractive to a reader. Here are some of simpler examples (see Appendix 1 No. 2, 21 and Appendix 2 No. 2, 8, 14, 21) of specification for expressiveness: ‘*Royal wedding 2018*’ is translated as ‘*karališkos meilės triumfas*’; Usain Bolt is described as ‘*Greičiausias žmogus planetoje*’; the headline of the article provided as ‘*Ursula von der Leyen: moteris išdrįsusi laužyti taisykles*’; Napoleon is described as ‘*Legendinis karžygys*’, etc. Of course, there are more creative approaches of specification, for example, ‘*At the altar, Prince Harry told her: “You look Amazing.”*’ is translated as ‘*prie altoriaus, princas Harry susigraudino – jo akys sudrėko iš jaudulio {...} jai pasakė: „Atrodai nuostabiai“*’. A lot of specification examples provide more expressive synonyms or possible substitutions. In some cases, the leniency of strict storytelling rules in soft news, even metaphorical expressions might be used in the specification. One example (see Appendix 2 No. 12) of metaphorical expression would be the sentence in the translated article – ‘*Tarptautiniai ekspertai Rusijos siekį įregistruoti vaksciną kuo greičiau, nepabaigus trečiojo klinikinių tyrimų etapo, vadina Pandoros skrynia*’. In this example, the

idiom '*Pandoros skrynia*' is used, which means a lot of incidents and hardships. The idiom itself refers to mythical being – Pandora – from ancient Greece, who out of curiosity opened a box (Pandora box) which contained all unfortunes and hardships of humanity and set them free on the world.

The translation strategy of specification is primarily used to liven up the target text and attract the eye of the reader. It usually brings more positive emotions or reinforce the impact of specific terms. In either case, the translation strategy of specification often invites a chance for creativity in soft news translation, as well as a chance of more 'colourful', entertaining and light activity of reading from the perspective of the target audience.

The translation strategy called **deletion and addition** is one of the most frequently applied translation strategies, not only in news translation but throughout various genres of translation, especially, on a word level. Some different models of translation strategies may apply different names, omission instead of deletion and elaboration instead of addition. It is quite interesting that this model groups deletion and addition in the same category, when in actual application, they could not be more different. Deletion is applied when specific elements of the source text are deemed unnecessary or untranslatable to the target language. On the other hand, addition adds more elements to the target text that were absent in the source text. During the empirical research of soft news on the Internet sources, it was found that in 25 analysed articles in the source language (English) and their corresponding translations in the target language (Lithuanian), 250 cases of the applied deletion and addition translation strategy were found. This leads to the result of deletion and addition being the most frequently applied translation strategy in the translation of soft news on a word level.

The deletion strategy is used in translation to omit some elements which are deemed as unnecessary to the content of the target article, unrelatable to the target audience, has no cultural equivalents, or are deleted to simplify or summarise the target text, etc. A conscious decision to delete an element of the source text during the process of translation must be made by either a journalist or translator. During the empirical research it was found that out of 250 cases of deletion and addition, 159 times the applied translation strategy was deletion. Some elements are deemed culturally unrelatable, unnecessary for providing the essence of information, or subject unrelated (for example, comments of, or interviews from a third party). One of the examples, would be the sentence in the source language – '*Prince Harry, 33, and his brother and best man, the Duke of Cambridge, prince William*' which is translated as '*princas Harry kartu su savo vyriausiuoju pabroliu princu Williamu*' in the target language (see Appendix 1 No. 2 and Appendix 2 No. 2). In the provided example, 2 different cases of deletion are apparent. The elements like '33' which indicates the age of Prince Harry as well as '*the Duke of Cambridge*' which indicates the royal title of Prince Williams. More instances (see Appendix 1 No. 10, 11, 13, 21 and Appendix 2 No. 10, 11, 13, 21) of applied deletion to omit specific elements: '*Oscars 2019*' is translated as '*„Oskaru“ įteikimo ceremonijos*' by omitting the year; '*Tokyo Olympics torch relay*' is translated as '*olimpinio deglo nešimo etapas*' by omitting the host city of the event; '*relived tales of chasing a rival gang with an M1 rifle at 10 years old*' is translated as '*jam teko vaikytis kitas gaujas su automatu*' by omitting the age provided in the source text and specific type of rifle, '*ordering Ikea flat-pack furniture*' is translated as '*užsisakyti tiek daug baldų*' by omitting the brand *IKEA*, etc. During the process of translation, the deletion not only helps to omit unnecessary information but also form more coherent sentences in the target language.

The process of deletion can involve more than just a single element. Just as easily, this translation strategy can be applied to a chain of words which include phrases or even a sentence. Of course,

throughout different genres of translation or in some other models of translation, the deletion can also be applied on a bigger scale. However, for the sake of the empirical research, the analysis will stay within set parameters. Here are a couple of examples (see Appendix 1 No. 7, 23 and Appendix 2 No. 7, 23) that clearly have some elements or chains of words deleted during the process of translation of soft news article to the target language (Lithuanian): *'leads the Formula 2 title race by 14 points with one round remaining, in what is his second season in the series, winning twice among 10 podiums'* is translated as *'šį sezoną puikiai atrodo „Formulės 2” čempionate, yra jo lyderis'*; *'to try all the activities — including the Gorge Swing near Victoria Falls, Zambia, which involves free falling in a harness for about 230 feet over the Zambezi River'* is translated as *'Kartą ji su guma šoko nuo Viktorijos krioklio Zambijoje.'*, etc. As it can be seen in both examples, not single elements but rather subordinate clauses are deleted from both sentences.

The translation strategy of addition is a total opposite of the deletion. During the process of translating news, there might be a need to add additional elements to make the text more coherent, to provide cultural background, to specify some numerical values, etc. Therefore, the translation strategy of addition is applied. During the empirical research of soft news on the Internet sources (online news), 91 examples of the applied strategy of addition were found. Contrary to the deletion, the translation strategy of addition includes elements that are deemed necessary or important to the target audience to know, despite being absent in the source. The following examples (see Appendix 1 No. 22, 25 and Appendix 2 No. 22, 25, 2, 3, 5, 17) will show an addition of a new element (word, phrase) to the target text. One example could be the sentence *'less invasive tests, such as blood, breath and urine tests, for monitoring high-risk patients'* is translated as *'didelės rizikos pacientams onkologinę ligą galima būtų aptikti iš kraujo, šlapimo, iškvėpto oro ar net nosies tepinėlio tyrimo'*. In this instance, a new type of less invasive test – *'nosies tepinėlio tyrimo'* which was not mentioned in the source text, is added. Another example would be – *'find never before seen footage of Apollo 11 Moon landing'* which is translated as *'Po 50 metų rasti dar niekur nematyti nusileidimo Mėnulyje vaizdai'*. In this instance, it is additionally indicated that 50 years have passed since the event. In addition, it is noticeable that element *'Apollo 11'* is deleted during the translation. Of course, newly added elements can also be simple references or editorial note, for example, *'15min primena'*; *'užsienio portalai praneša'*; *'remiantis „Page Six”'*; *'(13.01 val. Lietuvos laiku, - red. past.)'*; *'Kernuzo dvare (pranc. Chateau de Kernuz)'*, etc. Just like the deletion strategy allows to form more coherent sentences for the target culture, the translation strategy of addition has a similar purpose. Sometimes the objective of the application is coherence for the target audience, sometimes its additional and specific information and other times it may be an addition of a cultural perspective of the target culture.

As the translation strategy, **transposition** deals with grammatical and syntax differences in different languages during the process of translation. Usually, it means reforming the sentences in a way that the text would be in accordance with all linguistic rules of the target language. Before the start of the empirical research of soft news, it was expected that transposition strategy will be found in the target texts quite frequently, as it should be the strategy that often can be applied unconsciously with a sheer difference of linguistic rules between the source language (English) and the target language (Lithuanian). The hypothesis of sorts has been proven wrong during the analysis. Throughout the target texts, most of sentences with subordinate clauses have structural styles of English language. It is hard to pinpoint the actual problem from the limited data set of the project, however it could be the lack of professional translators (linguists) and editors in online news, or maybe the lack of need for modern audience to use more proper structures of Lithuanian language, as majority nowadays

understands the English language well. Whichever the case it is, the transposition strategy was found to be the least frequently applied translation strategy of the model, with only 16 noticed examples.

The translation strategy of transposition changes the structure of the sentence to be in accordance with linguistic rules. Those modifications result in changing parts of speech, switching the subject with the object of the sentence and vice versa. Here a couple of examples (see Appendix 1 No. 6, 21 and Appendix 2 No. 6, 21) of speech parts changing during the process of translation: *'first stage returned to Earth, landing was smooth'* becomes *'pirmoji pakopa {...} po starto sėkmingai nusileido'* or *'Enter Napoleon, who during his time in Egypt'* becomes *'Idėja įgavo pagreitį tik Napoleono valdymo laiku, kuris Egipte būdamas'*. In the case of the first example, the gerund - *'landing'* is translated as the verb - *'nusileido'*. In the second example, *'Enter Napoleon'* is the noun (which is quite an odd structure even for English language) that becomes the adverbial description *'Napoleono valdymo laiku'* and answers the question *'when?'*. The majority of found cases of the transposition were switching the places of a subject and object of the sentence. A few examples (see Appendix 1 No. 5, 12, 13 and Appendix 2 No. 5, 12, 13) are provided: *'The baby was born'* is translated as *'sėkmingai pagimdė sūnų'*; *'He added that one of his two daughters received a shot of vaccine'* is translated as *'Valstybės vadovas pridūrė, kad naujieji skiepai buvo išbandyti su viena iš jo dukterų'*; *'D'Amato trained Tyson to harness the power of fear and mind'* is translated as *'Su trenerio pagalba vaikinas mokėsi savo įsiūtį ir jėgą nukreipti teigiama linkme'*, etc. In these examples, accordingly, *'baby'* was a subject but became the object of the sentence *'sūnus'*, *'one of his two daughters'* was the subject of the sentence while *'vaccine'* was the object of the sentence which were switched during the translation, *'Tyson'* was the object of the sentence but became the subject - *'vaikinas'* after the process of translation. The translation strategy of transposition allows sentences of the target language to be more coherent and correct in accordance with grammatical and syntax rules.

Translation couplet is the translation strategy, when two different translation strategies are applied to a single translation element. In most cases, translation couplet is not a consciously made choice to apply two different strategies to a single word, phrase or sentence, but rather the unconscious result of applying translation strategies to the target text during the process of translation. It is strange to call translation couplet as the translation strategy when it is just the result of applying other translation strategies. However, when a couple of strategies make the target text more attractive, coherent, correct, culturally relatable or diversely neutral, etc., there is nothing wrong with letting both of applied strategies impact specific elements of the target text. During the empirical research, 23 different examples of translation couplet, were found.

After analysing various examples of the translation couplet strategy, it is evident that the majority of found cases include addition as one the applied strategies. Apparently adding a new element and then applying a different translation strategy from the model, is the easiest way to achieve the translation strategy called – translation couplet. Further, some examples (see Appendix 1 No. 2, 15, 21 and Appendix 2 No. 2, 3, 15, 21) of combining addition with a different translation strategy are provided: *'prince Harry'* in the target text is *'pramušgalvis princas Harry'* and it combines addition with expressive specification describing Prince Harry; *'Remiantis „Page Six“ pranešimu'* is additional element in the target text combined with transference; *'Bach, Shakespeare, Goethe'* adds names of the famous people and domesticates them *'Johanas Sebastianas Bachas, Williamas Shakespeare'as, Johannas Wolfgangas von Goethe'*; *'Who built the Suez Canal, and why?'* is translated as *'Sueco kanalo istorija: kas pirmieji iškasė Sueco kanalą ir kodėl?'* by adding an element *'Sueco kanalo istorija'* which generalises and describes what the whole article is going to be about. Another example

could be considered an addition of sentence which also has a clear expressive specification – ‘*Ši naujiena yra kupina saulės, bendravimo, lasvės pojūčio ir, žinoma, Jamaikos garsų bei vaizdų*’. In this instance (see Appendix 2 No. 4), a new musical creation is described as sunny, providing freedom and Jamaican visuals. Of course, there are cases that provide a combination of two translation strategies without including an addition. For example (see Appendix 1 No. 9 and Appendix 2 No. 9), a simple element as ‘*NBA*’ include translation strategies of transference and generalisation. Even though ‘*NBA*’ is a foreign abbreviation, it is possible to translate it to ‘*NKA*’ or ‘*Nacionalinė Krepšinio Lyga*’ in Lithuanian language, however, it is not accepted term by the public. Everyone around the world knows what ‘*NBA*’ is and uses foreign abbreviation despite existing cultural substitution. The reason behind it is American abbreviation becoming a global brand and trademark.

In the following part of the analysis and interpretation of the empirical research results, some examples of Bani (2006) proposed translation strategies for dealing with cultural diversity will be provided and analysed. These examples were found by analysing 25 source (English) articles of soft news on the Internet, as well as corresponding translations to the target language (Lithuanian). It is important to note that Bani (2006) proposes four commonly applied textual translation strategies (cutting or summary, inclusion of explanation, generalisation and substitution) which can be used either at a word level or a textual level. Within set parameters of the empirical research, this model will be applied to analyse elements of translation at a **textual level**. Bani (2006) also introduces some extra-textual elements (subheadings, pictures, maps, chronologies, glossaries, subject related bibliography, information about the article’s author) which in many cases of news translation provide additional cultural information and background. In addition, Bani (2006) suggests that in news translation there are two types of translations – loyal and invisible. A type of translator performing translation for each article will be determined. In 25 articles of soft news and their corresponding translation to the target language (Lithuanian), 156 cases of these four textual translation strategies were found. Translation strategies proposed by Bani (2006) are applied to either neutralise different cultures focusing solely on the target culture or introduce new cultures by showing cultural diversity.

Cutting or summary is the most dominant textual translation strategy in the empirical research, with 94 found cases out of total 156 applied strategies. Cutting or summary is most often applied to delete culturally unrelatable and unnecessary information which will not be understood by the target culture (unless specific knowledge is acquired by the target audience). In some cases, perspectives of foreign origin are totally omitted during the process of translation which results in applying the translation strategy of cutting. In other cases, a larger body of information is modified by neutralising or deleting foreign elements and summarising the target text into a smaller body of information.

The cutting strategy on a textual level, usually involves omission of some paragraphs, ideas, comments which are culturally not relatable to the target audience, or do not provide necessary information for the essence of the translated article. In some cases, the choice to cut out information of the target text, despite its presence in the source text, is done because the target culture will not understand cultural background or what importance a certain perspective brings to the piece of news. One example (see Appendix 1 No. 10) could be a sentence – ‘*Parks and Recreation actor Billy Eichner welcomed the news on Twitter. "As one of very few openly gay men in comedy who's fortunate enough to work as much as I do, I will always fight for my LGBTQ community to get the respect we deserve," he said.*’. In this case, there are a couple of motivations for omitting the segment. The first possibility is the fact that a minority group is mentioned, therefore, the translator decided that it will not be very relatable for most of the target audience, while the other reason is the author of the

comment Billy Eichner, who is not a well-known personality worldwide and in the target culture. Another example (see Appendix 1 No. 23 and Appendix 2 No. 23) could be the segment - *‘Smith estimates that she’s run close to 70 marathons across the globe now. She was also at the Boston Marathon in 2013, and was about a quarter mile from the finish line when police stopped her because of the bombing.’* which is translated as *‘C. Smith skaičiuoja, kad dabar ji yra įveikusi apie 70 maratonus, visame pasaulyje.’*, In this example, the translator made the choice of omitting the mention of the Boston bombing. Possibly, it would not be understood by everyone, however, including the explanation would elaborate on the terrorism attack which might change the mood of the whole article of soft news. The other possibility of cutting out certain segments of the source text during oblique translation, is to minimize unnecessary data which leads away from the focal point of the article and might confuse the target audience. As an example (see Appendix 1 No. 15 and Appendix 2 No. 15) the segment *‘The year 2020 marked 250 years since the birth of the great composer, one of the artists for whom Kajipon feels a special admiration. “During Beethoven’s lifetime, Vienna {...}conveying the message that all of us, nobility and commoners alike, all share in the same universal human dignity.”’* which was omitted from the translation. The reason for the application of such a strategy might be the fact that it is not directly related to the article, as it focuses on a story of Japanese traveler who visited many graves of famous people, including the burial site of Ludwig van Beethoven. The fact that this article is already quite long and takes more time than usual articles of soft news, it was a space saving decision. Also, during the article many famous people were mentioned but none got addition of lifestory in the article. Therefore, the short biography of Ludwig van Beethoven and a history lesson to the target audience, were deemed as unnecessary and unrelatable information.

The summary strategy on a textual level does not totally omit foreign elements but rather simplifies, generalises and condenses the segment into a smaller body of the text. For instance, the segment in the source language (English) *‘Officials describe the new administrative capital, which has not yet been named, with a string of superlatives. It will be the country’s most high-tech city, home to Africa’s tallest tower, and Egypt’s largest minaret and tallest church steeple.’* is translated as *‘Kitaip sakant, tai bus pirmasis išmanusis miestas šalyje.’* in the target language (Lithuanian) (see Appendix 1 No. 24 and Appendix 2 No. 24). Therefore, unnecessary information which is not culturally related or invites more cultural diversity when it is not required by the context of the target text, is summarised to the essence. A couple more examples (see Appendix 1 No. 1, 5 and Appendix 2 No. 1, 5) would be the segment *‘As published by the German newspaper Bild in its online version, Löw would have started giving Spanish classes {...} Real Madrid became interested in Löw, but his contract with the Mannschaft prevented him from considering such an option.’* is translated as *‘Kaip praneša šaltiniai, 61-ų specialistas jau kurį laiką mokosi ispanų kalbos. Teigiama, kad J.Lowas norėtų dirbti Madrido „Real“ klube.’* or the segment *‘The baby was born {...} in the Lindo Wing of St. Mary’s Hospital in London. {...} “They have had two very positive experiences at the Lindo Wing, so it’s the No. 1 choice. She knows the team and she feels like she’s in very safe hands.”’* is translated as *‘Kembridžo hercogienė Catherine gimė privačios Šv. Marijos ligoninės „Lindo“ sparne, kaip ir pirmus du kartus.’* In both examples, the applied strategy prevents the reader from long, condense and unrelatable segment of information, as well as prevents the translator from applying more strategies on a word level and transferring more foreign elements to the target text.

The translation strategy of **including explanations** on a textual level, means exactly as it is named. Unlike cutting or summary, the inclusion of explanations does not omit foreign elements but rather preserve them. The main objective of this translation strategy is to bring foreign elements or segments

of the text by presenting a different culture, however including an explanation of its significance and meaning to the source culture in an easy way to understand for new readers of the target culture. To put it into simpler words, it provides an explanation for the target culture in an acceptable way, of what the foreign element is or segment of the text means in different cultures. During the analysis of the empirical research, 30 cases of the inclusion of explanations were found. The inclusion of explanation is an additional element to the target text, therefore it is absent in the source text. In other words, it might seem like the translation strategy of addition, however on a bigger scale and more related to cultural diversity issues during the process of translation. This translation strategy can be applied by either a journalist or translator, as well as an editor or editorial board.

During the translation process of international news, there are a lot of foreign elements and terms that are unfamiliar to the target culture. When it is applicable, the translation strategy of cultural substitution at a world level should be applied. In cases, when no equivalent of the element can be found in the target culture, indigenisation or transference are usual solutions. However, whether the cultural element is transferred or indigenised with Lithuanian ending, its meaning is not explained. At this stage of translation, the strategy of including an explanation helps to convey the target text in a more coherent, understandable and relatable manner for the target audience. A few examples (see Appendix 1 No. 14, 16, 17 and Appendix 2 No. 14, 16, 17) of how inclusion of explanation is applied with some foreign culture elements, are provided: ‘*Bundeswehr*’ is a German term and it is translated through indigenisation and inclusion of the explanation ‘*bundesvero (Vokietijos ginkluotosios pajėgos)*’; ‘*Bundestag*’ is also a German term which is translated through indigenisation and inclusion of the explanation ‘*Bundestagą (Vokietijos parlamento žemieji rūmai)*’; ‘*Isle of Man*’ is translated as ‘*Meno saloje (angl. Isle of Man)*’ or ‘*Château de Kernuz*’ is translated as ‘*Kernuzo dvare (pranc. Château de Kernuz)*’. In both latter examples, an explanation is included to the origin language of the term and its original form.

During the process of translation, a journalist, translator or editor might find a need to explain specific expressions, terms or segments less known for the target culture. New segments of text which were not in the source text are written or translated from different sources for the target culture, with the intention to explain meaning and significance of foreign culture elements. For example (see Appendix 1 No. 2, 5 and Appendix 2 No. 2, 5), the editorial board of *15min* (Lithuanian news provider) felt the need to provide more history about the relationship of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle during the translation of the article about royal wedding and included this segment ‘*Jų meilės istorija 15min primena, kad princo Harry ir Meghan Markle istorija prasidėjo 2016-ųjų liepą – aklą pasimatymą porai suorganizavo bendra draugė. Harry pasakojo, kad vos pamatęs Meghan suprato {...} 2016-ųjų spalį žiniasklaida suuodė apie jų santykius ir visas pasaulis sužinojo, kad princas Harry ir Meghan Markle – pora {...} 2017-ųjų lapkritį šurmūlys dėl galimų sužadėtuvių pasiekė piką.*’. Similar to this situation, when translating the article about the birth of a son for Kate Middleton and Prince William, *15min* editorial board included an explanation about two previous child births in the same hospital for the family ‘*15min primena, kad pirmąjį sūnų hercogienė Catherine taip pat pagimdė pirmadienį, tai buvo 2013-ųjų liepos 22-oji – princas George'as pasaulį išvydo 16.24 val. Tuo tarpu antras hercogienės gimdymas vyko šeštadienį, 2015-ųjų gegužės 2-ąją – princesė Charlotte gimė 8.34 val.*’. In the source article about Russia registering the first vaccine, there was mention of the third stage of trials, however, without specific knowledge people in the target culture do not know the full context. Therefore, an explanation (see Appendix 2 No. 12) of all three stages was included ‘*Klinikiniai tyrimai atliekami po bandymų su gyvūnais ir yra būtini, kad vakcinų prototipas būtų patvirtintas*

reguliuojančių institucijų. Jie paprastai vyksta trimis etapais. Pirmajame, kuriame dalyvauja kelios dešimtys sveikų savanorių {...} trečiame etape tas pats pakartojama su keliolika tūkstančiais žmonių. Eidamos per šiuos etapus nemažai eksperimentinių vakcinų atkrenta.’. Very often in articles of sports news, especially of world-famous athletes, they are called ‘legendary’ or ‘icon’. However, not everyone in the target culture might be familiar with the athlete, especially when there is an issue of different generations. Here are a couple of examples (see Appendix 2 No. 8, 13) where some achievements and credentials were included as explanation: ‘*Greičiausias žmogus planetoje tada buvo 21-erių, kai per olimpinės žaidynes Pekine pagerino sau priklausiusį pasaulio rekordą 100 metrų rungtyje. Nors prie finišo linijos jis jau kėlė rankas aukštyn, tokie judesiai jam nesukliudė užfiksuoti įspūdingą rezultatą – 9,69 sek. Tose žaidynėse U.Boltas triumfavo ir 200 m bėgimo rungtyje, irgi pagerinęs pasaulio rekordą (19,3 sek.).*’ or ‘*M. Tysonas profesionaliame ringe kovėsi 58 kartus ir šventė 50 pergalių (44 – nokautais), patyrė 6 pralaimėjimus. Dar dusyk tenkinosi baigtimi be nugalėtojo.*’. In case of the first example, Usain Bolt was called the fastest man alive, however unfamiliar with his achievements might misunderstand it or think of it as a metaphor. In the second provided example, Mike Tyson was called an icon of boxing throughout the whole article and his credentials are included as an explanation for such a label. These types of textual inclusion are very important not only to introduce different cultural elements but also provide more information among different generation, as the intended demographic target audience of soft news is of various ages.

Generalisation is another translation strategy in the model proposed by Bani (2006). Unlike the previously analysed translation strategy of generalisation, this one will focus only on segments of the text rather than single elements. In other words, previously analysed translation strategy of generalisation (in the model of eight translation strategies) was applied on a word level, however this time the generalisation as the strategy will be analysed at a textual level, impacting translation of different segments of the target texts. Generalisation as the translation strategy has one objective – to neutralise cultural elements and simplify the target text as much as possible within set requirements. The generalisation is usually applied when the target audience is culturally diverse. Therefore, to provide a light activity of soft news reading for everyone in the target audience, the translated article or segment is simplified and neutralised of foreignness, or specific-culture elements. During the analysis of the empirical research, it was found that generalisation on a textual level is the least frequently applied translation strategy with only 14 identified cases of the application.

Generalisation as the translation strategy simplifies the target text as well as neutralises it from various foreign elements. Some examples (see Appendix 1 No. 4, 12, 24 and Appendix 2 No. 4, 12, 24) are provided: ‘*“For the country to watch the government spend tens of billions on this while also hearing them say we all have to tighten our belts, it sends a contradictory message,” said Timothy Kaldas, a nonresident fellow at the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy in Cairo.*’ is translated as ‘*Pati valdžia visuomenei siunčia labai dviprasmišką žinutę – skatina veržtis diržus ir kalba apie taupymą, tačiau tuo pačiu leidžia milijardus dolerių naujo miesto statyboms.*’ in which the quote element is simplified and the text presented in storytelling form by also avoiding the need to indigenise, transfer or culturally substitute foreign elements; ‘*It's a musical adventure that fuses reggae and dancehall with urban Latin music, and includes collaborations with Ziggy Marley and Charly Black.*’ is translated as ‘*Albumė groja ir daug vietinių instrumentalistų.*’. In the latter example all foreign culture elements are omitted and the sentence is simplified, yet it is understandable what ‘vietinių’ means, because the article is about jamaican music. Another interesting example would be generalisation of segment – ‘*From offering a zoo keeper £9K to fight a gorilla, blowing £55m in ONE YEAR, carrying*

a bag of cocaine with a straw 'like a milkshake' and biting a chunk out of Evander Holyfield... This is the crazy life story of Mike Tyson'. After performing the translation and applying the translation strategy of generalisation, this is the result – *'Spalvinga Tysono gyvenimo istorija – nusikaltimai, skandalai ir karaliavimas ringe'*. The journalist or translator avoids transferring foreign elements, and intelligently simplifies the sentence that could attract news readers to follow up the news article.

During the analysis of the data (soft news articles in the source language and their corresponding translations in the target language), an interesting example of generalisation was found. While other applications of generalisation are applied to a segment or a sentence, in this translated article (see Appendix 1 No. 22 and Appendix 2 No. 22) the whole text was generalised. Further, a couple of translated segments from the article are provided as examples. The first example – *'Cancer Research UK has teamed up with the Universities of Cambridge, Manchester, University College London, and Stanford and Oregon in the US, to share ideas, technology and expertise in this area.'* is translated as *'Naujai įkurtoje Tarptautinėje ankstyvosios vėžio diagnostikos sąjungoje dalyvauja šeši Jungtinės Karalystės ir JAV universitetai bei organizacijos.'* Another example from the source text would be – *'Researchers from Manchester, for example, are growing human breast tissue in the lab with synthetic immune cells to see if they can spot the very earliest, subtle changes that could lead to cancer.{...} Together, the scientists are aiming to develop less invasive tests, such as blood, breath and urine tests, for monitoring high-risk patients, improve imaging techniques for detecting cancer early and look for virtually undetectable signs of the disease.'* is translated as *'Mokslininkų komanda augina vėžines ląsteles laboratorijoje, taip pat tikimasi išrasti tokius tyrimus, kurie vėžį aptiktų iš kraujo, šlapimo ar iškvėpiamo oro tyrimo.'* These two examples reflect how the whole article is translated. During the process of translation, it was simplified, all numerical values, foreign cultural elements and even names of researchers were omitted. In addition, a lot of segments were quotes, which during translation were transformed into a simple text (as a storytelling). The motivation for such adaptation of the source article might be the online magazine in which the translation was published. In this case, it was a medical online journal belonging to a hospital (even registration for the visit to doctor was allowed on the same site), which was meant for all age groups and only to provide the essential information rather than who were the researchers and where research was done.

Substitution is the translation strategy on a textual level, which is used for either introducing an element/ a segment of the target culture in the target text or providing more perspectives of different cultures and encouraging cultural diversity. During the analysis of the empirical research on soft news on the Internet, two types of substitutions were found. The first type of substitution related to culture is technical and related to the traditional, linguistic ways of the target language. This type of the substitution may include a conscious choice from a journalist or translator to change the measurement system, form of writing a date or time, which are traditionally usable and relatable to the target culture rather than original elements in the source culture. Another form of the substitution strategy is to change specific-culture related comments or perspectives with the target culture related elements. By applying substitution in such a way, a journalist, translator or editor (in some cases) provides a closer relation to the target culture and in such way makes the article more relevant or significant even if the topic of news is not related to the culture itself. A lot of substitutions of this sort, invite political comments and perspectives of the target culture to change political comments or perspectives of a different culture (comments or perspectives that are provided in the source article of news). During the analysis of soft news, 18 cases of substitution on a textual level were found.

Often during the process of translation, there are some elements (format of date; measurement system, clock system, etc.) that needs to be changed or adapted for the convenience of the target culture. While the untraditional element can still be easily understood, it is simply inconvenient in the target culture. A couple of examples (see Appendix 1 No. 5, 6 and Appendix 2 No. 5, 6) providing change in the clock format from 12-hour system to 24-hour system are provided: ‘11:01 A.M. U.K. time’ is adapted as ‘11.01 avl. (13.01 val. Lietuvos laiku, - red. past.)’ and ‘today at 1:19 a.m. EST (0619 GMT)’ is translated as ‘1 val.19 min. vietos (8 val. 19 min. Lietuvos) laiku’. Another example of substituting technical elements for cultural convenience, is the change of the Imperial measurement system to the metric system. A few examples (see Appendix 1 No. 5, 8, 18, 21 and Appendix 2 5, 8, 18, 21) are provided: ‘8 pounds, 7 ounces’ becomes ‘3 827 g.’; ‘recommended six-foot distance’ is translated as ‘rekomenduojama laikytis 2-3 metrų atstumo’; ‘4bn miles’ becomes ‘6,6 mlrd. kilometrų’; ‘every six miles’ is translated as ‘tad kas 6 kilometrus’. The last example is the mistake of translation. Even though there was an intention of converting miles to kilometers, numerical values were not recalculated, as a mile is not equal to a kilometer. Another case of substitution is the change of convenient date format for the target audience. A British date format is written in an order of day-month-year, while an American date format is written in an order of month-day-year. However, in the culture of Lithuania we are used to the format year-month-date. A few examples (see Appendix 1 No. 14, 21, 23 and Appendix 2 No. 14, 21, 23) of such adaptation are provided: ‘October 8, 1958’ becomes ‘1958 m. spalio 8 d.’; ‘November 17, 1869’ becomes ‘1869 m. Lapkričio 17 d.’ and ‘From January 25 to 31, 2017’ is translated as ‘Tarp 2017 metų sausio 25 ir 31 dienų’. It is important to note that these types of changes in the article were considered a conscious choice of applying the strategy for the whole article. Therefore, adaptations of such type on the translated article were considered as a single case of example for the purpose of the empirical research.

Another type of substitution refers to changing segments of the source text related to different cultures and providing segments of the target text related to the target culture. For example (see Appendix 5 No. 5 and Appendix 2 No. 5), the translated article on the birth of a new British royal family member omits some of the political perspectives and comments from the British politics and substitutes them to politically related comments of the target culture ‘Prezidentė Dalia Grybauskaitė pirmadienį pasveikino Jungtinės Karalystės karalienę Elizabeth II su šeštojo proanūkio gimimu {...} Šio džiugaus įvykio proga prezidentė taip pat pasveikino visus Jungtinės Karalystės žmones ir palinkėjo jiems visokeriopos gerovės bei klestėjimo.’. Another example (see Appendix 1 No. 19 and Appendix 2 No. 19) of substitution could be provided with this segment ‘Britų leidinys „The Guardian“ paskelbė dešimt geriausių ir vertų pamatyti filmų iš posovietinių šalių sąrašą, tarp kurių ir lietuvių režisieriaus Arūno Matelio filmas „Prieš parsikrendant į Žemę“. Šiame sąrašė jis yra tarp tokių filmų kaip rusų režisieriaus Andrejaus Zviagintsevo „Leviatanas“, praėjusiais metais nominuotas „Oskarui“, ar ukrainiečio Sergejaus Loznitsos „Maidanas“.’. In this example, all 10 films named by The Guardian are equal on the scale of importance in the source article, however, during the translation, culturally related film from the Lithuanian director becomes the focus point of the article by just mentioning the other titles. As it was mentioned before, the translation strategy of substitution does not only substitute segments to be culturally relatable for the target audience, but also can introduce different cultures. One example (see Appendix 1 no. 12 and Appendix 2 No. 12) could be an addition of this segment during the translation - ‘„Pacientų saugumas yra svarbiausias prioritetas, – spaudos grupei RND sakė Vokietijos sveikatos apsaugos ministerijos atstovė. – Nėra žinomų duomenų apie rusiškos vakcinės kokybę, veiksmingumą ir saugumą.“’. In the article of the source language, there was no mixing of more cultures while the focus point was on Russian culture and people. This example

provides a quote from the interview with a different source - *RND (RedaktionsNetzwerkDeutschland)* and shows the target culture that the subject of the translated article is relevant and significant in other cultures as well.

To provide more information about the article, in news production as well as translation, **extra-textual elements** are used. The purpose of these elements is to provide some clarifying (or comprehensive) information, to expand the foreign cultural background through visual aid or more context, as well as provide possible motivation or reasoning for certain opinions, if such are expressed by the author of the article.

Subheadings are used for better organisation of the text in the article of either source language or target language. It does not have much of a direct relation to the culture background, however it is a useful tool, implemented in articles of news. In analysing 25 articles of soft news, 33 cases of subheading were found in the source language (English). After the process of translation, this number was reduced to only 15 cases of subheadings in the target language (Lithuanian). While some subheadings introduced contextual clues, others were used in a metaphorical way. After the analysis it became clear that there is no direct relation between subheadings of soft news to the cultural diversity issues. It is also important to mention that most subheadings in the target language were found in articles which also had subheadings in the source language.

Pictures are important visual information, which is used to almost no limitations in online news. It is important to mention that stills of videos and captures of social media comments and images from Twitter or Instagram were considered pictures as well. During the analysis it was found that pictures in online news provide a lot of useful information contextually and culturally. Also, already mentioned captures from social media include not only visual information but also textual information which represent perspectives, opinions and comments of various people (from a casual person to celebrities or politics). During the analysis it was found that articles in the source language (English) had 166 pictures included in them, while translated articles in the target language (Lithuanian) had 360 visual aid elements implemented in them. As numbers dictate, during the process of translation and providing articles to the target audience, the number of pictures greatly increased (more than twice). It is also important to mention that Lithuanian online news have a practise when galleries rather than separate pictures are presented. Therefore, resources are unlimited and space restrictions do not affect the article. For example (Appendix 2 No. 2), articles about royal weddings include a few galleries which provide more than 100 pictures in a single article. It is hard to evaluate every single picture in the gallery as an extra-textual element which affects cultural understanding of a reader. Most of the pictures might seem similar and repetitive. It was noticed during the analysis that some of Lithuanian news providers chose a general picture (Appendix 2 no. 22, 23) loosely related with the subject. For example, in the article about ‘*7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days*’, the translated article posts a picture of a back of a running woman which is clearly not the person which the article is written about. In addition, captures of social media seemed to provide the most cultural clues among all visual aid elements. These captures are frequently used and implemented by most daily news providers in the source language. In the target language (Lithuanian) this practise is also heavily used by such providers as *15min* and *DELFI žinios*. However, some news providers, for example *Lietuvos rytas*, tend to avoid this practise and do not post captures of social media.

Maps are extra-textual elements providing geographical cultural clues. During the analysis, 4 maps were found in the original articles and only 1 in the translated articles of soft news. The map in the

translated article was provided the same as in the original article (see Appendix 1 No. 17 and Appendix 2 No. 17). It was a logical transference of the map as the article itself talks about research of the ancient stone map from the Bronze Age. During the analysis of the empirical research on soft news, extra-textual elements such as glossaries and chronologies were not found.

Subject related bibliography is another extra-textual element. Related bibliography in news articles help to provide additional information on the subject and expand cultural knowledge provided in a piece of news. It is important to note that subject related bibliography in online news is considered section such as 'You might also like this:' or 'Taip pat rekomenduojama:'. For the empirical research, subject related bibliography was counted only in those articles that expanded the analysed article and continued providing information on the subject. Articles which included recommendations based on certain keywords only, were not counted. During the analysis, 5 articles in the source language (English) had subject related bibliography, while in the target language (Lithuanian), subject related bibliography was implemented in 3 articles of soft news. During the analysis of soft news on the Internet, it was noticed that a source article and a target article does not have a direct relation to whether subject related bibliography will be included during the process of translation. In practise of online journalism, this extra-textual element highly depends on news provider's practice as well as the subject of matter, and whether it has more articles written about by the same news provider.

Information about the author of the article is a very useful piece of information when trying to find out the motivation behind the article as well as credibility of it. Information about the author usually includes credentials of the journalist or translator who prepared the article in question. Only 3 of these extra-textual elements were found in articles in the source language (English) and none were found in the target language (Lithuanian). The main reason behind the lack of this extra-textual element is that traditionally information about the author tends to be provided in articles published by journals and magazines. However, this empirical research focused on articles that usually end up being published in the section of daily news of more popular and recognised news providers.

Besides translation strategies, based on contextual elements analysed, all articles of soft news were divided into two groups by which **type of translator** performed the translation. Bani (2006) describes two types of news translators. Loyal translator who has a specific task to adapt the target text during the translation in a special way. The other type is invisible translator, whose main task is to perform an act of translation in as oblique manner as possible.

During the analysis of soft news, 18 out of 25 articles were deemed to be translated by an invisible type of translator. It makes sense that most articles are translated in an oblique manner, as in international news translation (at least traditional news), information from the foreign source should be transferred to the target text without changing facts and information itself. Therefore, oblique translation is the traditional way of translating various international news. On the other hand, 7 articles were found to have different tasks than just providing information and were deemed to be translated by a loyal type of translator. For example (see Appendix 1 No. 22 and Appendix 2 No. 22), the translated article is strongly generalised by omitting all scientific numerical values related to medicine and omitting all researchers named in the source article. Even though the article still transferred the most essential information, it was clearly simplified and adapted for the specific target audience. The translated article was published in the news section of a hospital and was adapted for the target audience of various ages. Another example (see Appendix 1 No. 19 and Appendix 2 No. 19) could be the article which translates information provided by *The Guardian* in which the newspaper

announced 10 best films from post-soviet countries. During the process of translation, the article was totally culturalised or rather domesticated by focusing solely on the film of a Lithuanian director and the fact that it received recognition by British newspaper - *The Guardian*. Other titles that equally shared the recognition in the original article are barely mentioned in the translated version of it.

2.2.2. Analysis of hard news

The following part of the analysis and interpretation of the empirical research results will focus on various examples of translation strategies applied on a word level in hard news translation. The model of eight translation strategies by van Rooyen & Naude (2009) consists of transference, indigenisation, cultural substitution, generalisation, specification, deletion and addition, transposition, translation couplet. The dataset of the analysis consists of 25 articles of hard news in the source language (English) which sum up to 24,644 words and 25 articles of hard news in the target language (Lithuanian) which sum up to 12,993 words. During the analysis of hard news articles in the source language and the corresponding translations in the target language, 1039 cases of applied translation strategies on a **word level** were found. Therefore, this part of analysis and interpretation of the empirical research results will provide various examples and analysis of them.

Transference is the translation strategy involving the process of transferring foreign elements of the source or different language to the translated article in the target language. Some examples may include names and surnames which are not domesticated, abbreviations of foreign organisations, as well as full names of them, phrases and names of social movements which originated in a different culture, etc. The translation strategy of transference is most applied to make a bigger impact or introduce a different culture and show the scale of the term, as well as to deal with untranslatable yet necessary to mention foreign elements. During the analysis of hard news translation, it was found that the transference as the translation strategy was applied in 213 different cases.

Names and surnames are the most frequently transferred element to the target language (Lithuanian). Even though hard news contains less cases of the transference and more importantly, less repetition of the same element throughout a single article, the pattern of names and surnames being the element transferred from the source language (English) to the target language (Lithuanian) the most, remain. Hard news tends to offer more than one perspective, political comments, interviews with related parties, etc. Therefore, examples found in this part of analysis are of a more variety. Further, some examples (see Appendix 3 No. 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 18, 25 and Appendix 4 No. 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 18, 25) of transferring names and surnames from the source language (English) to the target language (Lithuanian) are provided: '*Ellen DeGeneres*'; '*Sophia Huett*'; '*Elizabeth II*'; '*Renato Sergio de Lima*'; '*Amedy Coulibaly*'; '*Liliane Bettencourt*'; '*Julia Hiermann*'; '*Yashoda Bai Yadav*'; '*Radha Aherwar*'; '*Tiina Jauhiainen*'; '*Mary Robinson*', etc. Throughout the translated articles, some inconsistencies were found where once or twice domesticated surnames were transferred on different occasions. Another interesting finding was that unlike in soft news translation, in hard news translation, the full name of an individual was written once or twice at the beginning and continues repeating it throughout the article with only an initial of the name and full surname. The issue (for analysing translation strategies in articles of hard news) is that the most names and surnames are domesticated through the Lithuanian ending added to the name. Therefore, by using only an initial of the name, a translator or journalist avoids the need to think of a right domestication. It is also important to note, just as in provided examples, female names and surnames are more commonly transferred as foreign elements without domestication than male names and surnames.

Of course, some more unique, or rather fewer common cases of the transference were found which are closely related to the subject on which the article is written or translated for. Some of the examples in hard news are social movements or religious phrases related to different cultures. All these international phrases have originated in a different culture and some have become more globally recognised than others. Some of the examples (see Appendix 3 No. 2, 10, 13 and Appendix 4 No. 2, 10, 13) are provided: '*Black Lives Matter*'; '*Je suis Charlie*'; '*Tout ça pour ça*'; '*Allahu Akbar*', etc. The translation strategy of transference very often is applied with the names of organisations. Names of various organisations are very rarely adapted to a different language, therefore, whether it is a totally foreign concept and name or internationally recognised brand, the transference is applied during the process of translation. Even more frequently it involves various abbreviations. Even though some sectors of organisations can be translated, abbreviations usually are recognisable only in the original form. Some of the examples (see Appendix 3 No. 3, 4, 8, 10, 16, 21, 22 and Appendix 4 No. 3, 4, 8, 10, 16, 21, 22) are provided: '*NBA*'; '*Boston Celtics*' is translated as '*Bostono „Celtics”*'; '*Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generacion*' is translated as '*Kartelis „Jalisco Nueva Generacion”*', as well as its abbreviation - '*CJNG*'; '*DEA*' (Drug Enforcement Administration); '*Feuerkrieg Division*' or '*FKD*'; '*Atomwaffen Division*'; '*ADL*' (Anti-Defamation League); '*Al-Qaeda*'; '*SEMA*'; '*Virgin*'; '*Very Good Tour*', etc. Some of the names that can be translated and usually are not written in brackets in Lithuanian language, transfer only abbreviated name while translating the full one.

Many examples of transference found in translated articles, were of the names of various sources and publishers of international news. In most of the cases, these names were used as references of translation sources or as references copied from the source article (which referenced different sources). Here are examples (see Appendix 4 No. 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 21) of some publishers of news which were referenced in the target articles: '*AFP*'; '*CNN*'; '*BBC*'; '*BMFTV*'; '*„La Croix”*'; '*GunPolicy.org*'; '*CNN Business*', etc. Naturally, when translating international news on subjects related to various places of the world, some geographical names that usually do not reach the target culture, can be transferred as well. A couple of examples (see Appendix 3 No. 4, 24 and Appendix 4 No. 4, 24) would be '*Meksikos miestelis Naranjo de Chila*' and '*Ust-Ilimsk mieste*'. On most occasions, references to social media sites (see Appendix 3 No. 3, 17, 24 and Appendix 4 No. 3, 17, 24) are also transferred rather than domesticated: '*Twitter*'; '*Facebook*'. A couple of unique examples (see Appendix 3 No. 6, 3 and Appendix 4 No. 6, 3) of the transference include: '*Viduržemio greitkelyje AP-7*' and '*alma mater*'. The example - '*AP-7*' refers to the name of the specific highway and such foreign elements simply cannot be translated. The only option of avoiding transference is omitting the element from the target text at all. On the other hand, '*alma mater*' is a Latin phrase which refers to an individual who finished education at the specific institution of education and became its *alma mater*. Generally, not only in news translation but rather various genres of translation, latin phrases are not translated.

Indigenisation or as it is frequently called – domestication, transfers the foreign culture element to the target text but in some form (usually, through traditional Lithuanian endings) adapts linguistic rules of the target language and culture. Changing time zone to the one relatable to the target audience, can be considered another form of indigenisation. During the analysis of the empirical research on the hard news translation, 168 cases of applied indigenisation were found. in comparison to soft news translation, not only there were less cases of the translation strategy in hard news translation but also less repetition of the same elements.

The most frequent application of the domestication translation strategy is when translating foreign names and surnames. Various names and surnames as elements dominate most of examples (even more than the transference) in the empirical research. While in many different languages the translation strategy of indigenisation would be less popular, quite complex grammar and linguistic rules of the target language (Lithuanian) forces many changes on names and surnames which are frequent elements in various types of news. During the analysis of hard news, many different examples (see Appendix 3 No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 16, 21, 25 and Appendix 4 No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 16, 21, 25) of domesticated names and surnames were found: Volodymyr Zelenski is translated as '*Volodymyras Zelenskis*'; Ian Hunter is translated as '*Ianas Hunteris (Ijanas Hanteris)*'; Kobe Bryant is translated as '*Kobe Bryantas*'; Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes is translated as '*Nemesio Rubenas Oseguera Cervantesas*'; Saïd and Chérif Kouachi is translated as '*Saidas ir Cherifas Kouachi*'; Samuel Aruwan is translated as '*Samuelis Aruwanas*'; Boris Johnson is translated as '*Borisas Johnsonas*'; Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum is translated as '*Mohammedo bin Rashido al-Maktoumo*'; Mike Cherry is translated as '*Mike'as Cherry*'; '*Herve Jaubert'as*', etc. Unlike, a lot more transferred female names and surnames, it is visually clear that very few examples of domesticated female names and surnames were found in hard news. The same issue was apparent in the analysis of soft news translation as well. The underlying issue seems to be related to linguistic rules and difficulty of domesticating female names and surnames. However, different noun cases except nominative case, do have a couple of examples (see Appendix 3 No. 1, 25 and Appendix 4 No. 1, 25) of indigenising female names and surnames: '*Spokeswoman Yulia Mendel also said*' is translated as '*Pasak Julijos Mendel*' and '*for princess Latifa*' is translated as '*princesei Latifai*'. From the scale of how frequently female names and surnames are transferred rather than indigenised while male names and surnames tend to have traditional Lithuanian endings, require for further research on the matter and addressing the issue.

Naturally, there are more elements that can be indigenised besides names and surnames. It can involve domesticated references to social media (because it is known globally and often used in spoken word (as a slang among younger generations), geographical names, time changes, names of institutions, etc. Further, some examples (see Appendix 3 No. 3, 4, 12, 16, 24 and Appendix 4 No. 3, 4, 12, 16, 24) of indigenisation with different elements are provided: '*Lower Merion School District*' is translated as '*Žemutinio Meriono mokyklos rajono bendruomenės*'; '*The Zetas*' is translated as '*Zetu („Sinaloa” kartelio nariai)*'; '*Twitter*' is translated as '*tviteryje*'; '*Rema Primary School, in the Birnin Gwari*' is translated as '*mokyklos Birnin Gvaryje*'; '*Devon and Cornwall*' is translated as '*Devono ir Cornwall'o grafystėje*'. Various foreign elements with the traditional Lithuanian endings can be considered as an application of indigenisation. Some applications are applied well, while others can only be considered as attempts. Another example (see Appendix 3 No. 13 and Appendix 4 No. 13) of domestication is a change of time zone for the cultural comfort of the target audience - '*at 08:57 local time (07:57 GMT)*' is translated as '*apie 9 val. vietos (10 val. Lietuvos) laiku*'. Surprisingly, it was the only domesticated example of the time found throughout the translated articles of hard news.

Cultural substitution as the translation strategy is often applied to change elements of foreign culture with an already existing equivalents of the target culture and language. In other words, a foreign element which has its own variant in the target language or is recognisable in the target culture by different terms. Elements to which cultural substitution may be applied include technical elements (measurement system or currency used in the target culture), names of globally recognised institutions or organisation and their abbreviations, names of united countries or states, attempts on translating foreign organisations or its sectors, phrases or terms related to social movements, idioms or

expressive phrases (even jargon) which are expressed differently in other culture, etc. During the analysis of hard news, 190 cases of applied cultural substitution were found. The number shows an increase in the usage of cultural substitution in hard news, in comparison to soft news.

Most articles of hard news are politically related, therefore, they offer many different political perspectives from various countries (especially, leading countries). The increased number of applied cultural substitution in hard news translation is a result of repeating names of some unions, organisations uniting countries or even country names themselves. Quite a number of cases of the translation strategy were a repetition of these (see Appendix 3 No. 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, and Appendix 4 No. 2, 3, 5, 8, 12,) translated terms: ‘*Britain*’, ‘*UK*’ or ‘*the United Kingdom*’ are always translated as ‘*Jungtinė Karalystė*’ or ‘*JK*’; ‘*America*’, ‘*US*’ or ‘*the United States*’ (interestingly, full name or the full abbreviation USA have not been used once in the source language) are always translated as ‘*JAV*’ and in one occasion as ‘*Jungtinės Valstijos*’; ‘*the European Union*’ or ‘*EU*’ are translated as ‘*Europos Sąjunga*’ or ‘*ES*’; ‘*the United Nations*’ or ‘*UN*’ are translated as ‘*Jungtinės Tautos*’ or ‘*JT*’; ‘*United Arab Emirates*’ or ‘*UAE*’ are translated as ‘*JAE*’. The often repetition of these culturally substituted terms became the main reason for an increased number of applications of the translation strategy. However, the repetition of these terms shows different cultures, as well as relation of political perspectives and hard news.

When translating articles of news to a different culture, it is unavoidable that some cultural aspects used in daily life will have to be changed for the comfort and understanding of the target audience. Some of these elements include changing a measurement system from the Imperial system to the metric system, changing currency from the source culture to the currency traditionally used in the target culture, etc. Usually, when applying cultural substitution to such elements, recalculation of values is required. A few examples (see Appendix 3 No. 6, 13, 17, and Appendix 4 No. 6, 13, 17,) of cultural substitution are provided: ‘*19 miles*’ becomes ‘*30 km*’; ‘*11 miles*’ becomes ‘*18 km*’; ‘*1,1 million acres*’ becomes ‘*4 500 kvadratinų kilometrų*’; ‘*750 rupees*’ becomes ‘*8,44 euro*’; ‘*price of £25 (\$34) to £50 (\$69) per order*’ becomes ‘*nuo 28 iki 57 eurų už užsakymą*’, etc. Another example is changing time when an element ‘*08:57 local time (07:57 GMT)*’ is translated as ‘*apie 9 val. vietos (10 val. Lietuvos)*’. In both cases (the source language and the target language), local time is provided, however, the element provided in the brackets is different. In the case of source language, the author (a journalist) attempted to globalise the element by providing the time by Greenwich Mean Time zone. On the other hand, in the target text, the element was substituted to provide the time of the country for the target audience to understand it culturally.

Phrases that originate in different cultures and either become a globally recognised term or not, are usually translated or at least attempted to some extent. These phrases, shouts, catchphrases are often associated with political, social, or religious movements. Some of the examples (see Appendix 3 No. 2, 4, 10, 13 and Appendix 4 No. 2, 4, 10, 13) encountered in the analysis of hard news are provided further: ‘*Black Lives Matter*’ is translated as ‘*„Juodųjų gyvybės svarbios“*’; ‘*The Lord of Roosters*’ is translated as ‘*Gaidžių Valdovas*’; ‘*the Prophet Mohammed*’ is translated as ‘*pranašo Mohameto*’; ‘*Tout ça pour ça*’ is translated as ‘*Visa tai už tai*’; ‘*Je suis Charlie*’ is translated as ‘*Aš esu Charlie*’; ‘*Allahu Akbar*’ is translated as ‘*Dievas visų didesnis*’, etc. Very often, various sectors of institutions which are unrelated to a different culture, or some architectural structures are attempted to be translated or already have traditionally used cultural substitution. Some examples (see Appendix 3 No. 1, 4, 8, 11, 13 and Appendix 4 No. 1, 4, 8, 11, 13) are provided: ‘*DEA*’ or ‘*Drug Enforcement Association*’ is translated as ‘*kovos su narkotikais biuras*’ further mentioned only as ‘*Biuras*’; ‘*the*

White House is translated as *'Baltieji rūmai'*; *'ADL'* or *'Anti-Defamation League'* is translated as *'Kovos su šmeižtu lyga'*; *'Cour de Cassation'* is translated as *'kasacinio teismo'*; *'Notre-Dame basilica'* is translated as *'Dievo Motinos bazilikoje'*, etc. Most of these elements are not directly related to the target culture (Lithuanian), however, have an already existing cultural equivalent or encourage a journalist/ translator to attempt to make one.

Cultural substitution does not only apply to titled elements, names or technical aspects, but also can be easily applied within a normal (spoken) language. Therefore, various phrases, idioms or expressive phrases are very often culturally substituted to the phrases or idioms used in a spoken word of the target culture. Following examples (see Appendix 3 No. 4, 18, 21 and Appendix 4 No. 4, 18, 21) show this kind of cultural substitutions: *'The New Chapo'* is translated as *'Nuo vilko prie meškos'*; *'too good to refuse'* is translated as *'kurio būty kvaila atsisakyti'*; *'to get back around the table'* is translated as *'sėsti prie derybų stalo'*; *'teething problems'* is translated as *'pradinės problemos'*, etc. During the analysis of hard news, quite a few terms (see Appendix 3 No. 4, 7, 10 and Appendix 4 No. 4, 7, 10) of casual language which are culturally substituted were found: *'drug lord'* is translated as *'narkotikų baronas'*; *'petrol bombs'* is translated as *'„Molotovo kokteiliai“'*; *'assault rifle AK-47'* is translated as *'automatas „Kalašnikov“'*; *'ball cap'* is translated as *'kepurė su snapeliu'*, etc. These examples are culturally substituted because in the target culture they are known by different terms or do not have a specific term but rather description. For example, *'kepurė su snapeliu'* is used as a term but it is also a description of the item, however in the source language there is a specific term *'ball cap'*. This term originated in America and is closely related to the sport of baseball. In the target culture (Lithuanian), baseball is very unpopular and almost never practiced sport, therefore a unique term to name the item has no relation to baseball.

Generalisation strategy is applied on two different occasions – to simplify (neutralise) cultural elements and expressive language or to describe a list of elements, items, people in a single term or phrase (condensing the target text). During the analysis of hard news translation, only 35 cases of generalisation on a word level being applied, were found. In comparison to the translation of soft news, the number has greatly decreased. One of the main reasons is that characteristically hard news tends to have less expressive language and more oblique translation of the facts, political comments and witness testimonies. Therefore, with less examples of expressive language, there is less need to apply the translation strategy of generalisation.

When talking about generalisation, it is important that some cases of technical elements like measurement systems or currency, might be confused with the translation strategy of cultural substitution. Americans and British, usually use the Imperial measurement system rather than the metric system recognised and used worldwide. For example: miles, feet and inches rather than kilometers, meters, centimeters and millimeters; pounds and ounces rather than kilograms and grams or liters (liquid measurement); Fahrenheit rather than Celsius, etc. Therefore, the motivation behind a choice to modify such an element is important for deciding whether it is the translation strategy of cultural substitution or generalisation. For example (see Appendix 3 No. 17, 21 and Appendix 4 No. 17, 21), *'11 miles'* becomes *'18 km'*; *'150 miles'* becomes *'240 km'* or *'have migrated almost £1.3 trillion (\$1.8 trillion) worth of assets'* is translated as *'perkėlė beveik 1,3 trilijono svarų sterlingų (1,5 eurų) vertės turtą'*, etc. The target language (Lithuanian) is a minor language in comparison to universal languages, therefore the target audience of Lithuania is a lot smaller. Fortunately, in this empirical research it allows to indicate that the applied strategy is cultural substitution. However, if the target language would be a universal language, the change to euros (where most countries in the

European Union use the currency) or the metric system used globally around the world, would give a serious consideration for the motivation behind the change.

Most of the examples of generalisation found in the translation of hard news, neutralise cultural elements or simplify some of a more expressive terminology. Some of the cases (see Appendix 3 No. 2, 7, 18, 20, 21 and Appendix 4 No. 2, 7, 18, 20, 21) simplify the target text: *'deadly stabbing attack'* is translated as *'išpuolis'*; *'a proposal to end the practice of separating gang factions inside Brazil's prisons'* is translated as *'kovos su nusikalstamumu politiką'* to simplify cultural and political background which is unrelated to the target audience and require a specific knowledge on Brazilian political situation; *'both alleged lapses, if proven true'* is translated as *'toks elgesys'*; *'patients hospitalized for Covid-19 still had symptoms 6 months later'* is translated as *'Ilgalaikiai COVID-19 padariniai'*; *'the problem of goods moving between Ireland, which is a member of the European Union, and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, proved the most intractable'* is translated as *'Šiaurės Airijos problema'*, etc. These applications of generalisation have simplified the source text and condensed or omitted foreign culture elements, without changing the factual meaning provided the context to the target audience in a less informative but an easier to understand way. In other cases (see Appendix 3 No. 14, 23, 24 and Appendix 4 No. 14, 23, 24), the translation strategy of generalisation may be applied to neutralise foreign expressive phrases or some elements that may be too gruesome or too visual for the target audience of various ages and backgrounds. For example, *'decapitated'* is translated as *'galimai nužudė'*; *'is diagnosed with leukaemia just three weeks after'* is translated as *'tai buvo tik nelaimių pradžia'* or *'suicide game behind hundreds of Russian teen deaths'* is translated as *'nesveikas „žaidimas“'*, etc. Both soft and hard news are as easily accessible to various age groups of people in the target culture. Even though on some occasions there are warnings and requests to verify the age 'Are you over 18?' because of a more gruesome and serious content of hard news. However, it is unavoidable that some of the younger audience will be reading these articles. Hard news should never be simplified to be appropriate for children, nonetheless, some gruesome elements should be taken into consideration, just like there are no gruesome visual elements (pictures, videos, etc.) in articles of hard news in the target culture.

During the analysis of the translation of hard news, unlike in soft news, only one case of condensing a list of items or elements was found. In the target language it is written as *'G. Naudėdos žinutė nuaidėjo šalia kitų pasaulio valstybių vadovų'* (see Appendix 3 No. 5 and Appendix 4 No. 5). Therefore, *'kitų pasaulio valstybių vadovų'* describes all heads of states named in the source article: King Philippe of Belgium, King Carl Gustaf of Sweden, Taoiseach of Ireland Micheal Martin, Malta's prime minister, Robert Abela, Latvian President Egils Levits. The target text omits names and titles of foreign heads of states and results in a simpler target text as well as more culturally centered (the target culture) context for the target audience.

Specification as the translation strategy on a world level is applied on two different occasions: to specify the fact or to provide expressiveness to a term or phrase. On some occasions, expressive specification may include metaphorical language (idioms used in the target culture). During the analysis of translated articles of hard news, only 26 cases of specification were found. In comparison to the translation of soft news, there has been a decrease in the number of applications in hard news. The main reason being – expressive language is less common element in traditional hard news.

Specification of a fact is often used to provide more accurate and sometimes even updated (since a translated article is published after a source article and more information is available) information.

Further, a few examples (see Appendix 3 No. 11, 13, 16, 22 and Appendix 4 No. 11, 13, 16, 22) of specifying the fact or numerical value are provided: *'they'* in the target article is specified *'N. Sarkozy ir jo advokatas'*; *'2016 July'* in the target article is specified *'2016 metų liepos 14-ąją'*; *'nearly 40 students were kidnapped'* is specified with an updated information *'pagrobė 39 studentus'*; *'the tourist boat'* is specified with an updated information *'26 metų ilgio turistinis laivas „Hableany“'*, etc. Specification of the fact, provide more clarification and often offer updated information. It is especially important when the article of hard news focuses on an ongoing accident or mass scale event which inflicts damages that cannot be calculated immediately. In such cases, many professional news providers keep updating the articles of hard news, even if updates take more than one day to post.

Even though expressive language is less common in hard news, it is still a more frequently applied type of specification throughout articles of hard news in the empirical research. The main objective of the translation strategy of specification (expressive) is to reinforce the language and attract the eye of a reader by providing more impact in a sentence. Some of the examples (see Appendix 3 No. 2, 4, 18 and Appendix 4 No. 2, 4, 18) are provided further. One case of application may be *'called the attack "appalling"'* is translated as *'pasmerkė šį "pasibaisėtiną incidentą"'*. While *'called'* may associate with any emotion, the modification *'pasmerkė'* in the target text immediately shows that the subject of the sentence has only negative emotions and perspective on the subject. Another example in the source language *'The New Chapo'* is translated as *'Nuo vilko prie meškos'*. In the source text, the element has a specific cultural element which may not be understood without knowing the background. On the other hand, the phrase provided in the target text is metaphorical and shows the target audience that after dealing with a 'bad thing' something even worse happened. One more example in the source language may be *'they thought they were being vaccinated. They were part of clinical trials.'* which is translated as *'tapo COVID-19 vakcinų bandomaisiais triušiais'*. While the source text provides quite an understandable process of thoughts, the target text offers an expressive phrase – *'bandomaisiais triušiais'*. In the target culture, the phrase may be associated with more of a negative emotion and show that some people became victims of unfair treatment. As seen in the examples, the objective of an expressive specification is to provide more impact in the translated article while providing culturally understandable elements and not changing the meaning of the source element which is being translated.

Deletion and addition in the model of the analysis is considered a single translation strategy, however, the application of deletion and addition are completely opposite. Deletion as the strategy during the process of translation can be applied to omit foreign culture elements, delete unnecessary for the context facts or in some cases to simplify the text for the target audience. On the other hand, the translation strategy of addition is applied to add more information, mention updated facts, provide references, elaborate on some cultural elements, etc. Just like in the analysis of soft news translation, the translation strategy of deletion and addition is the most frequently applied strategy in hard news translation. In fact, it is even more dominant in translated articles of hard news, with 374 cases of application found. Because deletion and addition has been the most frequently applied translation strategy in both analyses of soft news and hard news translation, it can be stated that deletion and addition is the most popular translation strategy on a word level in news translation (as a whole) from English language to Lithuanian language.

In most cases when deletion is applied to the element of the source text, it is deemed unnecessary or culturally unrelatable and has no equivalent in the target culture. During the analysis of hard news translation, 250 cases of applied deletion were found. The number shows that even if deletion and

addition were considered as separate translation strategies (as they are in different models or genres of translation), deletion would still be the most frequently applied translation strategy in hard news translation (at least based on the results of this empirical research). Since 25 articles in the source language (English) consist of 24,644 words and only 12,993 words are left in the target language (Lithuanian) after the process of translation, it is only natural to expect a lot of cases of deletion. Some of the examples (see Appendix 3 No. 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 and Appendix 4 No. 10, 16, 17, 23, 24) will be provided. For instance, *'the assault on the magazine — which killed several celebrated cartoonists and 12 people in all — as an attack on the French and Western way of life.'* is translated as *'tai buvo išpuolis prieš prancūzišką ir vakarietišką gyvenimo būdą'*. This case shows deletion of the element in which damages (victims) of the attack are mentioned. The beginning of the sentence *'Monday morning, at about 8:50am (07:50 GMT)'* omits the exact time which results in translation *'pirmadienį ryte'*. In another instance, *'There were two reports of burglary in Ridgecrest, police chief Jed McLaughlin said.'* is translated as *'Ridžkreste buvo pranešta apie du įsilaužimo į namus atvejus'*. In the example, the reference to the source of the statement is deleted. Another example, *'Boy, one [...] nearly died from sepsis which he developed from his chickenpox'* is translated as *'Vėjaraupiai vienerių metų berniukui vos nekainavo gyvybės'* and in result omits that sepsis which was a complication from chickenpox is the actual reason. On some occasions, elements are simply deemed as unnecessary or are expected to provide some issues during the translation, therefore, are avoided. The example *'Yulia left a note saying 'End' on her social page [...] Her friend Veronika wrote: 'Sense is lost... End.'* is translated as *'merginos pasirašė savo socialinių tinklų paskyroje'*. During the process of translation, a journalist or translator deemed the quoting of exact social media messages as an unnecessary element and changeable through some generalisation.

Addition as the translation strategy is completely different from the deletion. It includes more additional elements, words, reference or elaborates the information on the subject. During the analysis of hard news translation, 124 cases of applied addition were found. Some of additional elements might be story related, while other elements provide references to the source, clearly showing that the target article is a translation and credit to the source must be given. A few examples (see Appendix 4 No. 12, 17, 20, 24) with added references are provided: *'Remiantis BBC pranešimais'*; *'rašo CNN'*; *'praneša Daily Mail'*; *'rašo laikraštis'*, etc. In other cases (see Appendix 3 No. 10, 25, 16 and Appendix 4 No. 10, 25, 16), the addition is applied to provide more information, context or cultural background. The additional sentence *'Dienraščio „La Croix“ atlikta apklausa parodė, jog 41 proc. prancūzų neberūpi tradicinėje žiniasklaidoje pateikiama informacija'* not only provides more cultural information about France but also shows that different sources were checked and used during the process of translation, which refers to transediting. The element (name and surname) in the source language *'Tiina Jauhiainen'* has a short additional description by adding context to the profession of the individual and nationality in the target language *'kovos menų trenerė suomė Tiina Jauhiainen'*. In some cases, the objective of adding another element or sentence is to provide more foreign cultural context to the target audience. For example, *'coming just days after nearly 40 students were kidnapped by a gang.'* is translated as *'Šis incidentas yra naujausias iš virtinės panašių išpuolių prieš mokyklas Nigerijoje, Vos prieš penkias dienas iš vienos kolegijos Kadūnos valstijoje užpuoliku gauja pagrobė 39 studentus.'* The first sentence of translation is additional, and it briefly informs the target audience that an incident, which would be a rare and scandalous event in many different cultures (including the target culture), is a repeating issue in Nigeria.

Transposition is the translation strategy that reforms the order of words in a sentence (may swap a subject with an object) or changes parts of speech. Most applications of transposition are performed naturally, by following linguistic rules of grammar and syntax of the target language (Lithuanian). Unfortunately, just as it was found during the analysis of the soft news translation, hard news translation does not provide many cases of the transposition as well. During the analysis of translated articles of hard news, only 20 cases of applied transposition were found. Very often, transposition proves that a journalist or translator was given freedom to certain extent in providing the target text, while the lack of transposition shows an oblique translation which in the case of this empirical research provides a lot of foreign structures of sentences.

Most of the examples of transposition found during the analysis of hard news translation, consist of cases when parts of speech are changed during the process of translation. Some of the examples (see Appendix 3 No. 4, 7, 17, 21, 14 and Appendix 4 No. 4, 7, 17, 21, 14) are provided below. For example, the sentence - '*the CJNG, would quickly unleash a new wave of violence on its rivals*' is translated as '*sukūrė savą, smurtu ir žiaurumu pasižymėjusį kartelį*'. In the source language (English) the element '*wave of violence*' is presented as a noun, while in the target language (Lithuanian) the element '*smurtu ir žiaurumu pasižymėjusį*' is considered an adjective that describes the cartel. Another example is the sentence '*Sarkozy, a lawyer by training, claims*' translated as '*Teisės mokslus baigęs N. Sarkozy tvirtina*'. In the source language, '*a lawyer by training*' is presented as a noun and provides a name of profession, while in the target language '*Teisės mokslus baigęs*' is a verb that shows an action which was finished in the past. In the case of the sentence '*The major earthquake was centered*' which provides the verb '*was centered*' becoming the noun '*epicentras*' and resulting in '*Žemės drebėjimo epicentras*' after the translation. One more example could be considered the element '*no checks on goods*' which indicates '*checks*' as plural form of a noun and it is translated as '*gabenamos prekės nebus tikrinamos*' in which '*tikrinamos*' becomes a verb. Of course, besides changing parts of speech, transposition may swap the subject of the sentence with the object of the sentence. For example, '*the assailant was shot by police and later died of his injuries*' is translated as '*Užpuolika policija pašovė ir vėliau jis mirė nuo patirtų sužalojimų*'. In the source language the subject of the sentence is '*the assailant*', while in the target language the subject of the sentence is '*policija*'. Unfortunately, in many cases, due to the lack of transposition and sometimes even among examples of transposition (as in the latest example), structures of sentences seem stylistically incorrect for Lithuanian language. Therefore, it shows the lack of professionalism in linguistic knowledge as well as the fact that translation was not done by a professional translator but rather a journalist.

Translation couplet is the translation strategy which often is a result of combining two different translation strategies for a single element of translation. In other words, a translator or journalist rarely has a translation couplet as a strategy in mind during the process of translation. In the analysis of hard news translation, only 13 different cases of applied translation couplet were found. Based on the results of the empirical research, it is the least frequently applied translation strategy in hard news translation.

Most of the examples of translation couplet in the analysis of hard news, include addition or deletion as one of two translation strategies. The following examples (see Appendix 4 No. 13, 16, 25) show a combination of adding a new surname which was not mentioned in the source text and domesticating it by Lithuanian culture and language: '*Abdullakh Anzorovas*'; '*Umaras Hassanas*' and '*Herve Jaubert'as*'. Of course, there are some more interesting examples (see Appendix 3 No. 4, 8, 22 and Appendix 4 No. 4, 8, 22). For instance, the element '*The New Chapo*' is translated as '*Nuo vilko prie*

meškos' which combines cultural substitution by changing the nickname *El Chapo* into a description of the situation as well as using expressive specification by providing an idiom. In the case of '*Atomwaffen Division* ("*Atomic Weapon Division*" in German)', during the process of translation, the original (German) name is transferred while the English translation is deleted which results in '„*Atomwaffen Division*”'. Another example is the name of the tourist boat '*The Mermaid*' being translated as '„*Hableany*”'. This example is interesting because the source article on which translation is based on, not even once has used the original name of the boat in the Hungarian language. Therefore, the fact that the original name in a different language is provided, shows involvement of a different source at least for information checking. The example combines transference of the foreign element (original name in the Hungarian language) and cultural substitution of an already translated name back to the original one (cultural substitution from English to Hungarian). As '*Hableany*' in the Hungarian language translates as '*mermaid*' in the English language.

Various translation strategies must be applied to the target text on different levels and through various stages of the process. Without modifying the target text to cultural needs, limitations or benefits of the media platform, linguistic rules and genre characteristics, neither journalist nor translator can produce a well-received product among masses of audience. These eight translation strategies in the model of van Rooyen & Naude (2009) allow a professional translator or journalist to apply modifications on a word level, in accordance with all requirements.

The following part of the analysis of hard news translation will focus on providing and analysing various examples of applied translation strategies on a **textual level**, found in the data collected for the empirical research. Just as provided in the methodological research part, the model of translation strategies will include cutting or summary, inclusion of explanation, generalisation and substitution. This model consists of four textual translation strategies proposed by Bani (2006) to deal with cultural diversity during the process of translating news. In addition, findings on extra-textual elements (subheadings, pictures, maps, chronologies, glossaries, subject related bibliography and information about the article's author) will be described and explained from a cultural perspective. All 25 translated articles will be categorised by the type of translator who has performed (loyal and invisible) each translation, based on propositions by Bani (2006). The database consists of 25 articles in the source language (English) which sum up to 24,644 words and 25 translated articles in the target language (Lithuanian) which sum up to 12,993 words. During the analysis of hard news, 164 cases of textual translation strategies were found. These translation strategies are applied with specific tasks to delete or neutralise the foreign culture, to substitute the foreign culture with the target culture or introduce news foreign cultures, which were not provided in the source.

Cutting or summary is the translation strategy dealing with various culture-specific segments of the source text. During the process of translation, segments of the source text that are culturally unrelatable, too informative on a foreign cultural background or simply too hard to understand for the target audience, can be deleted by applying the strategy of cutting or simplified and condensed by applying the strategy of summary. Even though the idea of both translation strategies is to delete foreign cultural backgrounds, they are applied on a different scale. While the cutting deletes the whole culture-specific segment of the source text, the summary deletes only some culture-specific elements to simplify the target text for the target audience. During the analysis of hard news translation, 119 different cases of applying cutting or summary on a textual level were found. Therefore, cutting or summary is the most frequently applied translation strategy to deal with cultural background

transference in hard news translation. The result is not surprising at all, as hard news has a close relation to political perspectives and comments, therefore, during the process of translation not every perspective is deemed as necessary or relatable to the target culture.

The translation strategy of cutting focuses on deleting foreign culture-specific segments of a text which are deemed culturally unnecessary or unrelatable to the target audience and culture. For example (see Appendix 3 No. 5 and Appendix 4 No. 5), one article in the target language completely focuses on the target culture and has only one perspective provided, while other perspectives are deleted. During the mourning of prince Phillip, heads of different states provided sincere condolences, however the target text only focused on the president of the target culture by translating the segment ‘*„Reiškiu nuoširdžiausią užuojautą karalienei Elizabeth II. Šią netekties valandą mano mintys ir maldos - su jumis ir Jungtinės Karalystės žmonėmis”, - BBC cituoja G. Nausėdos žinutę*’. By focusing on a single political person in the target text, a journalist or translator performs multiple cutting cases and deletes condolences from political figures (King Philippe of Belgium, King Carl Gustaf of Sweden, Taoiseach of Ireland Micheál Martin, Malta's prime minister, Robert Abela, Latvian President Egils Levits) from other cultures. In a different example (see Appendix 3 No. 6 and Appendix 4 No. 6), the segment ‘*France Bleu reports that ...*’ is cut out from the target text and opted not to be translated. The article is about the driver which had a dead passenger in the seat next to him. The event happened in Spain quite close to the border of France. Even though *BBC* included the report of the French source *France Bleu*, in the target text it was deemed as unnecessary inclusion of foreign cultural perspective as it did not have any direct relation to the incident. One more example (see Appendix 3 No. 11 and Appendix 4 No. 11) of the cutting is the segment in the source language ‘*The long-running legal travails helped sink his comeback bid {...} Sarkozy has surfed on a wave of popularity since announcing his retirement from politics in 2018, pressing the flesh with enthusiastic crowds at public appearances. Lines of fans queued over the summer to have him sign his latest memoirs, "The Time of Storms", which topped best-seller lists for weeks.*’. During the process of translation, it was deemed as an unnecessary information as the article focuses on the charges of corruption and influence peddling of the former French president. The information about his popularity after the retirement, as well as his memoirs book are deemed unimportant to the context of the target text and culturally unrelatable. Most of the target audience do not know the cultural background behind it and cannot relate, or in some cases even understand the significance of those statements.

Summary as the translation strategy, is used to delete culture specific elements of the source text and condense a segment of the text, while not completely deleting the presented perspective but briefly mentioning the significance and most important aspects of it. Unlike in soft news translation, a lot less examples of the summary in comparison to the cutting were found. One example (see Appendix 3 No. 2 and Appendix 4 No. 2) of summary can be considered ‘*“This was an atrocity,” chief U.K. counter-terrorism officer Neil Basu said. He described {...} added that the attack was not connected to a demonstration by Black Lives Matter {...} is about 40 miles west of London.*’ is summarised as ‘*Anksčiau šiame parke vyko protestas „Black Lives Matter” („Juodųjų gyvybės svarbios”), bet policija sakė, jog nėra jokių požymių, jog abu incidentai yra susiję*’. The result of translation in the target text shows simplification of the reference to the source and deleting culturally unimportant or unnecessary information. Therefore, only the most important statement – that there was no connection between the protest of the social movement and the attack – was mentioned. The segment (see Appendix 3 No. 4 and Appendix 4 No. 4) in the target article ‘*Kai kuriuose rajonuose kartelio nariai*

taiko „Robino Hudo“ taktiką, skirstydami maistą ir kitas atsargas neturtingoms bendruomenėms. Tačiau vos privilegijoti jauni vyrai yra nedelsiant kankinami ir priverčiami tapti žudikais ar smogikais.’ is only a summarised version of the longer text segment in the source language. During the process of translation, only the most important information is mentioned and elements, such as gruesome comments about public execution and beheadings, reference to the source ‘*One former Mexican intelligence official*’ and more detailed process of recruiting to the cartel and torture. Another example (see Appendix 3 No. 13 and Appendix 4 No. 13) is the segment in the target text ‘*Nuo 2015 metų per džihadistų išpuolius Prancūzijos teritorijoje, kuriuos dažnai įvykdo vadinamieji vieniši vilkai, jau žuvo daugiau kaip 250 žmonių*’. This example summarises a few different terror acts in France since 2015. In the source text, the different terror acts (attack on Charlie Hebdo office, suicide bombers in the Bataclan concert hall, a gunman drives a large lorry into a crowd, killing of a priest, attack on police, beheading of Samuel Paty) are named with brief information and in chronological order.

Inclusion of explanation is the translation strategy which is used to include an additional segment in the target text, to provide more information on cultural background related to the subject of the source text. It is only natural that the target audience is not always knowledgeable on various aspects related to different cultures in international news. Therefore, inclusion of explanation is very often applied as a solution for cultural diversity. Even though there are elements or segments of foreign culture transferred through the process of translation in the target text, more information explaining foreign cultural aspects and significance of them are provided for the target audience. During the analysis of hard news translation, 20 different cases of including an explanation on different cultural backgrounds were found. It is important to mention that inclusion of explanation may be based on the knowledge of the article’s author or different sources.

The main objective of the inclusion of explanation, is to introduce the target audience with a foreign cultural background and significance of cultural elements/ segments translated from the source language (English) to the target language (Lithuanian). For example (see Appendix 3 No. 2 and Appendix 4 No. 2), the article in the source language mentions that the stabbing attack related to an act of terrorism is not the first jihadists attack with knife in the last few months. Naturally, without more cultural background on the United Kingdom’s policy towards weapons, the statement does not provide any significance or meaning for the target audience. Therefore, the author of the translated article applies inclusion of explanation by providing an additional segment - ‘*Didžioji dauguma rimtų nusikaltimų Britanijoje įvykdoma panaudojant peilius ir kitus šaltuosius ginklus, nes įstatymai dėl šaunamųjų ginklų įsigijimo yra labai griežti. Gruodį laimėjusi rinkimus, B. Johnsono konservatorių vyriausybė pažadėjo griežtinti baudas už nusikaltimus susijusius su terorizmu.*’ - which explains to the target audience the significance of mentioning another knife attack related to terrorism in recent months as well as provides a little bit of cultural background on political situation in the United Kingdom. Another example (see Appendix 3 No. 7 and Appendix 4 No. 7) would be the inclusion of the segment ‘*Nutarta pakeisti tvarką Brazilijos kalėjimuose. Dabar tos pačios gaujos nariai kalinami greta, atskiriami nuo konkuruojančių nusikaltėlių gaujų nuteistųjų. Galėdami būti šalia vienas kito nusikaltėliai iš tos pačios gaujos ir toliau planuoja ir vykdo savo veiklą kalėjimuose.*’ in the target language. The article in the source language, only provides the statement - ‘*proposal to end the practice of separating gang factions inside Brazil’s prisons*’. Without the additional explanation on the cultural background of Brazilian gang activities or the significance of the practice, the target audience would be left clueless towards the situation of gang violence and what caused it. Another example (see Appendix 3 No. 12 and Appendix 4 No. 12) is the article about the act of terrorism in

Austria. The journalist or translator who performed the translation to the target language, made a choice to include more additional information on political situation in Austria, policy towards guns and even compared the policy with some other countries (basen on different sources). The provided inclusion of explanation looks like this *'gali sukelti daug klausimų apie tai, kaip jiems pavyko šiuos ginklus įsigyti. {...} grupės GunPolicy.org duomenimis, Austrijoje galioja vieni iš lengviausių ginklų įstatymų Europoje. Privatiems asmenims ginklus įsigyti leidžiama dėl įvairių priežasčių {...}'* „Small Arms Survey“ duomenimis, Austrija yra 12 šalis pasaulyje pagal ginkluotumą. {...} Palyginimui, JAV 100-ai gyventojų atitenka 120 ginklų' in the target language. Of course, the inclusion of explanation can be applied on a smaller scale, to explain some foreign culture terms or provide a contextual clue. The segments *'„Zetų („Sinaloa” kartelio narių - red.) labai bijojo”, - sakė B. Bodneris.'* and *'„Jis (užpuolikas) kartojo „Allahu Akbar““* in the target language (see Appendix 4 No. 4, 13) provide inclusion of explanation from an editor or editorial board. In the first example, the target audience is provided with an explanation who *'Zetų'* are, while in the second example an editor or editorial board decided to give a contextual clue for an easier text comprehension.

Generalisation is the translation strategy used for neutralising cultural elements and simplifying the text. Generalisation on a textual level more often can be applied for the target audience with cultural diversity. However, since the target audience and culture of the empirical research is Lithuanian, there is not much of diversity in traditional news from a cultural perspective. During the analysis of hard news, only 4 applications of generalisation on a textual level were found. In comparison to the analysis of soft news, there was an obvious decrease of generalisation on both word and textual levels during the process of translating hard news. During the analysis of hard news translation, tendencies to either transfer text segments related to different cultures or completely omit them (based on their necessity for the context of the article). An oblique translation was performed throughout most of the articles, therefore, no simplification or neutralisation were needed.

The translation strategy of generalisation may be applied for various reasons, such as neutralising foreign elements, simplifying the target text for the diverse target audience, etc. In some cases, there might be more than one motivation for the choice of applying the translation strategy. For example (see Appendix 3 No. 2 and Appendix 4 No. 2), the segment in the source language *'A 25-year-old man from Reading was arrested for suspected murder Saturday night. Reuters reports that the man is Libyan national Khairi Saadallah, citing a Western security source, though the police have not yet confirmed this.'* is simplified by deleting some of foreign elements and condensing the segment in the target language *'Įvykio vietoje buvo areštuotas 25 metų vyras. Žiniasklaidos pranešimuose buvo sakoma, kad jis yra iš Libijos.'* Rather naming different sources of foreign countries, a translator or journalist chose to mention them as reports of foreign press. In addition, it was avoided to accuse the individual named in the source text because as it was stated in the source article itself, police are yet to confirm it. Another example (see Appendix 3 No. 3 and Appendix 4 No. 3) would be the segment *'Sekmadienio vakarą pasaulį sukretė netikėta žinia – Kalifornijoje tragiškai žuvo vienas geriausių visų laikų krepšininkų Kobe Bryantas ir jo trylikametė dukra Gianna. Šios tragiškos naujienos įžiebė reakcijas sporto pasaulyje ir socialinėse medijose.'* in the target language. While the source article provides more information and details on the actual incident, cultural elements are neutralised, and facts are simplified in the target article. The main reason for such a choice, is the direction in which the article was translated. Rather than focusing on the accident itself, the article in the target language focused on the impact this incident had on different people: political figures, TV celebrities, athletes from various sports and even athletes from the target culture, etc. Sometimes, the generalisation is

applied to neutralise foreign cultural elements and omit or simplify facts which would not be familiar or understood to the target audience. For example (see Appendix 3 No. 10 and Appendix 4 No. 10), the segment *'To be sure, there has not been any continuation of the "Je Suis Charlie" spirit — the spirit of common values — of the 3.7 million-strong marches of January 11, 2015. French political life rapidly returned to its ill-tempered normality.'* in the source language is condensed and simplified, resulting in *'„Je suis Charlie“ protestų dvasia Prancūzijoje greitai išblėso, šalis grįžo prie įprasto gyvenimo ritmo.'* after the process of translation. Not only this example neutralises some of the cultural elements but also chooses to omit or simplify some facts which are not written in detail in the source language. Therefore, instead of searching for different sources and including an explanation, the target text provides the generalised segment in the target language.

Substitution on a textual level is a very useful translation strategy for introducing new cultural background, perspectives, political views, etc. The main objective of substitution is to provide a different cultural perspective which was not present in the source article. Nowadays, with all the accessibility of the Internet, it is very easy to achieve. Most articles of international news are covered by various news providers all around the world, with their own cultural perspectives, as well as social media comments that can be related to specific cultures. Therefore, it is a very common practice to introduce different cultural backgrounds and perspectives (especially, from a political point of view) in hard news translation. During the analysis of hard news translation, 21 different cases of substitution were found. Usually, the substitution is applied to introduce the segment related to the target culture. Not only this helps for more cultural comprehension but also feels more familiar and attracts readers from the target culture. It is important to know that different cultural references and perspectives can also be introduced, if the aim of the article is to show global significance and impact by providing more cultural diversity.

Even though a similar number of substitution cases were found through both analyses of soft and hard news, it is important to note that soft news articles provided more technical substitutions, such as a measurement system, date format, currency. On the other hand, due to the relation of hard news and politics, a lot more cases providing cultural perspectives in text segments were included throughout articles of hard news. The example (see Appendix 3 No. 3 and Appendix 4 No. 3) of substitution of the foreign culture segment to the target culture segment is *'Užuojautą reiškė ir Lietuvos krepšinio legendos. Kauno „Žalgirio“ treneris Šarūnas Jasikevičius „Instagram“ rašė nenorintis patikėti tokiomis naujienomis. Taip pat buvęs krepšininkas Rimantas Kaukėnas, Vilniaus „Ryto“ treneris Dainius Adomaitis, Lietuvos rinktinės aukštaūgis Artūras Gudaitis.'* On this occasion, the article is about the death of Kobe Bryant who was the icon of basketball and inspiration to many people worldwide. Rather than focusing on oblique translation and perspectives provided in the source article, a translator or journalist applies multiple substitution strategies and shows an impact on players related to the target culture. It is important to note that together with substitution, extra-textual elements (captures of social media posts) are provided. Another example (see Appendix 3 No. 8 and Appendix 4 No. 8) of cultural substitution is the segment *'Penktadienį pranešta, kad pernai Lietuvoje planuota įvykdyti teroro aktą. Nusikaltimu įtariamąs 1999 metais gimęs lietuvis, kuris priskiria save ultradešiniųjų pažiūrų ekstremistų „Feuerkrieg Division“ (FKD) grupuotei.'* On this occasion, the substitution in the leading sentence is applied for one reason only to relate and attract readers of the target audience. It can be concluded from the fact that even in the target article name of Lithuania or the individual with this nationality was not mentioned again apart from this sentence. The segment *'Pasak LRT Radijo bendradarbės Paryžiuje Godos Klimavičiūtės, nužudytas geografijos ir istorijos*

mokytojas taip pat dėstė pilietiškumą. „Jis turėjo pamoką, kurioje vaikams pasakojo apie žodžio laisvę, rodydamas jiems pranašo Mahometo karikatūras“, – sakė LRT Radijo bendradarbė.’ in the target language (see Appendix 4 No. 14) can be considered another example of substitution. What is interesting about this example is that it represents an inclusion of the original segment by the employee of the news provider in the target culture, despite an oblique translation throughout the rest of the article. Similar example (see Appendix 4 no. 17) can be seen in the sentence ‘*Šias rungtynes stebėjo 15min žurnalistas, jo įspūdžius skaitykite čia.*’ which provides a culturally related perspective to the target audience of the basketball commentator who was commentating the game when it was stopped because of continuous earthquakes in California. Of course, substitution does not have to be necessarily related to the target culture. For example (see Appendix 4 No. 14), the segment ‘*Europos Komisijos pirmininkė Ursula von der Leyen išreiškė užuojautą nužudyto mokytojo šeimai ir Prancūzijos žmonėms. „Taip pat galvoju apie mokytojus, Prancūzijoje ir visoje Europoje. Be jų nėra piliečių. Be jų nėra demokratijos“, – tvityrėje prancūziškai parašė ji.*’ represents an introduction of a different culture which was not mentioned in the source text. Usually, this type of substitution is applied to show the significance or the ongoing issue on a global scale. Therefore, it is no surprise that article related to the act of terrorism in France has many different perspectives from various cultures.

Very often, cultural background or additional context may be represented by **extra-textual elements**. Bani (2006) distinguishes seven extra-textual elements (subheading, pictures, maps, chronologies, glossaries, subject related bibliography, information about the article’s author) which can be used to deal with cultural diversity or help to introduce a foreign culture to the target audience. These elements are not only used to provide additional visual or informative context but also, in the target language addition of extra-textual elements may help the target culture to understand foreign elements better. It encourages better comprehension of the context of international news.

During the analysis of hard news translation, it was found that articles in the source language (English) contained 39 subheadings, while articles in the target language (Lithuanian) contained 36 subheadings. In comparison to the analysis of soft news translation, there is not much difference in the source language, however articles in the target language have seen a big increase. Unfortunately, throughout the analysis there was almost noncultural relation to subheading used in these articles of hard news. Most articles in the target language have better structural organisation, thanks to inclusion of subheadings which indicate a new subtopic, political or cultural perspective, etc. Nonetheless, it is hard to find a relation between any of the subheadings and either source or target culture.

Pictures once again were found as the most cultural background providing an extra-textual element. During the analysis of hard news translation, 132 pictures in the source language and 154 pictures in the target language were found. Just like in the analysis of the translation of soft news, translated articles in the target culture (Lithuania) tend to increase the number of pictures provided for the target culture. It is important to mention that captures of social media posts and video stills were classified as pictures during the analysis. In addition, captures of social media postings were considered as elements that provide comments related to different cultures and provide a lot of cultural perspectives and background. Unfortunately, not all visual elements can be considered helpful during the process of transferring a cultural background during the translation. There were even some examples, when pictures did not match the real subject of the article but rather a general idea of the topic. It was noticed once again that news providers of online news in Lithuania tend to provide galleries with more pictures (providing an option to either see all visual elements or see just one or two without

opening the gallery) to see. Not every single element of visual context should be considered as a helpful tool for cultural diversity, however, the analysis of context of articles showed that among all extra-textual elements analysed, it is the most helpful tool to introduce more cultural context for the target audience.

Maps, chronologies, glossaries and information about the author of the article were not found in translated articles. During the analysis of hard news translation, articles in source language (English) contained nine maps, while in the target language (Lithuanian) none were included as an extra-textual element. Maps are a useful tool for understanding of geographical context, unfortunately during the process of translation, these elements were not transferred for the target audience. A possible reason for that may be the issue of translating on a picture which is a bigger undertaking for a non-professional translator. During the analysis of hard news, articles in source language contained 2 chronologies. These extra-textual elements were converted into text and translated during the process of translation. Even though it is not a common element, there are chronologies used in some international news in the target culture. Unfortunately, selected data did not contain any of them. Glossaries were absent in both - the source language and the target language. As a result, none of glossaries were found in soft and hard news translation. On the other hand, information about the author of the article was found only in one article of soft news. The result was expected and did not surprise as this element is rarely found in hard news and is a common element of tabloids and magazines.

Subject related bibliography has increased in number, in comparison to soft news. During the analysis of hard news, 8 subject related bibliographies were found in the source language and 10 were found in the target language. It is important to mention that subject related bibliography on the platform of online news was considered articles provided in 'Also, we recommend:' or 'You may also like this:'. Characteristically, hard news receives more coverage and often have updated information or continuation to the subject. Therefore, an increase of subject related bibliographies is a result of characteristics of the type of news.

In general, news tends to be translated in an oblique way. However, in some cases there is additional motivation and articles are modified to present a different direction or perspective. Bani (2006) states that there are two different **types of translators** in journalism – invisible and loyal. Invisible type of translator performs an oblique translation with making only essential changes with translation strategies and not modifying the context itself. On the other hand, a loyal type of translator, usually has a different objective from the source material. In other words, not only it applies some translation strategies to change the text but also modifies the context itself, to provide a different perspective from the source article.

Hard news characteristically has more pure facts and provides less freedom for a translator or journalist during the process of translation. Therefore, it is not surprising that most articles in the analysis of hard news translation were determined to be obliquely translated (invisible type of translation). 23 articles of 25, were determined to be translated by an invisible type of translator. In other words, even though many translation strategies to deal with linguistic rules, cultural elements and cultural background were applied on a word, and a textual level, or even new perspectives and different cultural backgrounds were introduced, the translated articles were transferred within the same context and without additional objectives. On the other hand, 2 articles in the target language (see Appendix 3 No. 3, 5 and Appendix 4 No. 3, 5) were determined to be translated by a loyal type

of a translator or journalist. The article written about the death of the icon and inspiration for many – Kobe Bryant – was changed quite a lot. The article in the source language consisted of three parts: incident, history of achievements and personal life, impact on masses of people. On the other hand, the article in the target language very strongly generalised and summarised two parts of the source material and only focused on the impact on people all around the world, including some famous people related to the target culture. Another provided example also was contextually modified. The article in the source language was written about mourning of Prince Philip by various heads of state. On the other hand, the article in the target language put all focus on a single person (Gitanas Nausėda) related to the target culture, while generalising other heads of state and not even mentioning them by names.

2.2.3. Comparison of cultural background transference in soft and hard news translation

The final part of the analysis of the research results will focus on comparing how different translation strategies are applied in soft and hard news translation on a word and textual levels, and how those translation strategies impact transference of cultural background of online news from the source language (English) to the target language (Lithuanian). Each translation strategy, to some extent, deals with cultural aspects, whether transferring the foreign culture elements or deleting them, including explanations about foreign cultural background, or substituting them with equivalents familiar to the target culture, neutralising culture-specific elements or just summarising it to the necessity of mentioning, etc. During the analysis of soft and hard news translation, it was noticed that the amount of applied translation strategies or frequency of them differentiate in two different types of news (soft and hard). The main task of this part of analysis is to compare how each translation strategy is applied in soft and hard news and to compare the impact that each of the strategies, on a word level and textual level, bring to the transference of cultural background.

Translation strategies on a word level are necessary tools for further modification on a textual level. The process of translation must start with small elements to make an impact on a bigger scale. Below (see Table 1), is the table with the head-to-head comparison of how many different cases of translation strategies on a word level were found during the analysis of soft and hard news translation. It is important to note that not all strategies on a word level may be applied because of the cultural diversity.

Table 1. The number of applied translation strategies in soft and hard news translation on a word level

| | Soft news | Hard news |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Transference | 185 cases | 213 cases |
| Indigenisation | 231 cases | 168 cases |
| Cultural substitution | 102 cases | 190 cases |
| Generalisation | 70 cases | 35 cases |
| Specification | 37 cases | 26 cases |
| Deletion and addition | 250 cases | 374 cases |
| Transposition | 16 cases | 20 cases |
| Translation couplet | 23 cases | 13 cases |
| In total: | 914 cases | 1039 cases |

When talking about transference of cultural background, there probably is no better translation strategy on a word level than transference for the very same purpose. The translation strategy helps to transfer foreign culture elements without changing them. The very essence of this translation strategy indicates inclusion of a different culture in the target culture. During both analyses of news translation, there were 185 cases of transference found in translated articles of soft news and 213 cases of transference in translated articles of hard news. Even though the numbers differentiate, in this case it should not be taken as conclusive evidence of different frequencies of applied transference, especially, when considering that translated articles of hard news consist of more words - 12,993, while translated articles of soft news consist of 11,049 words. Within the set parameters of the research, the statement could be made – different types of news do not affect the frequency of the transference translation strategy being applied in translation of online news. However, transferred elements in the target text, are indicators of foreign cultures in which they originate. Usually, transference involves elements like various foreign institutions, abbreviations, names and surnames, some phrases of foreign language (especially, classical languages, such as Latin or Greek), etc. Even though transference of foreign elements is applied on a word level, it is very closely related to the transference of a foreign cultural background, as in most cases it requires further explanation of a cultural background on a textual level.

Indigenisation as the translation strategy on a world level, to some extent can be named in a similar category to the transference. Indigenisation, also known as domestication, includes transference of the foreign culture element but in accordance with linguistic rules of the target language (Lithuanian). During the analysis of soft news translation, 231 cases of indigenisation were found. On the other hand, there was a slight decrease during the analysis of hard news translation, as 168 cases were found. During both analyses, it was noticed that soft news articles in both the source language and the target language put more focus on a single perspective or on a single person, therefore, a constant repetition of the same element being domesticated is unavoidable. On the other hand, articles of hard news provide many different cultural perspectives and political comments related to them, therefore, a variety of examples is bigger, despite less applications of indigenisation. Elements with applied indigenisation strategy, still unmistakably (in most cases) remain indicators of the foreign culture. Even though Lithuanian traditional endings are added to the elements, they keep foreign structures and combinations of letters in the roots of words. Most frequent elements which can be found domesticated during news translation, are names and surnames with some exceptions of social media names (used as a jargon in the target language among the youth) and culture-specific terms. Interestingly, in both translations of soft and hard news the fact that more female names and surnames are transferred while male names and surnames are indigenised became evident. Foreign female surnames, especially when they are written in the same way as male gender, are harder to domesticate. This repeating issue in translation of online news is also an indicator of the lack of experience and professionalism in the process of translation as most of the articles are not translated by professional translators.

Cultural substitution is the translation strategy which changes foreign culture-specific or global terms to equivalents used in the target language. During the analysis of soft news translation, 102 cases of cultural substitution were found. On the other hand, during the analysis of hard news translation even 190 cases of cultural substitution were found. Cultural substitution is a lot more frequently applied in hard news translation. The main reason for such an increase in the number of cultural substitutions, is the relation of hard news and politics. With the involvement of political relations, many global or

culture-specific institutions and abbreviations must be mentioned or referenced to provide and transfer a cultural background to the target language. In addition, soft news tends to focus on a single perspective, while hard news provides comments and relation to many different cultures, societies, communities, etc. Even though a cultural substitution is applied, it does not mean that element does not contribute to the transference of foreign cultural background, as it is still considered and explained as either foreign culture element or a global element involving many diverse cultures. The exception of cultural substitution which does not contribute to the transference of a foreign cultural background, are the examples related to a spoken language. These examples include expressions, metaphors or simple items that are not necessary to mention during the process of translation at all.

Generalisation, on the other hand, is one of the translation strategies that interferes with the transference of a cultural background during the process of translation. The main objective of generalisation is to simplify the target text and neutralise culture-specific elements. In other words, it encourages cultural diversity in the target audience. Since terms related to specific cultures are neutralised, if the target language is understood, the context is easily comprehensible to members of different cultures in the target audience. Generalisation as the translation strategy is more acceptable and frequently used in translation of soft news, which during the analysis provided 70 examples. On the other hand, in the analysis of hard news translation, only 35 cases of generalisation on a word level were found. Based on contexts of articles chosen for the data to be analysed and characteristics of both types of news, A lot more different cultural and political perspectives are provided in hard news. However, despite having more cultural perspectives, as well as different culture-specific elements, the analysis of hard news translation showed two times less cases of applied generalisation. Therefore, it can be assumed that generalisation in hard news translation tend to be avoided as it is more important to provide pure facts and correct quotes or statements from interviews related to different cultural perspectives.

During the analysis of news translation, it was found that specification has no direct relation to the transference of a cultural background. Expressive specification is used to make more impact within storytelling. It reinforces specific elements of the sentence to make it more attractive for the eye of a reader. Unlike most of other translation strategies, specification is very rarely applied on elements with a relation to a specific culture. Even some examples related to the specification of the fact do not add additional value to the transference of a cultural background. Therefore, specification should be considered as the translation strategy to write a more interesting and attractive article for the target audience. During the analysis of soft news translation, 37 cases of specification were found. Hard new translation tends to be a lot more oblique and gives less freedom in the storytelling aspect for a translator or journalist. Therefore, it is no surprise that only 26 cases of specification (to reinforce or express more emotion through certain terms) were found in the analysis of hard news translation.

Deletion and addition were the most frequently applied translation strategies on a word level throughout online news translation. In both analyses of soft and hard news translation, deletion and addition was the most dominant translation strategy in the database of examples. One could argue that deletion and addition as translation strategies are very opposite, hence, they should be separated. During the analysis of soft news translation, 250 cases of the translation strategy were found which consisted of 159 examples of deletion and 91 examples of addition. On the other hand, even 374 cases of deletion and addition were found in hard news translation, and they consisted of 250 examples of deletion and 124 examples of addition. It is evident that deletion is a lot more common than addition throughout translation of online news. The fact that translated articles sum up to almost two times

less words than articles in the source language, should be a good indicator of how dominant deletion may be. Different translation strategies have a few ways to apply and fulfill the purpose, however, the translation strategy of deletion and addition is very universal. Both strategies can be applied in elements of storytelling, numerical values, transference of foreign cultural elements and background, etc. Undoubtedly, it is also the most easily applicable translation strategy in combination with a different translation strategy, forming a translation couplet. Naturally, addition (to add foreign elements, new perspectives or comments from different sources, elements of a different cultural background, explanations, etc.) is a more useful translation strategy for a successful transference of a cultural background. However, the significance and impact of both strategies should not be underestimated. While addition helps to transfer a cultural background, the deletion omits elements and segments related to specific culture and hugely impacts the process of transferring foreign cultural background to the target language. Addition and deletion are also considered very useful tools which add or omit elements on a word level, which in result impacts whole segments and leads to textual translation strategies.

As the translation strategy, transposition is not directly related to the transference of a foreign cultural background. At most, transposition may provide some relation to the target culture but only from the perspective of coherence and text comprehension. During the analysis of translation strategies found in translated articles, 16 cases were found in soft news and 20 cases were found in hard news. Even though the lack of transposition often indicates oblique translation, which is natural for journalism, the Lithuanian language is quite complex. Even with an oblique translation from English language to Lithuanian language, transposition should be applied unconsciously just by following linguistic rules of the target language. It is noticeable throughout different genres of translation. Unfortunately, the lack of transposition in online news translation revealed the fact that not a professional translator or even linguist performed most of the translation. English structures of sentences and some problems with text coherence made that apparent during the analysis.

As it was mentioned during the analysis of various examples, translation couplet should hardly be considered as the separate translation strategy. Even though there are some cases found during the analysis of applied translation strategies in journalism, it is very rarely the case of a conscious choice to apply the translation couplet. During the analysis of soft news translation, 23 cases of translation were found. On the other hand, the analysis of hard news translation provided only 13 cases of translation couplet. The main reason for less combinations of translation strategies in hard news articles in the target language, is decrease in usage of generalisation (which also includes deletion of culture-specific terms) and expressive language which is more often applied through specification in soft news translation.

With the help of translation strategies on a word level whole segments are impacted and as a result, textual translation strategies are applied. While translation strategies on a word level impact how the target audience comprehends the text, the translation strategies on a textual level influence how the whole context of an article can be understood. Below is provided the table (see Table 2) of the head-to-head comparison of how frequently translation strategies on a textual level are applied in soft and hard news translation. The model chosen for analysing translation strategies focuses on dealing with cultural diversity, therefore, all analysed translation strategies on a textual level impact the transference of cultural background from the source language (English) to the target language (Lithuanian).

Table 2. The number of applied translation strategies in soft and hard news translation on a textual level

| | Soft news | Hard news |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cutting or summary | 94 cases | 119 cases |
| Inclusion of explanation | 30 cases | 20 cases |
| Generalisation | 14 cases | 4 cases |
| Substitution | 18 cases | 21 cases |
| In total: | 156 cases | 164 cases |

During the process of professional translation of any genre, a decision to apply textual strategies impacts modifications on a word level. In other words, a translator must know what the final translated product should be like. The target text may be obliquely translated to provide many different cultural perspectives and background of foreign countries and politics; it may be simplified by neutralising most of cultural elements and providing the target text for a culturally diverse target audience; simplifying or summarising foreign cultures while reinforcing a relation and focusing solely on the segments and elements of the target culture. During the empirical research, cutting or summary was the most frequently applied translation strategy on a textual level in online (both – soft and hard) news translation. 94 different cases of cutting or summary were found in the analysis of soft news translation. On the other hand, hard news translation included 119 different examples of cutting or summary. In some cases, or different translation models, cutting or summary could be separated into two different translation strategies as their function slightly differs. The translation strategy of cutting, which was the more frequent application of the two, completely omits culture-specific segments which are not directly related to the context of an article or deemed as unnecessary to transfer for the target audience. The translation strategy of summary deletes some culture-specific elements and simplifies the target text. To some extent a foreign cultural background is still transferred to the target language. During the analysis, it was noticed that the summary is more often applied in translation of soft news which relates to ‘infotainment’. On the other hand, with only a handful of summary examples, the translation strategy of cutting was the most dominant one in translation of hard news. As it was established already, a translator or journalist tends to avoid expressive language, neutralisation of culture-specific elements and segments or simplification of the target text in hard news translation. Transference of pure facts, comments and political perspectives is one of characteristics that distinguishes hard news from ‘infotainment’ (soft news). Considering the amount of applied cutting or summary cases throughout the empirical research and their scale, it is quite easy to determine that it is the most impactful translation strategy for the cultural background transference during the translation. Unfortunately, the impact on a transference of the cultural background transference is not always from a positive perspective. Cutting or summary as the translation strategy is applied to minimize foreign cultural background and its elements when they are deemed as unnecessary or have no direct relation and impact to the event which is covered in an article of news.

Unlike cutting or summary, the translation strategy of including an explanation related to the foreign cultural background, positively affects and enforces transfer of foreign culture elements and segments in the target text. In most cases, when foreign culture elements are deemed unnecessary for the target audience, it is due the lack of relation and understanding in the target culture. The translation strategy of including an explanation, not only helps to transfer foreign elements to the target language but also provides an explanation (of political perspectives, laws, cultural traditions, social movements, events,

etc.), to introduce the target audience or at least provide them with enough knowledge to understanding the meaning and significance of foreign cultural background. During the analysis of soft news translation, 30 different cases including an explanation were found. In the analysis of hard news translation, the number slightly decreased to 20 different cases found. The only possible reason which may indicate the decrease in number, is oblique translation which provides less freedom for a translator or journalist. Of course, it is very dependent on the subjects on which articles are written. The inclusion of explanation was the second most frequently applied translation strategy in online news translation. It is the only translation strategy in the model dealing with cultural diversity on a textual level, which encourages transference of a foreign cultural backgrounds to the target language.

The translation strategy of generalisation was the least frequently applied translation strategy throughout both analyses of soft and hard news translation. Translated articles of soft news contained 14 different cases of generalised segments or the whole target article, while translated articles of hard news contained only 4 different cases of generalisation. The results show that generalisation in soft news is more frequently applied than generalisation in hard news. The main reason for generalisation being the least applied translation strategy in online news translation is the genre itself. In general, news translation is invisible (oblique) with exceptions when a specific task is given for a translator. The translation strategy of generalisation neutralises many cultural elements of any culture involved in an article or a segment. Therefore, on most occasions, the translation strategy of generalisation is avoided as it shows clear neutralisation of international elements and simplification of the target text. It is important to mention that most of the articles with segments of generalisation in them, were determined to be not oblique but rather seeking to achieve a different objective of text modification and presentation for the target culture. The generalisation not only brings a negative impact for transference of foreign cultural background but also, neutralises even the target culture which could create a relation between the target audience and the subject matter of an article.

When talking about the positive impact on transference of foreign cultural background, the translation strategy of substitution is not the one to apply. The main purpose of the substitution is to change elements, political comments, interviews, perspectives, etc. of foreign cultures and omit them while including segments related to the subject matter of an article and the target culture. Examples of the substitution may be very simple. For example, it may be a substitution of comments of a foreign political figure on events which are related to them, into comments from a political figure which is indirectly related to the subject matter but is recognisable and familiar to the target audience. During the analysis of soft news, 18 cases of substitution were found. On the other hand, in the analysis of hard news, 21 cases of substitution were found. Even though the amount of found translation strategies in both types of online news is quite similar, the scale of application differentiates. Translated articles of soft news included a lot of cases when a decision to substitute technical elements used in the target culture (currency, format of date, metric system). On the other hand, substitution applied in hard news translation involved a lot more segments of text, related to Lithuanian culture. Unfortunately, like most textual translation strategies in the model, substitution has a big but also negative impact on cultural transference of a foreign culture. To apply the substitution, one segment of text related to foreign cultural background must be omitted, while a segment of text related to the target culture by using different sources or social media is included. Therefore, it does not help to transfer foreign cultural background but rather focuses on promotion of the target culture, by showing significance and creating the feeling among the target audience that the target culture is relevant even in the events that directly affect a different culture or cultures.

In addition to textual translation strategies on a word and textual levels, analysis also included extra-textual elements which could (if properly applied) help with transferring some cultural background and introducing it to the target audience. Unfortunately, the only useful extra-textual elements which helped with the transference of a foreign cultural background were pictures. Articles in the target language include a lot more pictures than articles in the source language. Pictures found throughout the whole article have a huge impact on the transference of cultural background, as they provide visual context which is not familiar or can be traditionally found in the target culture. Hypothetically, extra-textual elements, such as maps and chronologies, should also be useful tools for providing more cultural context from the source. Unfortunately, with quite a few examples found in articles in the source language, none of them were transferred during the process of translation and provided in articles in the target language. Subject related bibliography is another interesting extra-textual element which has a lot of potential in introduction and transference of foreign cultures, as it expands the knowledge and culturally related information already received from the article to even more subject related material.

In relation to textual translation strategies proposed by Bani (2006), translated articles were also determined to be translated by either a loyal or invisible translator. As Bani (2006) defines the differences between both types of translation, invisible translation (an oblique translation) focus on transferring foreign cultural background without making too many contextual changes, while a loyal translation modifies the direction of the context in accordance with a specific task given to a translator by the editorial board. Even though international news translation throughout different media platforms is known to practice an invisible type of translation, some cases of a loyal type of translation were found. During the analysis of soft news translation, it was determined by the direction of translation and context of translated articles resulting from it, 18 articles were translated in an oblique manner (invisible type of translator) and 7 articles were translated by a loyal (changing the context and cultural background of the article) type of translator. On most occasions, loyal translator of online news articles has more freedom for expression and contextual changes given from the editorial board. On the other hand, in the analysis of hard news translation, most articles – 23 – were translated in an oblique manner and 2 articles have been contextually changed. It was noticed that in both types of news (soft and hard) articles determined to be translated by a loyal translator or journalist, had been strongly generalised or focused on the target culture while omitting or condensing (summarising or generalising) perspectives from different cultures. In other words, articles translated by a loyal type of translator lacked the transference of foreign culture, despite being international news. On the other hand, all articles translated in an oblique manner (invisible translator) had a considerable amount of foreign cultural background transferred to the target language (Lithuanian).

Translation strategies on both word and textual levels are very important part of translation process and transference of cultural background in international news. To understand what translation strategies on a word level should be applied, a decision on a textual level must be made on specific direction of the translation. The same applies for textual level translation strategies which will not be possible without modifications on a word level. Translation strategies on both levels are very important and complement each other, as both levels must be carefully considered during the process of translation. Unfortunately, during the analysis of online news translation, despite many translation strategies being applied, the lack of linguistic adaptation to Lithuanian grammar and syntax rules, as well as transference of foreign structure sentences, also show the lack of involvement of professional translators or language specialists in translation of Lithuanian international news online.

Discussion

The aim of the research is to analyse soft and hard news translation from the perspective of cultural background transference. The development of new media platforms encouraged a bigger volume of translation in journalism, which received a lot of attention in translation studies.

Bani (2006) analysed translation of news from English to Italian language in magazine – *Internazionale* – which only publishes translated news. Bani (2006) distinguishes the process of news translation into three stages: manipulation of the text by editorial board, textual translation strategies (cutting or summarizing, including explanations, generalization, substitution) and providing extra-textual elements for additional cultural context. The results of research are very similar to findings of the thesis. Even though, news must be comprehensible and a light activity for the target audience, it must keep the respect for the directly related source culture. Textual translation strategies allow to achieve comprehensibility and transference of foreign cultural background when it is needed, depending on translation of characteristically different types of news.

Lu & Chen (2011) analysed soft news translation from English to Chinese language in transedited news. During the analysis, Lu & Chen (2011) tried to analyse soft news translation through perspectives of translation-oriented functions and engagement of the target audience. It was found that interactions and function of the article remains the same on most occasions, which indicates transference of foreign cultural elements and background. This thesis did not analyse the level of engagement in the Lithuanian target audience, but it analysed objectives of translation achieved through textual translation strategies which were expressed by different type of translator performing the translation. In most cases, translated soft news had a lot of foreign cultural background, however, when different objective (function) of the target text was identified, the foreign culture elements were neutralised, and the context focused on the relation to the target culture.

Hao (2017) analysed the significance of inter-cultural translation in hard news from English to Chinese language. Hao (2017) considered lexical and grammatical features, as well as cultural factors that become an issue for a translator during the process of hard news translation. Hao (2017) applied five translation strategies (literal translation, free translation, literal translation plus explanation, transliteration, transliteration plus explanation). Hao (2017) stresses the importance of translator's inter-cultural knowledge because characteristically hard news has many different cultural elements and the need of their transference in the context of the target article. This thesis also found that most articles of hard news contained a big portion of transference of foreign culture.

Sharifabad, Yaqubi & Sepora (2013) analyses translation of news headlines from English to Persian language by applying the theory of Domestication and Foreignisation in translation of phrasal verbs. Most of analysed items apply domestication rather than foreignization. According to the authors, foreignisation which transfer cultural elements and background is avoided in Persian language as it might confuse a reader. Unfortunately, the authors do not differentiate between different types of news which require different approaches. The results regarding transference of cultural background in English-Persian news translation seems opposite to English-Lithuanian translation.

Various decisions made by a translator or editorial board, regarding translation of news, are connected and influence each other. An invisible type of translator performs and oblique translation which always results in transference of foreign cultural background. A loyal type of translator focuses on different function which, usually minimalises the transference of foreign cultural background.

Conclusions

1. Different characteristics and perception by the target audience in soft and hard news requires different approaches in journalism (including translation of source articles). In translation of hard news, a journalist or translator encounters many different cultural elements, perspectives or political agendas which are directly related to the context and must be dealt with accordingly by applying translation strategies. On the other hand, soft news tends to focus on a single cultural perspective and has less varying cultural elements to be adapted for the target culture. Urgency and the need for more information in hard news translation requires to apply translation strategies that will help to transfer foreign cultural background to the target language. The objective of providing an 'infotainment' in soft news translation, allows to apply translation strategies with more freedom, which in result can negate or change the cultural context itself.
2. Transfer of a foreign cultural background is a very important yet in practice, sometimes seems to be an optional task in translation of international news. Most articles in both types of news tend to be translated obliquely, which results in a lot of transference of cultural background. However, soft news focus on two aspects of information and entertainment, therefore, provide more freedom for textual modifications which in result can minimise the transference of cultural background. On the other hand, translation of hard news focus only on providing the information despite its consequences on emotional state of people. An invisible translation which provides all cultural elements and political perspectives of foreign affairs, is expected to be found in translated articles of hard news. Theoretically, international news must have transference of cultural background to stay within the norms of international news. However, already existing empirical research shows that soft news translation can be adapted differently, by focusing on the target culture.
3. During the empirical research, it was found that deletion and addition is the most frequently applied (the number of cases is a lot higher in hard news) translation strategy in news translation on a word level. A lot more varying examples of cultural substitution were found in hard news translation. It was noticed that a lot more male names and surnames were indigenised, while most of female names and surnames were transferred (harder to indigenise). In addition, a lot of English sentence structures were found which indicated the lack of transposition. These findings led to believe, that translation of online news in Lithuania are mostly performed by non-professional translators or even language specialists. On a textual level, the translation strategy of cutting or summary of cultural perspectives and segments was by far the most applied modification. Generalisation was the least used translation strategy on a textual level. It was noticed that in soft news translation, substitution of culture was more applied to technical elements (timezone, currency, measurement system), while in hard news it presented more cultural perspectives related to people of interest in the target culture.
4. In the empirical research, the transference of cultural background was analysed through textual translation strategies for cultural diversity and reinforced by translation strategies on a word level. Analysing these applications allowed to determine which type of translator (invisible or loyal) translated articles to the target language. Based on the number of applications and the scale, it can be determined that cutting or summary was the most impactful (minimising) translation strategy for the transference of cultural background. As it was expected from the theoretical overview, most of articles in hard news were translated by an invisible (oblique) type of translator and indicated a lot of transference of cultural background. Even 7 articles of 25 in soft news translation were translated by a loyal type of translator, which identified the lack or absence of foreign cultural background because of generalisation or a focus on the target culture.

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Appendices

Appendix 1. Articles of 'soft' news in the source language (English)

1) Joachim Löw is already learning Spanish

The future of Joachim Löw remains unknown. The only thing the German coach made clear was that he will leave the Mannschaft after the European Championship in summer and that he would like to continue practicing his profession in the future. Everything indicates that Löw, after taking a break after a total of 15 years in command of the German team, take over a club and the first clue indicates that it could be a Spanish team.

As published by the German newspaper Bild in its online version, Löw would have started giving Spanish classes in private. It is an open secret that LaLiga causes attraction to a coach who came to sound for Real Madrid on several occasions and that, for nothing, he plans to put an end to his career on the bench. As soon as they won the World Cup in 2014, Real Madrid became interested in Löw, but his contract with the Mannschaft prevented him from considering such an option.

Things change in summer, when Löw wants to take a few weeks off and then decide what to do in the future. In an interview with the Bayern1 radio station, Löw explained that he intends to learn the Spanish language "for real" and, also, it seems to be clear who is the favorite to inherit his position in the Mannschaft. "Hansi Flick provides optimal conditions", he concluded.

Source: 21-03-2021, *Sportsfinding* (<https://sportsfinding.com>)

2) Royal wedding 2018: Prince Harry and Meghan married at Windsor

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have become husband and wife in a moving ceremony at Windsor Castle.

An emotional-looking prince and his smiling bride exchanged vows and rings before the Queen and 600 guests at St George's Chapel.

Ms Markle, wearing a white boat-neck dress by British designer Clare Waight Keller, was walked down the aisle by Prince Charles.

At the altar, Prince Harry told her: "You look amazing."

After the service the couple - who will now be known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex - kissed in front of cheering well-wishers on the steps of the chapel.

Thousands of members of the public turned out in bright sunshine to see them driven around Windsor in a horse-drawn carriage.

Later, Prince Harry drove the couple to their reception in a 1968 silver blue Jaguar that has been converted to run on electric power, with a registration plate that referenced the date - E190518.

Guests at the wedding included Oprah Winfrey, George and Amal Clooney, David and Victoria Beckham and Sir Elton John, who later performed at the wedding reception.

Ms Markle's sculpted dress was designed by Ms Waight Keller for French fashion house Givenchy.

Most striking was a diamond bandeau tiara, loaned to her by the Queen, and a trailing five-metre silk veil embroidered with the flowers of each country in the Commonwealth.

Prince Harry, 33, and his brother and best man, the Duke of Cambridge, wore the frockcoat uniform of the Blues and Royals.

He was given special permission from the Queen to keep his short beard as it is customary to be clean-shaven when dressed in Army uniform.

Their 10 young bridesmaids and pageboys - including Prince George and Princess Charlotte - rose to the occasion.

However, the excitement became too much for one of the younger ones who started crying just before Ms Markle, 36, entered the chapel.

Prince Charles walked Ms Markle down the aisle, after her father, Thomas, was unable to attend for health reasons.

Mr Markle, 73, reportedly watched the ceremony from California. He told the US celebrity website, TMZ: "My baby looks beautiful and she looks very happy."

Ms Markle's mother, Doria Ragland, stayed with her daughter overnight before accompanying her to the chapel.

Dressed in a pale green Oscar de la Renta dress, with a neat hat, an emotional-looking Ms Ragland sat alone on the bride's side of the chapel for some time.

As the witnesses were called to sign the register, Ms Ragland appeared to accept an outstretched hand from Prince Charles with some relief.

In her vows, Ms Markle did not promise to "obey" her husband, while the prince has broken with royal tradition by choosing to wear a wedding ring.

Prince Harry's ring is a platinum band with a textured finish and Ms Markle's has been made from a piece of Welsh gold.

'Power in love'

The wedding service combined British tradition with modernity and the bride's African-American heritage.

The Most Rev Bishop Michael Curry, the president of the US Episcopal Church, gave an address, the Rt Rev David Conner, Dean of Windsor, conducted the service and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, officiated.

"There's power, power in love," said Bishop Curry, who was invited to speak by Ms Markle.

"If you don't believe me think about a time when you first fell in love. The whole world seemed to centre around you and your beloved."

In a fiery, passionate speech, he also referenced the African-American spiritual song Down by the Riverside, which was sung by slaves, and when he realised he had gone on too long, he told his audience he had better wrap up as "we gotta get you all married!"

Speaking afterwards, Bishop Curry said it was "a joyful thing" to see diversity in the ceremony, adding: "That happened today, in different ways, different songs, different perspectives, different worlds and all of it came together and gave God thanks."

Lady Jane Fellowes, the sister of Prince Harry's late mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, gave a reading from the Song of Solomon.

Karen Gibson and The Kingdom Choir performed Ben E King's soul classic Stand By Me during the service.

As the bride and groom signed the register, 19-year-old cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason - who won the 2016 BBC's Young Musician - performed three pieces by Faure, Schubert and Maria Theresia von Paradis.

He was accompanied by musicians from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the English Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonia.

The gospel choir also performed Etta James' uplifting version of Amen/This Little Light of Mine as the newlyweds left the chapel.

After the service, the duke and duchess travelled through Windsor along a route lined by tens of thousands of well-wishers.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead said more than 100,000 people visited the town on Saturday.

Source: 19-05-2018, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com/news/uk>)

3) Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez break up, call off two-year engagement

They'll be J-Rod no more.

Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez have broken up, Page Six has exclusively learned.

The stunning split comes after the superstar couple twice postponed their wedding — and after rumors surfaced that the former Yankees third baseman had been playing the field with a young reality star.

Neither of the celebs would comment Friday. But the 45-year-old A-Rod hinted at the break-up on Instagram, as he posted a shot of himself alone on a yacht in Miami, grimacing and staring at his cellphone.

"Don't mind me, just taking a sail-fie... What are your plans for the weekend?" he joked in the Friday post.

Lopez, 51, meanwhile, was on location in the Caribbean Friday shooting her latest film, “Shotgun Wedding.”

“He’s now in Miami getting ready for baseball season, and she’s filming her movie in the Dominican Republic,” a source told Page Six.

J.Lo, also alluded on social media Friday to something happening in her life, as she posted a series of old clips of herself laughing in various TV appearances.

“Find a good reason to laugh today... Sending everyone love,” she captioned the montage.

The stars, who have been dating for roughly four years, announced their engagement in 2019.

But they then postponed their wedding twice, blaming it on the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We had to cancel the wedding ... because of COVID, because of the quarantine,” Lopez said in December. “And we actually did it twice, which people don’t know.”

It’s unclear when the trouble in paradise for the engaged couple began, but the split comes on the heels of rumors that Rodriguez had been FaceTiming with “Southern Charm” star Madison LeCroy.

Sources close to A-Rod, however, shot down the rumors to The Post last month.

“He doesn’t know this woman,” a source said.

LeCroy, however, admitted the couple have “spoken on the phone,” but have “never met up.”

“That’s the truth,” she told Page Six, adding they’ve “never been physical ... never had any kind of anything. Just an acquaintance.”

Lopez and Rodriguez then put on a united front amid the scandal, heading out to dinner in Miami and attending the Super Bowl together, where J.Lo had performed at the halftime show a year earlier.

In a recent interview, Lopez revealed that she and Rodriguez saw a therapist during their time in quarantine.

“I think it was really helpful for us in our relationship,” Lopez said.

But apparently it wasn’t enough to keep them together in the end.

About putting off their wedding, Lopez said “there’s no rush.”

“It’ll happen when the time is right. I feel like it’s not a huge priority to go and have a big wedding right now, that’s not what life is about,” she said.

A-Rod joked on “The Tonight Show” in April: “Some people said, maybe we have a drive-thru wedding? It’ll be cheaper.”

Lopez has 12-year-old twins with ex-husband Marc Anthony, while Rodriguez is the dad of two daughters with ex Cynthia Scurtis.

While the couple weren’t married, they did have a penchant for snapping up property, and going into business together.

They reportedly purchased a \$40 million waterfront home on Star Island in Florida last summer, and had already flipped a Miami home with help from Chip and Joanna Gaines. They also bought and sold a Manhattan penthouse.

Last summer, the Hollywood star and the baseball legend tried unsuccessfully to buy the Mets together, but lost a bidding war to billionaire Steve Cohen. They're also both backers of fitness brand TruFusion.

Lopez's latest film also stars Josh Duhamel, who took over his role in the film when Armie Hammer exited. She also recently launched her JLo Beauty line.

A-Rod, who works for both ESPN and Fox Sports as a broadcaster, recently filed to raise \$500 million in an IPO, with hedge fund Antara Capital, for a special purpose acquisition company called Slam Corp.

Source: 12-03-2021, *Page Six* (<https://pagesix.com>)

4) Maluma's Mystery Baby Is Actually a Surprise Visual Album

The Colombian artist's teasing Instagrams were actually about his latest project, 7 Days in Jamaica.

Maluma is a master at creating suspense on social media before he releases a new project. The Colombian singer and actor had fans intrigued when he posted photos of himself hugging a woman whose bare stomach had the message "#7DJ" written on it. Some followers thought Maluma could be expecting a baby with a mystery love, but on Thursday, he cleared it all up: the baby is an album, and #7DJ stands for 7 Days in Jamaica, its title.

He had many followers on Instagram calling him "Papa Juancho" and begging to know more details about the baby's sex and the identity of the mystery woman. "Maluma baby — literally," one joked. The singer explained everything in an Instagram Live on Thursday, which also happened to be his 27th birthday.

The project, out now on Apple Music, consists of seven interconnected songs and videos which take fans on an audiovisual journey as Maluma explores the heart of Jamaica. It's a musical adventure that fuses reggae and dancehall with urban Latin music, and includes collaborations with Ziggy Marley and Charly Black.

The short film, comprised of seven interconnected music videos, was shot in Jamaica and Los Angeles and was produced by 36 Grados.

Last year, the singer and some of his friends took a week-long trip to Jamaica that he described as life-changing. "Those seven days in Jamaica came at a time when I needed to escape and decompress, as I had intently worked nonstop on my career for seven years and I was questioning if I should even continue doing music," he said in a press release about the new album. "I did a lot of soul-searching there and came back a different person, completely inspired and having realized that music is not just what I do, it's part of who I am, how I experience and interpret life."

Source: 28-01-2021, *People en Espanol* (<https://peopleenespanol.com>)

5) Kate Middleton and Prince William Have Welcomed Their Third Child

Prince George and Princess Charlotte have a new younger sibling, as their mother, the Duchess of Cambridge, has now given birth to a baby boy. The name of the third child has not yet been announced (oddsmakers had Alice and Philip as the favorites prior to the arrival). The youngster is fifth in line to the throne, behind grandfather Prince Charles, father Prince William, 4-year-old brother George, and 2-year-old sister Charlotte. (With the birth of the child, Prince Harry is now bumped from fifth to sixth in line.)

The baby was born at 11:01 A.M. U.K. time, in the Lindo Wing of St. Mary's Hospital in London. He weighs 8 pounds, 7 ounces. (George weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces when he was born; Charlotte was 8 pounds, 3 ounces.) According to the Palace the medical staff on hand included Dr. Guy Thorpe-Beeston, Dr. Sunit Godambe, the Queen's surgeon gynecologist, Alan Farthing, and the queen's physician and "head of the medical household" Professor Huw Thomas.

"The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Harry and members of both families have been informed and are delighted with the news," the Palace said in a statement. And Prince William was present for the birth, according to the palace.

The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Harry and members of both families have been informed and are delighted with the news.

According to sources, Kate is hoping to leave the hospital as long as there are no complications. It hasn't been confirmed by Kensington Palace yet, but Kate left the same day she gave birth to Princess Charlotte. Her personal assistant and stylist, Natasha Archer, was seen at the hospital earlier in the day, possibly having taken the duchess her going-home outfit.

Kate went into labor in the middle of the night, according to sources. The couple had staff in place so that their other children's routine was unchanged. Charlotte is understood to be at home at Kensington Palace, while George is at school and will finish at 3 P.M. this afternoon. There is speculation that William will collect the children and take them to the hospital later Monday afternoon so that they can be the first to see their new baby brother.

As is tradition, the framed notice of the birth is on display on a ceremonial easel on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. The framed bulletin was brought out of the Privy Purse Door and carried across the forecourt to be placed on the easel.

There had been speculation that Kate might consider a home birth for her third child, but as *Vanity Fair* reported in March, opted to return to the Lindo Wing: "The room is all booked, the team are ready and everyone is just waiting for the baby to come," a source said at the time. "They have had two very positive experiences at the Lindo Wing, so it's the No. 1 choice. She knows the team and she feels like she's in very safe hands."

Kate made her last official public appearance before her maternity leave on March 22, when she and William went to watch a wheelchair basketball game in Olympic Park. She also stepped out with William and most of the royal family for Easter services a few days later.

The birth comes less than a month before Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding, which takes place on May 19; Kate is expected to attend the wedding, to be held at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, though she won't have a formal role in the ceremony. It is unclear if the new, youngest member of the royal family, however, will be present for the festivities.

Source: 23-04-2018, *Vanity Fair* (<https://vanityfair.com>)

6) SpaceX launches 60 Starlink satellites on record-setting used rocket, nails landing

This Falcon 9 first stage last flew just 27 days ago.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX launched 60 more Starlink internet satellites to orbit this morning (Feb. 4) on a mission that notched a booster-reusability milestone for the company.

A two-stage Falcon 9 rocket topped with the 60 broadband spacecraft lifted off from Space Launch Complex 40 here at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station today at 1:19 a.m. EST (0619 GMT).

Approximately nine minutes later, the rocket's first stage returned to Earth, landing smoothly on one of SpaceX's drone ships in the Atlantic Ocean. The massive ship, "Of Course I Still Love You," is one of two SpaceX vessels that catch falling boosters and return them to port.

It was the fifth launch for this Falcon 9 first stage, which last flew just 27 days ago — the quickest turnaround between missions for any SpaceX booster. Today's launch was also the first of two nearly back-to-back Starlink liftoffs; another 60 satellites are scheduled to take flight early Friday morning (Feb. 5) on a different Falcon 9.

Today's launch, dubbed Starlink 18, leapfrogged that coming flight, known as Starlink 17. Starlink 17 was supposed to get off the ground on Monday (Feb. 1) but was delayed due to poor weather in the recovery zone and the need for extra pre-flight checks.

For a while, it looked like Starlink 17 would fly this morning as well. The Eastern Range, which oversees all launches from the U.S. East Coast, granted SpaceX approval to launch Starlink 17 today from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, next door to Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, less than five hours after Starlink 18 took flight.

If that had happened, it would have been the first time since 1966 that two orbital missions had launched from the Eastern Range on the same day, officials with the 45th Space Wing said via Twitter yesterday (Feb. 3). On Nov. 11, 1966, a Gemini rocket and an Atlas Agena launched just 99 minutes apart.

This short turnaround time between Falcon 9 launches can happen because SpaceX operates from two different launch pads here in Florida and also because the Space Force has streamlined launch procedures. Such streamlining is possible partly because all Falcon 9 rockets are equipped with an

automatic flight termination system (FTS), which reduces the amount of staff needed on console for any launch.

The FTS is a safety feature that will destroy a rocket in a controlled manner if something goes wrong during flight. Falcon 9 is currently the only American rocket that packs an automated FTS — meaning the rocket's onboard computer can detect if there's something wrong and, if so, either shut down the rocket's engines before liftoff or destroy the vehicle in flight.

Other rockets rely on humans to make that call, but as a requirement set by the Space Wing, all future launchers (Blue Origin's New Glenn and United Launch Alliance's Vulcan Centaur, for example) will also have this key feature.

Double the launches

With today's successful launch, SpaceX has now deposited more than 1,000 Starlink satellites into orbit. And there are more launches coming; SpaceX's initial Starlink constellation will consist of 1,440 satellites, and there could eventually be tens of thousands of spacecraft in the network.

Starlink 17, the other part of the doubleheader, was originally set to blast off Monday (Feb. 1). It was initially pushed 24 hours to allow for improved weather conditions at the recovery zone, then delayed several more times, causing it to switch places with Starlink 18. SpaceX relies heavily on its fleet of reused rockets, so the company wants to make sure that its recovery efforts are successful.

Starlink 17 will mark just the second time that one of the company's Falcon 9 first stages has flown eight times. The booster, known by the designation B1049, launched a Telstar communications satellite in September 2018, lofted an Iridium NEXT satellite in January 2019, and then flew five different Starlink missions.

A record launch

The Falcon 9 first stage for Starlink 18, booster B1060, set a new record today for the fastest turnaround time between flights: B1060 just ferried the Turksat 5A satellite into space for Turkey on Jan. 7. Before that, it had launched a GPS III satellite for the U.S. Space Force and lofted two other Starlink batches as well.

Today's launch was the fourth of 2021 for SpaceX and the 17th overall Starlink mission. It was also the 107th flight overall for the workhorse Falcon 9, as well as the 73rd successful rocket landing for the company.

SpaceX flew a record 26 missions in 2020, with 22 of them on refurbished rockets.

The current Falcon 9 iteration, which entered service in 2018, features the ability to fly multiple times with few refurbishments in between. That's thanks to a series of upgrades — including a more robust thermal protection system, titanium grid fins and a more durable interstage — that facilitate reuse.

As such, SpaceX has relied heavily on its fleet of veteran rockets, having now reflown a total of 53 first-stage boosters since the first one landed on terra firma at Cape Canaveral in December 2015.

SpaceX has its two drone-ship landing platforms — "Of Course I Still Love You" and "Just Read the Instructions" — in Florida, allowing it to launch (and land) more rockets. Both massive ships are stationed out at their respective recovery zones, awaiting action.

"Of Course I Still Love You" was recently refurbished following a busy 2020. It did its rocket-catching job today, and "Just Read the Instructions" will be called into action on Friday.

Falling fairings

SpaceX also has two fast net-equipped boats designed to recover falling payload fairings, the protective nose cones that surround satellites during launch. Both of these boats — GO Ms. Tree and GO Ms. Chief — have been deployed for action. They had been hanging out in the Port at Morehead City, North Carolina, until weather conditions improved and SpaceX could launch the Starlink 18 mission.

For most of the week, the seas in the recovery zone were too rough for the boats, but that cleared up today and the company could recover all of its hardware safely.

GO Ms. Tree and GO Ms. Chief will likely scoop both fairing pieces — SpaceX fairings come back to Earth in two halves — out of the ocean for future reuse. Both fairing halves on this mission have been used before.

Source: 04-02-2021, *space.com* (<https://space.com>)

7) Mick Schumacher to race for Haas in 2021 as famous surname returns to grid

The Schumacher name will make a racing return to Formula 1 in 2021, after Haas signed Mick Schumacher - son of seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher - on a multi-year deal.

Schumacher, 21, currently leads the Formula 2 title race by 14 points with one round remaining, in what is his second season in the series, winning twice among 10 podiums.

The Ferrari junior will link up with fellow F2 racer Nikita Mazepin in an all-new line-up for the American outfit, with the duo replacing Romain Grosjean and Kevin Magnussen.

"I'm very pleased that we're able to confirm Mick Schumacher in our driver line-up for next season and I look forward to welcoming him into the team," said Haas Team Principal Guenther Steiner.

"The Formula 2 Championship has long served as a proving ground for talent to showcase their credentials and this year's field has undoubtedly been one of the most competitive in recent seasons. Mick has won races, collected podiums and excelled against some pretty exceptional talent in 2020.

Mick Schumacher: F1 has 'always been part of me'

"I firmly believe he's earned the opportunity to graduate into Formula 1 based on his performances. We have an opportunity ahead of us, as a team, to evaluate and nurture a new driver given our familiarity with our race package heading into 2021.

“We are putting in place our building blocks for the continued long-term growth of the team and I look forward to Mick’s contributions both on and off the track in that process.”

Ahead of his racing debut with Haas in 2021, Schumacher will begin his preparations with an FP1 session with the team at the season finale in Abu Dhabi, followed by some tuning in the end-of-season test at the same track.

The prospect of being on the Formula 1 grid next year makes me incredibly happy and I’m simply speechless - Mick Schumacher

He arrives in F1 having won the Formula 3 European Championship in 2018, clocking up eight victories, before joining the Ferrari Academy a year later and making his debut in F2.

“The prospect of being on the Formula 1 grid next year makes me incredibly happy and I’m simply speechless,” said Schumacher.

“I would like to thank Haas F1 Team, Scuderia Ferrari and the Ferrari Driver Academy for placing their trust in me. I also want to acknowledge and extend my love to my parents – I know that I owe them everything.

“I have always believed that I would realise my dream of Formula 1. A huge thank you must also go to all the great motorsport fans out there who have supported me throughout my career. I will give it my all, as I always do, and I look forward to going on this journey together with Haas F1 and them.”

Mick will be the third member of the Schumacher family to race in F1, with Uncle Ralf - Michael's brother - having started 180 races between 1997 and 2007, winning six of them. Michael is second on the all-time list for wins behind Lewis Hamilton, with 91.

Source: 02-12-2020, *Formula 1* (<https://formula1.com>)

8) Usain Bolt has the best ‘social distancing’ photo

Eight-time Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt is encouraging people to social distance by showing off how he’s been practicing the cautionary act since the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Bolt took to Twitter Sunday to wish his followers a Happy Easter and remind everyone to practice social distancing, a tactic the government has suggested to combat spreading the coronavirus.

The Jamaican world record holder lightheartedly included a photo of him crossing the finish line way ahead of his opponents at, what looks to be, the government-recommended six-foot distance people should keep from each other during these unprecedented times.

Source: 13-04-2020, *New York Post* (<https://nypost.com>)

9) Kylie Jenner gives birth to a baby girl

Kylie Jenner is officially a mom.

The 20-year-old reality star gave birth to her first child, a baby girl, on Thursday, according to messages that she shared on her social media accounts Sunday.

She also posted a YouTube video in a subsequent tweet showing the baby at the end with stats including that she was born at 4:43 p.m. and weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces.

In scenes leading up to the baby's arrival, the parents-to-be, family and friends were shown at what appears to be a baby shower and at milestones along the way such as the 15-week ultrasound. Kylie's diet was a big part of the video story, as she ordered a well-done double cheeseburger and fries at a drive-through; at another gathering, she showed off a plate of two burgers, "one for me and one for baby."

Her mother, Kris Jenner, also shared the video in a tweet on Sunday about her joy over the new arrival to the family. "God is SO good!! I am so excited and thrilled to welcome another precious baby girl to our beautiful, ever growing family."

The father is Kylie's boyfriend Travis Scott, 25. Jenner began dating the Houston-born rapper last April.

Jenner grew up in front of the world on her family's E! reality show, *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*. The social-media maven has since spun off her own reality program, *Life of Kylie*, and a multimillion-dollar cosmetics business.

The youngest of the Kardashian clan kept exceptionally quiet about her pregnancy, never formally confirming she was expecting and keeping photos of herself off her Twitter and Instagram accounts until Sunday.

The Kardashian-Jenner family is in the middle of a baby boom. Khloe Kardashian, 33, recently confirmed her first pregnancy, and Kim Kardashian, 37, recently welcomed her third child with husband Kanye West via surrogate.

Source: 04-02-2018, *USA Today* (<https://eu.usatoday.com>)

10) Oscars 2019: Kevin Hart quits as host amid tweets row

US comedian and actor Kevin Hart says he has stepped down from hosting the 2019 Oscars following a controversy over homophobic tweets.

He said he did not want to be a distraction and that he was "sorry he had hurt people".

The choice of Hart for host was only announced on Tuesday.

But tweets from a decade ago emerged of anti-gay slurs, sparking calls for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to drop him.

Kevin Hart had said hosting the Oscars was "a goal on my list for a long time".

But in a tweet late on Thursday he said he had chosen to step down "because I do not want to be a distraction on a night that should be celebrated by so many amazing talented artists".

He said: "I sincerely apologise to the LGBTQ community for my insensitive words of the past."

Comments Hart made during a comedy routine in 2010 have been put under the spotlight in recent days.

"One of my biggest fears is my son growing up and being gay. That's a fear," he told the audience.

"Keep in mind, I'm not homophobic, I have nothing against gay people, be happy. Do what you want to do.

"But me, being a heterosexual male, if I can prevent my son from being gay, I will."

In 2015, by which time his profile had risen significantly, Hart addressed the stand-up routine in question in an interview with Rolling Stone.

"I wouldn't tell that joke today, because when I said it, the times weren't as sensitive as they are now," he said.

"I think we love to make big deals out of things that aren't necessarily big deals, because we can."

'Negative energy'

When he revealed he would be the Oscars host earlier this week, Hart said it was the "opportunity of a lifetime for me as a comedian" and that his mother was "smiling from ear to ear right now".

Earlier on Thursday it had appeared he would try to ride out the storm.

In an Instagram post he spoke out against the "negative energy" of the criticism, saying people should "stop searching for reasons to be angry."

He said he was almost 40 years old and was "in love with the man I'm becoming".

In a later video, he said he had been called by the Academy and asked to apologise or another host would be found.

"I chose to pass. I passed on the apology," he said, repeating his assertion that the issue of the tweets had been addressed in the past.

He appeared to later change his mind and issue an apology as he stood down.

Parks and Recreation actor Billy Eichner welcomed the news on Twitter.

"As one of very few openly gay men in comedy who's fortunate enough to work as much as I do, I will always fight for my LGBTQ community to get the respect we deserve," he said.

But others online expressed disappointment about Hart stepping down, including former Golden Globes host Ricky Gervais.

Who might take over?

Actress Busy Philipps wasted no time in suggesting she should host the ceremony instead.

Failing that, she said, any female host would be preferable.

But potential new hosts may be reluctant to take on the job.

The role has thrown up problems for a number of past hosts and the Hollywood Reporter has called it "the least wanted job in Hollywood".

This latest controversy comes after a difficult few years for the Academy that have seen Envelopegate, the OscarsSoWhite campaign and the scrapping of a proposed popular film award category.

The Oscars will take place in Los Angeles on 24 February 2019.

Source: 07-12-2018, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com>)

11) Covid-19: Japanese city cancels torch relay 100 days before Olympics

A western Japanese city cancelled the Tokyo Olympics torch relay over spiking coronavirus cases on Wednesday, the second area to scrap the event as the clock ticks down to the postponed Games.

The decision comes 100 days before the 2020 Olympics begin and accompanies fresh concerns about the viability of the event, with virus cases surging in Japan and abroad.

"We will cancel the torch relay in Matsuyama city. We will hold the celebration for the arrival of the flame in a way that will not involve ordinary spectators," said Tokihiro Nakamura, governor of Ehime prefecture.

Emergency medical services in the region are "under extreme pressure" as Covid-19 cases rise, Nakamura said.

He said the decision has been accepted by the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, which did not immediately comment.

The torch relay kicked off on March 25 in Fukushima and was supposed to go through Matsuyama - the hometown of golf hero Hideki Matsuyama -- on April 21.

It was barred from public roads in the Osaka region this week, with torchbearers instead running in a closed park in front of a limited number of family and friends.

The ongoing pandemic is playing havoc with preparations for the Olympics and fuelling uncertainty about whether the huge event can, or should, take place.

Source: 14-04-2021, *France 24* (<https://france24.com>)

12) As Russia announces world's first Covid vaccine, WHO says discussing prequalification

Moments after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the registration of the country's first coronavirus vaccine, also touted as world's first such vaccine against the virus, the World Health Organisation and Russian health authorities are now discussing the process for possible WHO prequalification for Covid-19 vaccine, a WHO spokesman said on Tuesday.

"We are in close contact with Russian health authorities and discussions are ongoing with respect to possible WHO prequalification of the vaccine, but again prequalification of any vaccine includes the rigorous review and assessment of all required safety and efficacy data," WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told a U.N. briefing in Geneva, referring to clinical trials, according to Reuters.

Russia's first coronavirus vaccine is developed jointly by Gamaleya Research Institute and the Russian Defence Ministry.

Clinical trials of the vaccine began on June 18 and included 38 volunteers. All of the participants developed immunity. The first group was discharged on July 15 and the second group on July 20.

Putin's announcement for a Covid-19 vaccine came in the wake of the novel coronavirus pandemic that has infected more than 20 million people and killed nearly 750,000 worldwide, thus, crippling world economies.

The president asked Health Minister Mikhail Murashko to keep him informed about the Covid-19 vaccine, while at the same time noting that he knows "it works quite effectively" and "forms a stable immunity", according to Russian news agencies.

"This morning, for the first time in the world, a vaccine against the new coronavirus was registered" in Russia, Putin said during a televised video conference call with government ministers, as per news agency AFP.

Putin further thanked everyone who worked on the vaccine's development and described it as "a very important step for the world". He hopes the country's research body will soon start mass production of coronavirus vaccine.

"I know that it works quite effectively, forms strong immunity, and I repeat, it has passed all the needed checks," said Putin.

He emphasized that the vaccine underwent the necessary tests. He added that one of his two daughters has received a shot of the vaccine and is feeling well, according to Associated Press reports.

However, the vaccine's registration is conditional and trials will continue while production gets underway, said Murashko.

Murashko also added that the first Russian vaccine against the coronavirus will begin to be produced at two sites - the Gamaleya Research Institute and the company Binnopharm.

"The two-stage injection plan helps form a lasting immunity. The experience with vector vaccines and two-stage scheme shows that immunity lasts for up to two years", the Health Ministry said, as reported by Sputnik News.

Meanwhile, WHO had earlier said all vaccine candidates should go through full stages of testing before being rolled out.

More than 100 possible vaccines are being developed around the world to try to stop the pandemic. At least four are in final Phase III human trials, according to WHO data.

Companies including AstraZeneca Plc and Moderna Inc. are still conducting final-stage trials of their vaccines in studies that are expected to soon yield results.

Source: 11-08-2020, *Mint* (<https://livemint.com>)

13) From offering a zoo keeper £9K to fight a gorilla, blowing £55m in ONE YEAR, carrying a bag of cocaine with a straw 'like a milkshake' and biting a chunk out of Evander Holyfield... This is the crazy life story of Mike Tyson

Mike Tyson, where to begin?

There's the time he chewed off a bit of Evander Holyfield's ear and got a Maori face tattoo on a whim, and then there's the time he was filmed wrestling his Bengal tiger in a tennis court.

There's stories of how he kicked promoter Don King in the head while he was driving, offered a zoo keeper £9,000 to let him fight a silverback gorilla and blew a fortune to the tune of £55million in one year.

There's been drug addictions, prison sentences, brutal knockouts, Hollywood movie appearances and an ongoing fight with mental illness.

Tyson's life, it's fair to say, has been more turbulent than most.

It was boxing that made Tyson a household name but that part of his life is only an episode in his story; You don't get a Wikipedia page as long as his for just being good at fighting.

Tyson retired 15 years ago and yet his name has never truly faded from consciousness.

Still, even now he's a pretty big deal. In a business where putting bums on seats is the game, Tyson was always a master.

Boxing has had charismatic champions, eloquent trash talkers and intimidating brutes before but no fighter has ever held intrigue like Tyson did.

He was like a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma, and that was part of the charm.

But there was a good reason he was known as the 'Baddest Man on the Planet'. Tyson had an unruly penchant for violence and was a volatile soul who fell prey to temptations.

Inside the ring he achieved greatness, becoming the youngest ever heavyweight champion at 20, and the first man to hold the WBC, WBA and IBF belts, but it was also in the confinements of the same four corners that he experienced some of the lowest points of his life.

While outside he was often writing his own headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Few, if any, have scaled comparable heights from such depths and then plummeted back down again like Tyson.

And perhaps no one can define Tyson's life better than the man himself: 'Came, saw, conquered, got conquered, bounced back.'

Tyson's journey began on the gun-and-drug-addled streets of Brownsville, Brooklyn.

In his autobiography, *Undisputed Truth*, Tyson relived tales of chasing a rival gang with an M1 rifle at 10 years old, living in a house with no heating or water and being relentlessly bullied by older kids.

He remembered the toxic environment in which he grew up in, being evicted from a house almost every week, and witnessing his mother Lorna and her boyfriend Eddie constantly fight.

He even recalled a time when his mother heated up water in a pan until it was boiling and threw it over her boyfriend after one particular argument.

In his book Tyson wrote: 'That is the kind of life I grew up in. People in love cracking their heads and bleeding like dogs. They love each other but they're stabbing each other. That's why I was so sexually dysfunctional.'

Tyson was already involved in crime by the time he was seven after being introduced to it by a man called Barkin.

Barkin and his friends were slightly older than Tyson and had ordered him to look after their pigeons, who they were intending to race around Brooklyn.

'It was like a sport,' Tyson wrote in his autobiography. 'I loved working with the birds up on the top of abandoned buildings. It was fun and felt like this is what I should be doing.'

Tyson eventually joined a gang called the Rutland Road Crew where he continued to steal, smoke marijuana and keep pigeons.

By this point, he was yet to discover his ability to fight. One day a guy by the name of Gary Flowers found out that Tyson kept his own birds and decapitated one with his bare hands in front of him.

Tyson was urged by his friends to fight and floored Gary with a wild hook. Everyone from his neighborhood witnessed Tyson's 'moment of glory' and it earned him a newfound respect in Brooklyn.

After that day, Tyson would start fighting older kids, sometimes men for money, and began exacting revenge on those who had bullied him in earlier years.

Mike Tyson the fighter was born.

Tyson was sent to juvenile prison, having been arrested more than 30 times for petty crimes by the time he was 13.

Bobby Stewart, a juvenile detention centre counselor and former boxer, discovered Tyson's huge potential when he worked with him on a boxing programme at Tryon School for Boys in New York.

It was there that he first learned his craft before Stewart called boxing Svengali Cus D'Amato to tell him about Tyson.

Tyson was a teenager when he first met Cus in 1979.

D'Amato, who had handled the careers of Floyd Patterson and Jose Torres, was in his 70s at this point but was an astute trainer and remoulded the delinquent Tyson into a man.

D'Amato trained Tyson to harness the power of fear and mind at the Catskill Boxing Gym and developed his Peekaboo fighting style with the help of his protege Kevin Rooney and Teddy Atlas.

The experienced trainer would later guide him to gold medals at the 1981 and 1982 Junior Olympic Games but his influence on Tyson extended far beyond the boxing ring.

In his autobiography, Tyson wrote: 'Cus wanted the meanest fighter that God ever created, someone who would scare the life out of people before they even entered the ring. He trained me to be totally ferocious in the ring and out.'

Cus later adopted Tyson following the death of his mother.

He had taken this kid from the ghetto under his wing and trained him to be a champion, but died a year before the ambition was realised.

It is an understood and accepted narrative that it was after D'Amato's death that Tyson began to go off the rails.

Until 1990, Tyson was an unbeatable monster, destroying everything in his path.

He was the unified world heavyweight champion, had won all 37 of his professional fights with a knockout ratio of 89 per cent and was the biggest star in the sport.

But underneath the surface was a troubled man struggling to control his drug addiction and depression.

James Buster Douglas was supposed to be a knock-over job, but he would prove to be the man who would bring his era as an indomitable warrior to a sudden halt.

Tyson arrived for their fight in Japan overweight and without his long-term coach Rooney, who he had sacked.

Douglas went into the ring a 42/1 outsider and left a world champion in one of the sport's most shocking upsets after leaving the Invincible Man sprawled across the floor after 10 rounds.

The monster was well and truly slain.

Tyson later revealed he spent much of the build-up to the fight partying and having sex with geisha girls while his wife went out.

After that, victories and defeats in the ring became almost irrelevant in the chaos and swirling mania that encircled and consumed Tyson.

Just two years after his defeat by Douglas, Tyson was sentenced to six years in prison for the rape of Desiree Washington.

After being paroled, Tyson made his comeback in Las Vegas against Peter McNeeley in 1995.

More than 1.5million purchased the fight, grossing \$63m for PPV television, a United States record at the time - proving the fascination with Tyson was still very much alive.

By this point Tyson's titanic cocaine habit was out of control. In his autobiography, he confessed to wandering round with a big bag of cocaine and 'a straw coming out of it like it was a milkshake'.

He recaptured the heavyweight title in 1996 but tasted defeat again for the second time in his professional career at the end of the same year, being stopped by Evander Holyfield.

In the rematch seven months later, Tyson lasted just three rounds and was disqualified for biting Holyfield's ear twice.

After the fight was called off, Tyson attempted to charge towards Holyfield and swung punches in the direction of anyone trying to stop him.

'It was like a Dracula bite. I have never seen anything like this in boxing,' a stunned commentator said in reaction. 'Just an awful display by Tyson. Mike Tyson has apparently lost his reason, his rationale. He seems possessed right now. He cannot be brought under control.'

'I am starting to believe more and more that Mike Tyson is a confused individual,' one of the co-commentators added.

In 1999 Tyson was sent to prison again for punching a 62-year-old man in the face during an assault of two motorists in a road-rage attack.

Tyson would not fight for the world title again until 2002. This time his opponent was Lennox Lewis.

There was bad blood between the two heavyweights and it came to a head at the pre-fight press conference when Tyson ran over to Lewis and tried to punch him before a brawl erupted on stage.

A reporter shouted that Tyson should be put in a straitjacket and the American retorted: 'I'll f*** you in your ass in front of everybody. I'll f*** you until you love me - faggot!'

Lewis would dominate Tyson over eight rounds before knocking him out to retain his title.

Tyson won his next fight but then lost successively by knockout to Danny Williams and Kevin McBride before retiring in 2005: Tyson the fighter was spent... as was all of his money.

He left the sport in financial turmoil after burning his way through an unbelievable fortune and racked up huge amounts of debt.

Two years before his final fight, Tyson was declared bankrupt.

Tyson claimed that Don King had stolen \$100m from him while promoting him after he was released from prison in 1995 but dropped his lawsuit in exchange for a settlement fee of \$14m.

In 2003, he had taken a private jet to Florida to make amends with King and spent the entire journey doing drugs.

Tyson went into a rage and attacked King during negotiations over a \$20m deal for him to promote the heavyweight again.

He said about the incident: 'Don picked us up at the private airport in his Rolls Royce. We were driving down to Miami from Fort Lauderdale on the I-95. Don said some innocuous thing and all that jealousy and rage spilled out of me and I kicked him in his f***** head.'

Tyson later admitted to being on drugs during several fights in his boxing career and said that he would use what he referred to as a 'whizzer' in order to pass drug tests, which was a fake penis filled with clean urine.

Following his retirement in 2005, Tyson said during an interview with USA Today: 'My whole life has been a waste – I've been a failure. I just want to escape. I'm really embarrassed with myself and my life. I want to be a missionary. I think I could do that while keeping my dignity without letting people know they chased me out of the country. I want to get this part of my life over as soon as possible. In this country nothing good is going to come of me. People put me so high; I wanted to tear that image down.'

Tyson has remained in the public eye since hanging up the gloves and appeared in the 2009 Hollywood film *The Hangover*.

He recently opened up on his battle with mental health and admitted to being 'empty' and feeling like he was 'nothing' because he is no longer the most feared fighter in the world.

'I'm a f***** student of war. I know all the warriors. From Charlemagne to Achilles - the No 1 warrior of all warriors - and then Alexander and Napoleon, I know them all,' he said. 'I read about them all. I studied them all. I know the art of fighting, I know the art of war, that's all I ever studied.'

'That's why I'm so feared, that's why they feared me when I was in the ring. I was an annihilator. It's all I was born for.'

'Now those days are gone. It's empty, I'm nothing. I'm working on the art of humbleness.'

'That's the reason I'm crying because I'm not that person no more, and I miss him.'

Mike Tyson the fighter will always be a boxing myth, but the mesmerism around the man has never frayed.

Source: 19-03-2020, *Daily Mail* (<https://dailymail.co.uk>)

14) Ursula von der Leyen: German politician

Ursula von der Leyen, née Ursula Albrecht, (born October 8, 1958, Brussels, Belgium), Belgian-born German politician who was the first woman to serve as Germany's minister of defense (2013–19). In July 2019 she became the first woman to be elected president of the European Commission.

Early Life And Education

Ursula was the daughter of German politician Ernst Albrecht, who had served as chief of cabinet at the Commission of the European Economic Community. She studied economics (1977–80) at the Universities of Göttingen and Münster as well as at the London School of Economics but never graduated. Instead, she went into medicine and graduated (1987) from Hanover (Germany) Medical School (MHH). She worked as an assistant physician (1988–92) at the MHH's gynecological clinic and in 1991 was awarded a doctorate in medicine. She lived (1992–96) in the United States while her husband, Heiko von der Leyen, was on the faculty at Stanford University. After her return to Germany, she served as a faculty member (1998–2002) at the MHH's department of epidemiology, social medicine, and health systems research. In addition, she earned a master's degree (2001) in public health.

Ursula von der Leyen, who had joined the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in 1990, became involved in 1996 in the politics of Lower Saxony—the federal state her father had governed (1976–90). She held a series of local and state offices prior to her election in 2004 as a member of the CDU's leadership committee. After the CDU won the federal elections in 2005, she was appointed minister of family affairs, senior citizens, women, and youth in Chancellor Angela Merkel's first cabinet. Among von der Leyen's measures to address Germany's low birth rate were the implementation of paid parental leave from work following the birth of a child and a massive expansion of child care facilities. In 2009 she was elected a member of the Bundestag (parliament) and became minister of labour and social affairs. While she held that post, the ongoing financial crisis compelled her to make cuts to welfare spending. In late 2010 von der Leyen was elected deputy chairman of the CDU.

Tenure As Defense Minister

In December 2013 von der Leyen—seen by some as a possible successor to Merkel—became the first woman to hold the defense portfolio. In that post she endeavoured to reform the Bundeswehr (federal armed forces) while dealing with a number of challenges. In March 2014 Crimea, which was part of Ukraine, was annexed by Russia. The crisis sparked new concerns about NATO's capabilities, especially after an independent review of Germany's defense ministry, released in October 2014, uncovered scores of “problems and risks” in its procurement process. Doubts that the country could fulfill its military commitment to NATO, owing to a lack of battle-ready equipment, led some allies to pressure Germany to increase its military spending.

Von der Leyen publicly called for her country to assume a greater role in Europe's defense, and she later helped secure funds for military equipment. Another crisis developed in 2015 as a wave of refugees arrived in Europe, with many seeking asylum in Germany. The situation strained resources and led to anti-immigration efforts. Von der Leyen urged restraint, arguing that it was a mistake to equate refugees with terrorists. Her position, however, drew increasing pushback following terrorist attacks in Paris (2015) and Brussels (2016).

In February 2018 a survey of German military equipment found that only a fraction of key weapons systems were combat ready. Fewer than one-third of Germany's combat aircraft, fewer than half of

its tanks, and just three of its heavy transport aircraft were available for deployment. Von der Leyen reacted to the findings by saying that it would take time to make up for decades of spending shortfalls, and Merkel's government committed to a significant increase in its defense budget. The defense spending target of 1.5 percent of GDP by 2024 remained short of the 2.0 percent agreed upon by NATO leaders in 2014, however, and the Bundeswehr struggled to reach expanded manpower goals. Von der Leyen proposed extending recruiting efforts to foreign European Union (EU) nationals who had been long-term residents of Germany, but other EU leaders expressed concerns about how such efforts might affect their own military readiness.

Road To The European Commission Presidency

In October 2018, after a poor showing by the CDU in regional elections, Merkel announced that she would not seek another term as party leader. Von der Leyen declined to campaign for the position, which was eventually filled by Merkel protégé Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. That von der Leyen, who had once been regarded as Merkel's heir apparent, did not even present herself as a candidate was seen by some as evidence that the defense portfolio continued to be a poisoned chalice. With her domestic political career apparently stalled and parliament probing irregularities and possible nepotism within the defense department procurement process, von der Leyen's deliverance would come from an unexpected source.

The term of European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker was scheduled to end in November 2019, and his replacement was to be selected by the European Council—the heads of government of the 28 member countries of the EU. Final approval would rest with the European Parliament, but that process was complicated by the results of elections in May 2019, which saw the centrist ruling coalition lose its long-held majority. When closed-door negotiations began in June 2019, EU leaders struggled to find a compromise candidate who would be acceptable to the centre-right and centre-left blocs while garnering support from enough Green, liberal, and Euroskeptic members of the European Parliament to win confirmation.

After a fruitless summit resulted in little more than the elimination of the three leading candidates, European Council Pres. Donald Tusk shepherded a package deal that filled the EU's top roles with a quartet of western Europeans. Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel was nominated to succeed Tusk, Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell was tapped to inherit the foreign policy portfolio from Federica Mogherini, and International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde was selected to follow Mario Draghi at the head of the European Central Bank. Most surprising, however, was the nomination of von der Leyen to succeed Juncker as president of the European Commission. Although she was the daughter of an esteemed European Community official, von der Leyen herself was seen as something of an outsider to the Brussels establishment, and, despite the fact that she had received the endorsement of the centrist and liberal parliamentary blocs, there remained doubts about the likelihood of her confirmation.

On July 16, 2019, von der Leyen was narrowly confirmed, receiving 383 of 747 votes (with 374 needed). The following day she resigned as Germany's defense minister and was succeeded by Kramp-Karrenbauer. Von der Leyen was due to replace Juncker on November 1, but disagreements over the makeup of her cabinet delayed the transfer of power by one month. On December 1 she became the first woman to serve as president of the European Commission.

15) Cryptic Pilgrimage: Japanese Traveler Kajipon Seeing the World One Grave at a Time

Over the course of 33 years, Kajipon Marco Zangetsu has traveled the world visiting the graves of hundreds of cultural figures who have influenced his life, ranging from Dostoevsky to Beethoven to even the Taiwanese singing idol Teresa Teng. We spoke with him about the passion behind this unusual pilgrimage that has taken him to 101 countries and to hear a few of his tales from the road.

Since he was 19, Kajipon Marco Zangetsu has been traveling the world visiting the graves of famous people. His travels have taken him to all corners of Japan and the globe, from the Arctic Circle to Antarctica. He has been to 101 countries in all, but after so many years of travelling—he is now 53 years old—he is a little fuzzy about exactly how many graves he has visited. “To be honest, I’m too busy to keep an accurate count,” he confesses. “At last check it was 2,520, but that was two years ago.” Kajipon says that maybe one day, if he ever puts out his back, counting them all up will give him something to do while he’s laid out at home. For now, though, he just wants to keep traveling and visiting as many graves as possible.

Kajipon calls his pilgrimages his “life’s work,” raising the question of where this passion came from.

A pilgrimage of Thanks

It all started in August 1987 in the Russian city of St. Petersburg, then still known by its Soviet-era name of Leningrad, at the grave of novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky. “I was still a student at the time and I wanted to express my gratitude to the writer, whose works had helped guide me through my difficult teenage years,” he explains. Placing his hand on the grave and murmuring the word *spasibo* (thank you), he says he felt a tremendous rush through his whole body. “It was as if I’d been struck by lightning.”

As a young man, Kajipon says he fought constantly with his alcoholic father and decided to leave home during his junior year in high school to escape the turmoil. During those difficult years, he found solace in reading—in particular, *Crime and Punishment* and other works by Dostoevsky provided what he describes as “salvation.” From his third year in high school, he became a self-described “arts junkie,” devouring literature, music, and paintings. Much of the time, he admits, this was driven by unrequited crushes: a young woman hoping to go to art school, a student at music college, a librarian.

None of these one-sided love affairs ever went anywhere, but Kajipon’s world expanded as he immersed himself in reading, listening to music, and finding out as much as he could about artists’ lives, in a desperate attempt to impress the latest object of his affections. He found solace along the way. “Beethoven had one unhappy love affair after another until he died at the age of 56,” he explains. “But he poured his suffering into his compositions.” He notes that Vincent van Gogh, too, was unlucky in love, his disappointments inspiring the artist to paint masterpieces like *Sunflowers*. “It’s not the end of the world if someone turns you down. Many works of genius have been created from a broken heart.”

In the same cemetery as Dostoevsky, he came across the graves of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Modest Mussorgsky, two of Russia's greatest composers. As Kajipon left the cemetery, he was gripped by an overwhelming urge to visit more artists in their final resting places to say thanks in person. "Bach, Shakespeare, Goethe," he exclaims. "There were so many. There was no time to lose."

He wanted to walk in the footsteps of the artists who had given him succor in times of difficulty, to find out more about their lives and to thank them for the consolation he had found in their works. In Japan, he earned money as a truck driver before setting out on a pilgrimage around the country and farther afield. Gradually, the scale of his ambitions widened, and he started visiting the resting places of just about anyone who had made an important contribution to human history or the arts. "The growth of the Internet helped," he says. "I started a website, and this led to offers from people who wanted me to write an article or come give a talk." Eventually, he was able to make a living out of his pilgrimages, although he stresses his motivation remains unchanged. "If that side of things ever dries up, I'm happy to go back to driving a truck, or whatever it takes."

Hospitality to Travelers

It is a common custom in Japan for people to visit the graves of their ancestors, a practice known as haka-mairi. Individuals also often pay their respects at the grave of a mentor or important figure in their lives, especially on the anniversary of that person's death. However, Kajipon stresses that it is not enough just to turn up and gaze at the tombstone. "That's meaningless," he declares. The important thing, he says, is to express gratitude. "I try to also visit the places where the person was born or grew up if they are nearby. I want to walk in their footsteps, see the places that were important in their lives." The ideal journey is one that lets him trace the person's life right up to its end, the grave, although he admits that his limited finances keep him from doing this for every person. "I have to pick and choose," he admits, and sometimes the final resting place is the only spot he can visit. However, he says he tries to make it to each tomb at least twice. "I don't think you can really call a one-off visit haka-mairi."

Not all destinations are formal graves. When he visited Antarctica, Kajipon stood on the deck of a ship and joined his hands in prayer while facing the direction of explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated last camp. He did the same in the Arctic, paying his respects in the direction of the place where Roald Amundsen disappeared.

In some cases, civil war or other tragedies have kept him from revisiting graves. In 1994 he visited Syria to fulfill his dream of seeing the ancient ruins at Palmyra and the grave of John the Baptist in Damascus. He recalls the trip with fondness. "The people I met were so welcoming and friendly," he recounts, something he attributes to the Islamic prescription to be hospitable and to help travelers. "I didn't know a word of Arabic and couldn't even read the route numbers on the buses," he says. "I had to keep stopping people and asking for directions." When he finally arrived at the ruins, he was moved to tears by their beauty. Later, to escape the sweltering heat he went for a cooling swim in the Euphrates River. Back at his hotel, he was surprised to find a group of locals gathered around a television in the lobby watching the famous Japanese soccer anime Captain Tsubasa.

Syria has since collapsed into chaos as a result of its prolonged civil war, and in 2015 large parts of the ancient city of Palmyra were destroyed by extremists aligned to Daesh, the self-proclaimed Islamic State.

“I really hope that peace returns soon and that life in the country will get back to normal,” Kajipon says, remembering the happy children and smiling faces of the people he met on that earlier visit.

Getting Graveside

Some gravesites are easier to get to than others. “You don’t have to head for the poles or trek through the jungle to experience drama and adventure,” declares Kajipon. “There’s all kinds to be had in the regular world.”

He recalls being laid out with acute back pain on his way home from visiting Paul Gauguin’s grave in Tahiti. “There are only a few direct flights to Tahiti from Japan, and the island of Hiva Oa where Gauguin is buried is a further six and a half hours away by propeller plane,” he says. Even a small incident can throw an itinerary into disarray. In Kajipon’s case an Air Tahiti strike forced him to return to Japan via Los Angeles, and it was during this leg of the journey that his back went out, forcing him to spend weeks in bed recovering. However, he says it was a small price to pay for such a unique experience. “The first thing people say to each other when they meet in front of the grave is, ‘Are you crazy?’ There’s an immediate sense of comradeship.”

There were other tribulations. In France, where he was visiting Vincent Van Gogh’s grave at Auvers-sur-Oise, thieves broke into his rental car and stole all his belongings. A friendly local took him to the police station, and while Kajipon filed his report, the middle-aged officer who was helping him cheerfully announced, “Hey, I know how to write some Japanese,” and proudly wrote the kanji for “Atlantic Ocean” on the police station whiteboard. “I’d paid for the car two months in advance, but now I had no international license. There was nothing for it but to return to Japan and apply for a new one. I felt totally deflated, but there was nothing to do but laugh,” he recalls. “When I left the station, the police officer handed me a note he had written in Japanese that said ‘Have a good trip!’ It brought a tear to my eye.”

At the start of a one-month journey around Europe, he bought a bust of Ludwig van Beethoven in a Belgian antiques shop, and faithfully carried it with him as he traversed the continent, only to drop it at the airport in London at the end of his trip. Undaunted, he collected the pieces and repaired the figure with superglue when he got home.

The year 2020 marked 250 years since the birth of the great composer, one of the artists for whom Kajipon feels a special admiration. “During Beethoven’s lifetime, Vienna was subject to quite severe limitations on freedom, partly as a response to the French Revolution. In the choral movement of his ninth symphony, he composed a wonderful hymn of brotherhood and equality, conveying the message that all of us, nobility and commoners alike, all share in the same universal human dignity.”

Beethoven’s gravestone in Vienna is shaped like a metronome: the artist was one of the first major composers to put this new invention to use. “He was apparently delighted with it, because it allowed him to keep tempo even after he started to lose his hearing.” Next to Beethoven lies the grave of Franz Schubert. “If I could, I would like to be buried there between them.”

Hitchhiking to the Russian Border

The grave of Nicolaus Copernicus lies in the Polish town of Frombork, not far from the Russian border. After paying his respects at the final resting place of the great astronomer, Kajipon set out for

the grave of the philosopher Immanuel Kant in the Russian enclave city of Kaliningrad (formerly Königsberg), part of a narrow isthmus of Russian territory between Poland and Lithuania.

“Kant was one of the first people to call for an international organization like the United Nations we have today, for the sake of world peace,” Kajipon explains. “I wanted to thank him for his insight and compassion for humankind.” The only way to get there, locals told him, was by a cross-border bus departing just twice a day. Aiming to catch the morning coach, he found a place to stay and was up waiting at the bus stop at 6:30 the next morning. After waiting in vain for two hours, he decided to ask the police for help, but wound up in a Polish army barracks. Fortunately, the soldiers were friendly and treated him to hot tea and donuts.

He also got a warm welcome at border control. He explained that before arriving in Poland, he had visited the site of the Japanese consulate in Kaunas, Lithuania, where Sugihara Chiune issued Japanese transit visas to thousands of Jews fleeing the Holocaust, and had also visited the grave of Józef Piłsudski, considered the founding father of modern Poland. “I showed the border officers some of the photos I had taken, and they seemed quite impressed,” he recounts. “They stopped a car heading for Russia and persuaded the people to give me a lift. Thanks to that, I got to meet a nice older lady and her daughter and managed to get to Kant’s grave.”

Staircases and Cross-Country Buses

One country Kajipon has visited several times is Spain. “I always make a point of visiting the Sagrada Familia to see how much progress has been made on the cathedral,” he says. He has paid his respects at most of the famous graves in the country, including those of architect Antoni Gaudí and painter Francisco Goya, and has also been to Santiago de Compostela, one of the three major places of Christian pilgrimages and the burial site of Saint James.

In Barcelona, Kajipon got lost looking for the grave of Joan Miró, located in a vast graveyard on Montjuïc hill. “The caretaker drew me a map, but it was a pretty rough-and-ready effort, and I ended up wandering for ages around this huge cemetery under the burning sun.” The map showed an escalator alongside the pathway, but none was to be found. Back at the office, Kajipon, parched from his endeavor, realized his mistake. “I had confused the Spanish for escalator, escalera mecánica, for the word for staircase. Since then, the sight of Miró’s pictures always makes me feel thirsty.”

In Britain, he has visited around 60 graves, including those of King Arthur, Shakespeare, Isaac Newton, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Lawrence of Arabia. “I’ve pretty much covered the whole UK, from Dover to Loch Ness.”

He has also visited the United States several times, where he has paid his respects to around 260 famous people, including Abraham Lincoln, Edgar Allan Poe, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Edison, Billy the Kid, and Marilyn Monroe. In 2000, he traveled across the country by long-distance bus. “Thirty days of travel cost only around 37,000 yen in bus fare.” When he was tired, he would hop on an overnight bus and keep clean by rinsing his hair with bottled water and washing in the restrooms of fast-food restaurants. “I didn’t stay in a hotel once all the way from Los Angeles to New York,” he boasts.

Passing It On to the Next Generation

Until the age of 40, Kajipon traveled alone mostly. Since his marriage 18 years ago, though, he has started taking his family along. His son, now in fifth grade, is already a veteran traveler and grave-visitor, having crisscrossed Europe and the United States with Kajipon to visit the tombs of people like Walt Disney, Michael Jackson, and the Brothers Grimm.

In Australia, the family toured the country in a rental car, dodging the kangaroos that would dart onto the road. In Perth, they visited the grave of actor Heath Ledger, who died at 28 in 2008. “My son has joined me in visiting people’s graves almost since he learned to walk. He enjoys it a lot, I think.”

Researching the location of graves used to take a lot of time and effort—something that the Internet has made a lot easier. “There’s a fair bit of inaccurate information, so you have to be careful. Generally speaking, though, having access to things like Google maps and transportation timetables has made it much easier than it used to be.”

Kajipon says he tried to visit the most far-flung destinations while he was still relatively young and fit, including locations like Italy’s remote mountains and the Middle East. Now that he is older, his focus has shifted more toward Asia.

In 2019, he traveled to South Korea and Taiwan. In Seoul, he visited the grave of Asakawa Takumi, a Japanese researcher who pioneered the study of Korean ceramics and lived most of his life in Korea. In the south of the country, he paid his respects at the graves of the students who lost their lives in the Gwangju Uprising in 1980. In Taiwan, he visited the graves of singer Teresa Teng, independence hero Mona Rudao, and Hatta Yoichi, builder of the Wushantou Dam.

“Traveling in 101 countries has convinced me that people everywhere are more or less the same,” he reflects. “If you smile, people smile back at you. And most people are happy to help a traveler in trouble.” Kajipon says he sees the same emotions on people’s faces at gravesides everywhere: a sense of loss and respect for the deceased. “That’s why, even when countries are at each other’s throats, we should remember the things we all have in common and treat each other with respect.”

Graveyard Messages

In 2020, Kajipon was planning his first major trip across China, but this had to be canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. “It would have been the first time back for me since I visited writer Lu Xun’s grave in Shanghai 30 years ago. I was looking forward to seeing how China has changed in the intervening years.”

With the impact of the pandemic making it difficult for him to travel to graves even within Japan, Kajipon has found himself spending a lot of his time updating his website, home to a vast treasure trove of information on his travels and the graves he has seen. He says he is looking forward to the day when he can set off on his international travels again.

“There are so many graves that I haven’t managed to visit yet. Picasso’s grave, for example, is on the grounds of the Château de Vauvenargues in the south of France. The château is still owned by the artist’s descendants, so you can’t get in unless you’re a friend of the family. I’ve been as far as the front gate twice, but haven’t made it inside yet. I’ve visited the house where he was born in Málaga and went to see Guernica in Madrid. I’d really love to express my gratitude to him by visiting his grave. So if any of your readers happens to know the Picasso family, please ask them to drop me a line.”

Source: 17-02-2021, *Nippon* (<https://nippon.com>)

16) Isle of Man Viking jewellery found by metal detectorist

A "stunning" collection of 1,000-year-old gold and silver Viking jewellery has been discovered on the Isle of Man by a metal detectorist.

Retired police officer Kath Giles made the find on farm land in the north of the island.

The hoard includes a gold arm ring and a "massive" silver brooch dating back to 950 AD.

It was unearthed in December but has been revealed for the first time during a coroner's hearing.

Manx National Heritage's curator of archaeology Allison Fox said the arm ring in particular was a "rare find".

Ms Giles said she immediately knew she had found "something very special" and was "thrilled" at the discovery, which is likely to be worth several thousand pounds.

"I knew straight away that it was a significant and exciting find. I'm so thrilled to have found artefacts that are not only so important, but so beautiful," she said.

The findings were declared treasure in an inquest at Douglas Courthouse.

Discoveries of archaeological interest on the island must be reported to Manx National Heritage within two weeks.

If items are legally classified as treasure, they belong to the crown and the finder is rewarded.

Precisely how much this latest finding is worth has not been determined, but similar items of Viking jewellery have been valued at £1,500 each.

A larger hoard of Viking treasure found in Lancashire in 2011 was valued at £110,000.

Ms Fox said the gold arm band was rare because silver was a far more common commodity for trading during the Viking era.

"The arm ring, brooch and cut armband are all high-status personal ornaments and represent a large amount of accumulated wealth," she said.

"Finding just one of these items would be of significance. The fact that all were found together suggests that whoever buried them was extremely wealthy and probably felt immediately and acutely threatened."

Source: 18-02-2021, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com>)

17) Bronze Age slab found in France is oldest 3D map in Europe

A freshly unearthed Bronze-Age stone may be the oldest three-dimensional map in Europe, researchers say.

The 2m by 1.5m slab (5ft by 6.5ft), first uncovered in 1900, was found again in a cellar in a castle in France in 2014.

Archaeologists who studied patterns engraved on the 4,000-year-old stone say they believe the markings are a map of an area in western Brittany.

They say this makes the slab the oldest 3D map of a known area in Europe.

The piece of rock, known as the Saint-Bélec Slab, is believed to date from the early Bronze Age, between 1900 BC and 1650 BC.

It was first unearthed in 1900, during digs on an prehistoric burial ground in Finistère, western Brittany, by local archaeologist Paul du Chatellier.

The slab was apparently forgotten for over a century, stored for decades under a moat at Mr du Chatellier's home, the Château de Kernuz.

But researchers hunting for the slab found it in a cellar in 2014.

After analysing marks and engravings on the stone, the researchers suspected it could be a map.

The "presence of repeated motifs joined by lines" on its surface suggested it depicted an area of Finistère, a study in the Bulletin of the French Prehistoric Society said.

The researchers say the indentations are a 3D representation of the River Odet valley, while several lines appear to depict the area's river network.

Geo-location revealed the territory represented on the slab bears an 80% accuracy to an area around an 18 mile-long stretch of the river.

"This is probably the oldest map of a territory that has been identified," Dr Clément Nicolas from Bournemouth University, one of the study's authors, told the BBC.

"There are several such maps carved in stone all over the world. Generally, they are just interpretations. But this is the first time a map has depicted an area on a specific scale."

Dr Nicolas said the map may have been used to mark a particular area.

"It was probably a way to affirm the ownership of the territory by a small prince or king at the time," he said.

"We tend to underestimate the geographical knowledge of past societies. This slab is important as it highlights this cartographical knowledge."

Source: 06-04-2021, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com>)

18) New Horizons: Nasa probe survives flyby of Ultima Thule

The US space agency's New Horizons probe has made contact with Earth to confirm its successful flyby of the icy world known as Ultima Thule.

The encounter occurred some 6.5bn km (4bn miles) away, making it the most distant ever exploration of an object in our Solar System.

New Horizons acquired gigabytes of photos and other observations during the pass.

It will now send these home over the coming months.

The radio message from the robotic craft was picked up by one of Nasa's big antennas, in Madrid, Spain.

It had taken fully six hours and eight minutes to traverse the great expanse of space between Ultima and Earth.

Controllers at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland greeted the reception of the signal with cheers and applause.

"We have a healthy spacecraft," announced Mission Operations Manager Alice Bowman. "We've just accomplished the most distant flyby."

This first radio message contained only engineering information on the status of the spacecraft, but it included confirmation that New Horizons executed its autonomous flyby observations as instructed and that the probe's onboard memory was full.

A later downlink on Tuesday will see some choice images returned to give scientists and the public a taster of what New Horizons saw through its cameras.

If there is one note of caution it is that the timing and orientation of the spacecraft had to be spot on if the probe was not to shoot pictures of empty space! As a result, there will continue to be some anxiety until the data can be examined.

"The highest resolution images taken at closest approach required perfect pointing, almost," said Project Scientist Hal Weaver. "We think, based on everything we've seen so far, that was achieved."

Ultima is in what's termed the Kuiper belt - the band of frozen material that orbits the Sun more than 2 billion km further out than the eighth of the classical planets, Neptune; and 1.5 billion km beyond even the dwarf planet Pluto which New Horizons visited in 2015.

It's estimated there are hundreds of thousands of Kuiper members like Ultima, and their frigid state almost certainly holds clues to the formation conditions of the Solar System 4.6 billion years ago.

The vast separation between New Horizons and Earth, coupled with the probe's small, 15-watt transmitter, mean data rates are glacial, however.

They top out at 1 kilobit per second. To retrieve all of the imagery stored on the probe is therefore expected to take until September 2020.

The first of the very highest resolution pictures should come down to Earth in February. But this wouldn't delay the science, said Principal Investigator Alan Stern.

"The [lower resolution] images that come down this week will already reveal the basic geology and structure of Ultima for us, and we're going to start writing our first scientific paper next week," he told reporters.

Even just the final picture released from the approach phase to the flyby contained tantalising information. Ultima appears in it as just a blob, but immediately it has allowed researchers to refine their estimate of the object's size - about 35km by 15km.

What's so special about the Kuiper belt?

Several factors make Ultima Thule, and the domain in which it moves, so interesting to scientists.

One is that the Sun is so dim in this region that temperatures are down near 30-40 degrees above absolute zero. As a result, chemical reactions have essentially stalled. This means Ultima is in such a deep freeze that it is probably perfectly preserved in the state in which it formed.

Another factor is that Ultima is small (about 30km across), and this means it doesn't have the type of "geological engine" that in larger objects will rework their composition.

And a third factor is just the nature of the environment. It's very sedate in the Kuiper belt.

Unlike in the inner Solar System, there are probably very few collisions between objects. The Kuiper belt hasn't been stirred up.

Alan Stern said: "Everything that we're going to learn about Ultima - from its composition to its geology, to how it was originally assembled, whether it has satellites and an atmosphere, and that kind of thing - is going to teach us about the original formation conditions in the Solar System that all the other objects we've gone out and orbited, flown by and landed on can't tell us because they're either large and evolve, or they are warm. Ultima is unique."

What does New Horizons do next?

First, the scientists must work on the Ultima data, but they will also ask Nasa to fund a further extension to the mission.

The hope is that the course of the spacecraft can be altered slightly to visit at least one more Kuiper belt object sometime in the next decade.

New Horizons should have just enough fuel reserves to be able to do this. Critically, it should also have sufficient electrical reserves to keep operating its instruments into the 2030s.

The longevity of New Horizon's plutonium battery may even allow it to record its exit from the Solar System.

The two 1970s Voyager missions have both now left the heliosphere - the bubble of gas blown off our Sun (one definition of the Solar System's domain). Voyager 2 only recently did it, in November.

And in case you were wondering, New Horizons will never match the Voyagers in terms of distance travelled from Earth. Although New Horizons was the fastest spacecraft ever launched in 2006, it continues to lose ground to the older missions. The reason: the Voyagers got a gravitational speed boost when they passed the outer planets. Voyager-1 is now moving at almost 17km/s; New Horizons is moving at 14km/s.

Source: 01-01-2019, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com>)

19) Ten great post-Soviet films

From this year's Cannes festival award-winner *Leviathan* to a courageous documentary about civil unrest in the Ukraine, these films tackle stories of family, friendship and political struggle

***Leviathan* (Andrei Zvyagintsev, Russia, 2014)**

Winner of the best screenplay award in Cannes this year, this immaculately crafted drama works on multiple levels. Superficially, it centres on a stubborn man's refusal to sell his family home, located on a prime real estate spot near the Barents Sea. But it's also a coolly devastating indictment of corruption that permeates every level of Russian society, from local government to the Orthodox church. Lush cinematography, top-notch acting and a propulsive pace are added bonuses.

***Maidan* (Sergei Loznitsa, Ukraine, 2014)**

Sergei Loznitsa, a director born in Belarus but raised in the Ukraine (who now mostly lives in Germany), raced back to Kiev last December to record the extraordinary events unfolding in Independence Square, ground zero for the so-called Euromaidan wave of civil unrest that became a revolution. The result is an extraordinary, courageous work of documentary-making, austere yet emotive, which records soup distribution and riots alike with the same steady, unblinking gaze.

***Dangerous Acts Starring the Unstable Elements of Belarus* (Madeleine Sackler, Belarus, 2013)**

A bit of a cheat this one, because the director is American, but then again, they don't make a lot of films these days in Belarus – arguably the most oppressive regime of all the former Soviet republics. Documenting the valiant efforts of an underground Minsk-based theatre company to continue making dissident plays despite arrests and police brutality, the film was made from footage smuggled out of the country at great personal risk to all involved.

***Harmony Lessons* (Emir Baigazin, Kazakhstan, 2013)**

Kazakhstan may be the butt of jokes in *Borat*, but the relatively wealthy republic has one of the strongest film industries among the ex-Soviet states, and this is one of its best films of recent years. Made with formalist precision in every way, this story about a lone wolf of a boy being bullied at school evolves into a devastating dissection of crime and punishment, alienation, power and our complex relationship with animals.

***In Bloom* (Nana Ekvtimishvili, Georgia, 2013)**

Georgia has long been a breeding ground for cinematic talent, from auteurs such as Sergei Parajanov and Otar Isseliani but there's a new generation coming through now who show immense talent, including Nana Ekvimishvili. Her film *In Bloom*, co-directed by Simon Gross, revolves around the charged relationship between two 13-year-old girls who come from very different but equally unhappy homes. The intimate drama intersects satisfyingly with its early 1990s setting.

The Light Thief (Aktan Arym Kubat, Kyrgyzstan, 2010)

Aktan Arym Kubat writes, directs and stars in this poignant, frequently humorous story about an electrician who illegally siphons off power from a local wind farm to keep everything going in his rural small town. Meanwhile, the corrupt mayor is plotting to sell the town's land off to the Chinese. The political message is palpable but not overstated, leaving room for charming slice-of-life interludes, such as a cracking scene depicting the local horseback sport of goat-grabbing.

The Hostage (Laila Pakalnina, Latvia, 2006)

Prolific Latvian director Laila Pakalnina is an original – a natural surrealist whose quirky, humorous, highly stylised docs, shorts and features couldn't be mistaken for the work of anyone else. *Hostage* is one of her more accessible, but no less peculiar efforts. It is the tale of a plane hijacker who lands in Riga, takes a young boy hostage and demands \$30m (£17.9m), a CD-Rom to help them learn about Latvia and local chocolate. In its own weird way, the film is a love letter to Pakalnina's homeland.

Before Flying Back to Earth (Arūnas Matelis, Lithuania, 2005)

Inspired by the fortitude and kindness he saw when his own child fell ill with leukaemia, director Arūnas Matelis returned to the oncology ward at the top paediatric hospital in Vilnius to record the experiences of patients and staff who confront death there every day. On paper this might sound mawkish and offputting, but it's a remarkably unsentimental film told with a *vérité* matter-of-factness and an endearing lightness of touch.

Revolution of Pigs (Jaak Kilmi, Estonia, 2004)

This ebullient, youthful comedy-drama tracks a bunch of Estonian teenagers in the 1980s who plot a mini revolution at their yearly socialist summer camp, described by *Variety* as *Meatballs* meets Lindsay Anderson's *If....*, with a big dollop of Soviet kitsch. It's cracking, bawdy fun that grows progressively darker as we get to know the various characters – standard-issue teen-movie types who just want to get laid and who fear getting shipped out to the war in Afghanistan when they grow up. Plus ça change.

Koktebel (Boris Khlebnikov and Alexei Popogrebsky, Russia, 2003)

This was the first feature for both its two co-directors. They've both gone on to have interesting careers that built on the promise of this luminous work, which was somewhat overshadowed the year it premiered by Andrei Zvyagintsev's similarly themed *The Return*. A road movie about a homeless father and son travelling on foot from Moscow to the Crimea, it's a beautiful study of parent-child dynamics that recalls Terrence Malick in its painterly elegance.

Source: 10-06-2014, *The Guardian* (<https://theguardian.com>)

20) ‘Incredible’ space hurricane over the North Pole caught on camera for the first time

For the first time, an astrological phenomenon called a ‘space hurricane’ has been detected in the Earth’s upper atmosphere, a few hundred kilometres above the North Pole.

What’s the difference between a space hurricane and the hurricanes we know on Earth?

In its formation, a space hurricane has a lot of similarities with those that we experience on Earth: a swirling mass of energy, but instead of raining water it omits electrons. In a statement from the University of Reading, Professor Mike Lockwood, space scientist, said, “Until now, it was uncertain that space plasma hurricanes even existed, so to prove this with such a striking observation is incredible”.

The discovery is so significant because it happened in the upper atmosphere - proving that hurricanes and other extreme weather patterns we experience on Earth aren’t exclusive to our solar system. Hurricanes have been observed in the lower atmospheres of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn too. These occur close to the surface of the planet - for example, Earth hurricanes are usually over warm bodies of water. When humid air rises, it creates an area of low pressure near the surface that sucks in the surrounding air, causing strong winds and heavy rain.

But the existence of space hurricanes in the upper atmosphere of a planet haven’t been detected before. Lockwood continues, “Plasma and magnetic fields in the atmosphere of planets exist throughout the universe, so the findings suggest space hurricanes should be a widespread phenomena.”

How will the information be used?

The project has been led by researchers at China's Shandong University. They believe the information will help us further understand the relationship between planets and the atmosphere.

The hurricanes are thought to lead to other space weather effects, like increased satellite drag, disturbances in high frequency radio communications and errors in radar location, satellite navigation and communication systems.

How was the moment captured?

The satellite footage of the hurricane is actually from August 2014, but it was only discovered in recent analysis by scientists based at the University of Reading, UK. The research has produced an illustration of the 1,000 kilometre wide and several hundred kilometres above the North Pole.

The analysis involved checking data from the satellites, radars and other sources for absolute clarity and certainty. It’s believed the hurricane lasted almost eight hours before gradually breaking down.

Source: 05-03-2021, *Euronews* (<https://euronews.com>)

21) Who built the Suez Canal, and why?

The travails of the Ever Given in the Suez Canal last week may have generated blanket news coverage and captivated the world, but in the first 15 years of its life - between 1869 and 1884 - 3,000 ships were grounded in the waterway that links the Mediterranean to Asia.

Back then, the canal was a fraction of the width and depth it is now, and ships would be required to wait for others to pass in specially-constructed bays every six miles. A typical journey from one end of the canal to the other was 40 hours, four times as long as it takes today.

But ships were slower back in 1870, and there weren't as many people ordering Ikea flat-pack furniture and coffee from overseas. They were also a lot smaller than the Ever Given, which weighs in at 220,000 tonnes and is more than 1,300 feet in length.

Why was the Suez Canal built?

Take a look at a map and it is relatively easy to see the logic that led French planners in the then-colony of Egypt to decide to dig the Suez Canal.

At its closest point, the Isthmus of Suez is just 121 kilometres between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea and is dotted with lakes that were later incorporated into it. Prior to Suez, ships had to take the perilous journey around Africa in order to reach Asia and the markets of the Far East.

It wasn't the French that first came up with the idea. Canals had been dug to link wadis and lakes in the region since the 1850s BC, even linking the Red Sea to the Nile via a network of waterways by the time Alexander the Great arrived in 332 BC.

When the Romans arrived in Egypt two centuries later, they had a go at extending the canal but, as in the past, it was intended to facilitate trade and transport between the Nile Delta and the Red Sea, rather than to link the Mediterranean with it and the Indian Ocean beyond.

Whatever was still in operation in 775 AD was filled in by the Abbasid Caliphate. Although Venetian and later French engineers discussed constructing a new canal up to the 18th century, in order to challenge the Portuguese, Dutch and English in the Far East, little was done.

Enter Napoleon, who during his time in Egypt actually headed down to the isthmus to see the remains of the ancient canal himself. His idea led to more surveys and schemes for a canal in the 1830s and 1850s until, in 1856, it was made official. A French company, the Suez Canal Company, was given a 99 year lease to build and operate the canal.

Officially opened

First, Egyptian forced labourers were used and later Europeans, and the challenging terrain meant that the project ended up taking a decade rather than the six years originally planned. On November 17, 1869, the Suez Canal was officially opened.

Originally, the project was 52-44 owned by the French and the then ruler of Egypt, Said Pasha, but six years later Egypt, in the face of financial difficulties, put its substantial holdings up for sale. Who should immediately buy up the entire Egyptian share? The British, of course.

Egypt continued to get only marginal financial gain for the waterway built on its territory until 1956, when Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal. During the Suez Crisis, Israel invaded Sinai and Britain considered invading Egypt but was persuaded not to by the US under Dwight Eisenhower, who threatened to punish Britain financially if it did.

Since 2015, the Suez Canal has been a major priority for the regime of Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, which has pumped money into infrastructure projects and expansion of the canal.

Source: 30-03-2021, *Euronews* (<https://euronews.com>)

22) Cancer research: Scientists seek clues to how disease 'is born'

British and American scientists are teaming up to search for the earliest signs of cancer in a bid to detect and treat the disease before it emerges.

They plan to "give birth" to cancer in the lab to see exactly what it looks like "on day one".

It is just one of the research priorities of the new International Alliance for Cancer Early Detection.

Working together on early detection of cancer will mean patients benefitting more quickly, it says.

Cancer Research UK has teamed up with the Universities of Cambridge, Manchester, University College London, and Stanford and Oregon in the US, to share ideas, technology and expertise in this area.

Already there

Together, the scientists are aiming to develop less invasive tests, such as blood, breath and urine tests, for monitoring high-risk patients, improve imaging techniques for detecting cancer early and look for virtually undetectable signs of the disease.

But they admit this is "like looking for a needle in a haystack" and could be 30 years off.

"The fundamental problem is that we never get to see a cancer being born in a human being," says Dr David Crosby, head of early detection research at Cancer Research UK.

"By the time it's found, it's already established."

Researchers from Manchester, for example, are growing human breast tissue in the lab with synthetic immune cells to see if they can spot the very earliest, subtle changes that could lead to cancer.

Prof Rob Bristow said it was akin to a "living tissue bank outside patients".

Yet there is always the danger of over-diagnosis, because not all early cell changes turn into cancers.

So the cancer researchers say they must be more precise, also looking at the genes people are born with and the environment they grow up in, to work out an individual's unique personal risk of different cancers.

Only then will they know when to intervene.

'Expensive firefighting'

To date, scientists say research on early detection has been small-scale and disconnected, lacking the power of trials in big populations of people.

Dr Crosby said the collaboration would "induce a sea-change in our health systems, shifting it from expensive firefighting of late-stage disease, to being able to intervene at its earliest point and deliver rapid, cost-effective treatment".

Figures show that 98% of breast cancer patients live for five years or more if the disease is diagnosed at stage 1 - the earliest stage- compared to just 26% at stage 4, the most advanced stage.

But, at present, only around 44% of breast cancer patients are diagnosed at the earliest stage.

In the UK, screening programmes exist for breast, bowel and cervical cancers, when people reach a particular age.

However, there are currently no reliable screening tools for other cancers, such as pancreas, liver, lung and prostate, which means survival rates are often much lower.

Prof Mark Emberton, from UCL, said the growth of imaging, such as MRI, was a "silent revolution" which could replace needles, used in biopsies, in the diagnosis of prostate cancer.

"Imaging only sees the aggressive cells, it overlooks the stuff you don't want to find and addresses over-diagnosis," he said, but he warned it was expensive and took time, and was "not ready for prime time yet".

More accurate hyper-polarised MRI scans and photo acoustics, where laser light is delivered to the tumour, creating sound waves which are analysed to produce images, are the next advances being tested in imaging.

Prof Emberton said the next goal was to see which cancers lent themselves to this type of imaging.

At the University of Cambridge, Prof Rebecca Fitzgerald is developing an advanced endoscope to detect pre-cancerous lesions in the food pipe and colon.

She said early detection hadn't been given the attention it deserved, and some tests for cancer could be very simple and inexpensive.

Prof Fitzgerald said she looked forward to working with international colleagues to take ideas "all the way from the bench to the bedside".

Cancer Research UK is investing £40m in the International Alliance for Cancer Early Detection over the next five years, with \$20m being contributed by Canary Center at Stanford University and the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute in Oregon.

Source: 21-10-2019, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com>)

23) Meet the 70-Year-Old Runner Who Ran 7 Marathons on 7 Continents in 7 Days

Chau Smith celebrated her 70th birthday by running seven marathons on seven continents in seven consecutive days - all while wearing a pink pussyhat.

When Chau Smith was younger, she didn't think much of running. "I thought it was the most boring sport," the 70 year old told NBC News.

These days, Smith feels differently. The Kansas City resident recently ran seven marathons in seven consecutive days on seven continents in celebration of her 70th birthday — and she ran them all while wearing a pink pussyhat.

From January 25 to 31, 2017, Smith ran marathons in Perth, Australia; Singapore; Cairo, Egypt; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Garden City, New York; Punta Arenas, Chile; and King George Island, Antarctica. It's part of a challenge called Triple 7 Quest, operated by Marathon Adventures, which planned the itinerary and logistics.

Of the eight people who joined the quest, six ran full marathons, and of those six, Smith was the oldest.

Smith says she may have broken a world record for the oldest person to run seven marathons in seven days and will be applying to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Steve Hibbs, 45, the founder of Marathon Adventures and an accomplished runner himself, said Smith epitomizes living life to its fullest. He's traveled with her before on other running excursions he's organized, and said that Smith was thrilled to try all the activities — including the Gorge Swing near Victoria Falls, Zambia, which involves free falling in a harness for about 230 feet over the Zambezi River.

"It's just amazing what she did," Hibbs said of Smith's seven marathons. "If there's anything to describe her, it's 'result.' She wants to prove to herself that anybody of any age can go out and run and accomplish this type of feat."

Although Smith is 70, on paper she's officially 67, the result of a life marked by war. Smith was born in Vietnam in 1947 during the First Indochina War, known in Vietnam as the French War. Her father, a teacher turned Viet Minh resistance fighter, was arrested and killed five months before she was born. Because of the war, her mother waited three years before obtaining a birth certificate, which was not backdated.

During the Vietnam War, which is known as the American War in Vietnam, she was hit by shrapnel when she was 13 and spent a week in the hospital. Pieces from the incident still remain in her right leg and right arm, and Smith says sometimes it feels like it's cutting through her flesh when she runs.

"I always try to train in my mind the good things. So even when I'm really in pain, I'm able to think about something else positive," she said. "So you don't think about, 'Oh my god, it hurts so bad.' You just think about, maybe, the waterfalls, the streams, and the lake."

She also thinks about her siblings, all of who have chronic illnesses – including a younger brother who is partially paralyzed from a stroke – and how lucky she is to be able to run.

During the war, Smith immigrated to the U.S., settling in Independence, Missouri, with her husband at the time. After the couple divorced, Smith worked two jobs, in a factory and a restaurant to provide for her two girls as a single parent. Her first shift began at 5 a.m. each morning, and she wouldn't return home until midnight. Later, she worked in a department store, sewing alterations.

At a Christmas party in 1982, she met Michael Smith, who teased her for repeatedly returning to the buffet table for extra helpings. They married six months later. Michael Smith was a runner, and she had watched him run races. But, at the time, she never thought running was for her.

That changed when life became busier. She helped her four siblings and their families — 25 people total — settle in the U.S. She also opened up her own alterations shop. During the day, she would help her relatives navigate jobs, school, and meetings in their new country; at night, she worked long hours.

“And that’s why I started to run a little bit with Michael,” Chau Smith said. “And I feel good because it’s just a stress relief. It makes me feel much better to go out and run.”

In 1995, at 48 years old, she ran her first race — a 5K in Kansas City. She was suffering from hay fever and taking antibiotics for a sinus infection. She recalls the race being difficult for her, and says she nearly passed out.

“They [had] to put the oxygen mask on me,” Smith said. “But I feel OK about half an hour later. So Michael drove me home to Independence from Kansas City. I said, ‘Hey Michael, I want to do a 10K.’ And he said, ‘Chau, you almost died today! What are you talking about?’ And three months later, I show him. I did a half marathon and never look back.”

Smith estimates that she’s run close to 70 marathons across the globe now. She was also at the Boston Marathon in 2013, and was about a quarter mile from the finish line when police stopped her because of the bombing.

The Smiths have run many races together and plan to travel and run together when they’ve both retired. In 2014, the couple ran on all seven continents, though at a more relaxed pace than seven consecutive days. She was looking for her next challenge when she heard about Triple 7 Quest from Steve Hibbs.

Although her husband was not excited about the idea at first, he supported her. “Well, I know after 30-something years of marriage, I don’t tell her she can’t do anything,” Michael Smith told NBC News. “I was very skeptical, because the potential for injury for some kind of adventure like this is very high and I didn’t want to see her injured at 70 and then cut short her running career.”

Chau Smith sought advice from a running coach, sports doctor, physical therapist, and nutritionist to create a training program that would build her stamina. Because she still works full time at her alterations shop, she trained during odd hours throughout the year (Smith said she runs year-round, but really ramps up her training by running longer distances in the four months leading up to the races), and overcame a bout of bronchitis just days before she flew to Australia for the first marathon.

One of her favorite races, she said, was in Cairo, Egypt, where the Triple 7 Quest marathoners were paired up with local runners to navigate a tricky course, which involved crossing road traffic. Because of their flight schedule, the Triple 7 Quest runners had a six-and-a-half hour time frame to complete the marathon — the shortest window in their schedule.

Smith said she can usually run a marathon in under five hours, but had to pace herself for running for so many consecutive days. She wasn't sure if she could run fast enough, but ended up with a time of 5 hours and 51 minutes, her best time of all seven marathons.

At the next marathon in Amsterdam, she tripped and fell before it began, but still ran the race despite a swollen knee and busted, bleeding lip.

Along with running for her birthday, Smith, who said she's not usually one to make a political statement, chose to wear a pink pussyhat for every race, even in the 102-degree weather in Perth, Australia. Smith's eldest daughter, Thy Tran, crocheted the hat for her.

"I hope I don't offend anyone, but I'm a woman. I have daughters. I have a granddaughter. I run to represent the women," Smith said. "I'm against any man, powerful man, who think they can do anything they want to women without our consent, without our permission."

And what did Smith do to celebrate after her seventh and final run in Antarctica? While resting at the southern tip of Chile, she heard about another race. Two days later, she tied on her Saucony shoes and was ready to go for an eighth marathon.

Source: 22-02-2017, *NBC News* (<https://nbcnews.com>)

24) Egypt builds a new capital city to replace Cairo

It will feature a "smart traffic system," a huge green space bigger than New York's Central Park, a mega-mall and housing for 6.5 million people.

On a flat stretch of desert between the Nile River and the Suez Canal, a new city is being built that will one day replace ancient Cairo as Egypt's capital.

The new metropolis is currently a giant construction zone, but work is progressing at breakneck speed. It is slated to be larger than Singapore and will eventually be home to 6.5 million people.

The government is set to move 34 government ministries — including the presidential complex — to the new capital in next June, just four years after the project was announced by President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

Officials describe the new administrative capital, which has not yet been named, with a string of superlatives.

It will be the country's most high-tech city, home to Africa's tallest tower, and Egypt's largest minaret and tallest church steeple.

Former Brig. Gen. Khaled el-Husseiny Soliman, the international coordination manager with the Administrative Capital for Urban Development, which is overseeing a partnership between the housing ministry and the military, said the project would create "the first smart city in Egypt."

Among its features will be sensors that report smoke or fires to emergency services and a "smart traffic system," he added.

The new city will also boast a huge green space bigger than New York's Central Park, a mega-mall, residential districts, a science and tech campus and a cultural complex complete with an opera house, theaters and a cinema.

A new church is well on its way to completion, and the Al Masa Hotel, which is run by the military, was inaugurated by Sissi last fall.

Though the government has said that land sales will offset the cost of the project, analysts have questioned the wisdom of building a new city at a time when the poor and middle class have been hit by new taxes, high inflation and the elimination of government subsidies on energy.

"For the country to watch the government spend tens of billions on this while also hearing them say we all have to tighten our belts, it sends a contradictory message," said Timothy Kaldas, a nonresident fellow at the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy in Cairo.

The idea of constructing cities from scratch in desert is not new. Forty years ago, Sadat City was built with the goal of becoming a thriving urban center between Cairo and Alexandria. It was less than successful, and the city currently has around 150,000 residents.

Cairo is booming, its suburbs swollen with new residents drawn from across Egypt by the lure of jobs.

Already twice the size of New York, it is home to about one-fifth of Egypt's 97 million people and is not only the country's political capital but also its cultural heart.

However, its rapid expansion has also been its downfall, according to officials.

"The Egyptian state needed this kind of project a long time ago," Soliman said. "We can talk about Cairo as a capital that is full of traffic jams, very crowded. The infrastructure cannot absorb more people."

Authorities hope that the new city will replicate some of Cairo's appeal and thrive as more than just a government base.

Over the last decade or so, Cairo's middle- and upper-classes have decamped to the suburbs, seeking a better quality of life among the sleek high-rises, gated communities and upscale malls.

Billboards advertising new developments line the highways and new properties often sell even before they are built.

This trend could boost the chances of success for the new administrative capital in replacing Cairo as Egypt's main hub.

“It’ll depend on who moves there and what type of fun will come with them,” Kaldas said. “If people treat it as someplace they have to go but actually want to spend time in Cairo or Alexandria then it will be a dead place. If [the government] manage to convince people to move there, then that’s a different question.”

For Sissi, there are many good reasons to push ahead with the new city.

First, there are the economic benefits that a project of this magnitude brings to the construction sector.

David Butter, an associate fellow at the London-based Chatham House think tank, said there are “a whole lot of ways in which promoting this project will benefit vested interests in Egypt,” most of them financial.

Then there are the security advantages. Sissi in 2013 led the overthrow of Egypt’s first freely-elected president, Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood, after massive protests spread through Cairo.

In the new capital, “the army will be in the command and control center and will manage and control the whole city via the center,” Soliman said.

That could help insulate the government from the threat of a popular uprising, analysts say.

Sissi, who was elected to his second term in March, has made no secret of his desire to restore Egypt’s former glory as a leader in the Arab world. There are hopes that the new capital will do just that, bringing in new foreign investment, global companies and putting it on par with the Gulf countries that have changed so rapidly over the last two decades.

“Egypt needed a facelift,” said Khaled Adham, a researcher on architecture and urban planning. “If you are looking for international companies to settle in Egypt, then there was a need to develop because Cairo and other parts of Egypt doesn’t appeal anymore. International employees in global companies move based on the lifestyle that the city offers.”

Sissi is no stranger to grand projects. Since taking office, he has helped revitalize the country’s roads, widening highways and building better connections to remote locations.

This year, the government unveiled the world’s largest solar power park near Aswan, and in 2015 opened a new Suez Canal aimed at lifting Egypt out of its economic malaise. However, the project so far hasn’t had the drastic economic benefit the government had hoped for.

“What the army — and Egypt — know how to do is build things,” said Michele Dunne, the director of the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a think tank based in Washington. “Whether it’s roads or buildings they have access to state-owned land, which is vast and they can cut through bureaucracy. Building is their way of showing accomplishments.”

Source: 10-08-2018, *NBC News* (<https://nbcnews.com>)

25) Historian Finds Never Before Seen Footage of Apollo 11 Moon Landing

A little over a week ago, we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of a truly landmark historical event, the Apollo 11 moon landing. To commemorate the event NASA and other organizations planned a wide range of special events, from meet and greets to exhibitions.

According to AirSpaceMag, space historian Robert Godwin was making his own preparations. As he was going through old footage NASA had sent him years previously, he found something he didn't expect. While he was scanning a copy of the internegative from the original 16 mm film from 1969, he saw something brand new.

The previously seen footage that documented the moon landing was full of dark shadows which prevented viewers from seeing everything that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were doing around the lunar module once they were on the moon's surface. In the video that Godwin was examining, however, he could clearly ascertain the two astronauts' movements in the shadows just before Armstrong took the iconic photo of Aldrin standing on the moon, giving viewers the opportunity to witness activity by the Apollo that had never been seen before.

The 1969 Apollo 11 mission was to safely land men on the moon and then return them to earth, and the mission was conducted by a three man team: Neil Armstrong, who was the mission's commander, Michael Collins, who was the pilot for the command module, and Buzz Aldrin, who piloted the lunar module. Two interlocked spacecraft were launched and set into a lunar orbit.

Once orbit was established and Armstrong and Aldrin were ready, they entered the lunar module which descended and landed on the moon's Sea of tranquility. Armstrong exited the module, uttering the now-famous phrase, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Aldrin emerged soon after, and the two men spent two and a half hours on the lunar surface collecting samples before returning to the lunar module, and, eventually, to Earth.

The moon landing was broadcast live as it occurred, much to the fascination of an estimated 530 million viewers from around the world, according to NBC, meaning its audience was 27 times as large as the audience who watched the Game of Thrones finale. Because of the nature of the breakthrough and the profound global interest in the idea of putting men on the moon's surface, the entire landing was carefully documented, both through film and through still photography.

All of the film footage has been gone over more than once in the course of the last fifty years, and a great deal of it was used in the documentary film, Apollo 11, which was produced this year as yet another commemoration of the event. It's hard to believe that there was anything new that could have been discovered from it, and yet, Godwin did it. You can see the new footage here at the 54:13 mark in the YouTube clip

This was a wonderful discovery for Godwin, who in the course of his life has been a college professor, club owner, the founder of his own music label, and finally, a space historian who has made a number of television appearances and written several books on the subjects of space and space exploration. Some of his titles from in the Apogee Books Space series and discuss the mission reports of several space missions, including Apollo 11. Not only did his discovery allow him to learn a bit more about a topic that is clearly of deepest interest to him, it also provided an opportunity for others to get more of a glimpse into the both the event itself, and space exploration in general.

It's always fascinating when we are given new insights into events which occurred long ago, whether the scale is large or small, as it not only broadens our understanding of history as a constantly-developing thing, but has the capacity to teach us new things about the world and about ourselves.

Source: 31-07-2019, *The Vintage News* (<https://thevintagenews.com>)

Appendix 2. Articles of 'soft' news in the target language (Lithuanian)

1) Šaltiniai: J.Lowas mokosi ispanų kalbos ir norėtų dirbti su „Real“

Vyriausiasis Vokietijos rinktinės treneris Joachimas Lowas baigs savo darbus po šiais metais vyksiančio Europos čempionato.

Kaip praneša šaltiniai, 61-ų specialistas jau kurį laiką mokosi ispanų kalbos.

Teigiama, kad J.Lowas norėtų dirbti Madrido „Real“ klube.

Anksčiau buvo skelbiama, kad Hansas-Dieteris Flickas yra pagrindinis kandidatas perimti Vokietijos rinktinės vairą, tačiau vėliau buvo pažymėta, kad specialistas norėtų tęsti darbą su Miuncheno „Bayern“.

Šaltinis: 2021-03-23 „sportas.lt“ (<https://sportas.lt>)

2) Karališkos meilės triumfas: pramušgalvis princas Harry susituokė su aktore Meghan Markle

Ilgai laukta diena pagaliau išaušo – pramušgalvis britų princas Harry (33 m.) pagaliau sutiko savo gyvenimo moterį, ir šį šeštadienį ji tapo jo žmona: Vindzoro rūmuose jis susituokė su amerikiečių aktore Meghan Markle (36 m.). Šios vestuvės – ir istorinės, mat pirmą kartą į britų karališkąją šeimą įsilieja afroamerikiečių rasės atstovas.

Likus maždaug 20 min iki ceremonijos pradžios į Šv. Jurgio koplyčią pėsčiomis atėjo jaunikis princas Harry kartu su savo vyriausioju pabroliu princu Williamu. Abu vyrai karališkoms vestuvėms apsirengė karinėmis uniformomis. Šiek tiek anksčiau publika turėjo progą akies krašteliu išvysti ir nuotaką – ji su mama Doria Ragland išvažiavo iš „Cliveden House“ viešbučio, kur abi praleido naktį. Atvykus į bažnyčią, Meghan Markle dalį kelio ėjo viena pati – ją lydėjo mažųjų pamergių ir pažų, tarp kurių buvo princas George'as ir princesė Charlotte, svita.

Pusiaukelėje Meghan Markle pasitiko jos būsimasis uošvis princas Charlesas – jis perėmė nuotakos tėvo pareigą ir palydėjo ją link altoriaus. Šis sprendimas buvo priimtas kone paskutinę minutę, kai paaiškėjo, kad Meghan tėvas Thomas Markle'as negalės dalyvauti ceremonijoje. Matydamas, kaip jo mylimoji žengia prie altoriaus, princas Harry susigraudino – jo akys sudrėko iš jaudulio. Nuotakai priėjus prie jo, iš lūpų buvo galima išskaityti, kad Harry jai pasakė: „Atrodai nuostabiai“. Kaip atrodys jo nuotaka, princas Harry nežinojo iki pat paskutinės akimirkos – ši tradicija porai buvo labai svarbi.

Na o ilgai laikyta paslaptis, kas kurs Meghan vestuvinę suknelę, taip buvo atskleista: tai „Givenchy“ mados namų dizainerė Claire Waight Keller. Valandą trukusi santuokos ceremonija ne vienam išspaudė ašarą – graudinosi tiek nuotakos mama, tiek kiti svečiai. O pagaliau tapusi princo Harry žmona, Meghan Markle įgijo ir titulą – nuo šiol ji bus vadinama Sasekso hercogiene.

Šurmulys dėl karališkųjų vestuvių netilo visą pastarąjį pusmetį – nuo tada, kai Kensingtono rūmai pranešė apie Harry ir Meghan sužadėtuves. Didžioji vestuvių diena išaušo kaip užsakyta – Berkšyro grafystėje, kur yra Vindzoro rūmai, šviečia saulė, nematyti jokio debesėlio ir džiugina maloni maždaug 20 laipsnių šiluma. Tiesiog tobulas variantas kiekvienai besituokiančiai porai, juo labiau, kai vestuvės pritraukia tūkstančius smalsuolių ir dar milijardus, kurie žada stebėti jas per televiziją ar internetu.

Patys pirmieji į karališkąsias vestuves ėmė rinktis visuomenininkai ir įvairių bendruomenių nariai – jų, atvykusių iš visos Jungtinės Karalystės, jaunavedžiai pakvietė apie 1 200. Tiesa, jie pačioje ceremonijoje nedalyvavo – pasidžiaugti švente jie galėjo specialiai numatytoje vietoje Vindzoro rūmuose, kur surengtas vestuvinis piknikas. Likus dviem valandoms iki ceremonijos pradžios pradėjo rinktis ir kiti 600 svečių – tiek žmonių buvo tiesioginiais Harry ir Meghan vestuvių liudininkais ir stebėjo, kaip jiedu susituokia Šv. Jurgio koplyčioje.

Tarp šių svečių – nemažai pramogų pasaulio žvaigždžių. Karališkoji pora į savo vestuves pakvietė tokias garsenybes kaip George'as bei Amal Clooney, Victoria ir Davidas Beckhamai, Oprah Winfrey, Serena Williams, Eltonas Johnas, Tomas Hardy ir kt. Taip pat vestuvėse buvo galima pamatyti ir visus Meghan Markle kolegas iš serialo „Kostiumuotieji“ („Suits“).

Jų meilės istorija 15min primena, kad princo Harry ir Meghan Markle istorija prasidėjo 2016-ųjų liepą – aklą pasimatymą porai suorganizavo bendra draugė. Harry pasakojo, kad vos pamatęs Meghan suprato, kad privalo pasitempti ir padaryti jai gerą įspūdį. „Buvau maloniai nustebintas, kai įėjau į kambarį ir pamačiau ją“, – apie pirmą susitikimą su dabar jau žmona yra sakęs princas. Vos kelios savaitės po pažinties princas įkalbėjo savo naują draugę kartu su juo keliauti į Botsvaną, ir ši kelionė jų santykiams buvo lemtinga. Būdami Afrikoje, kur galėjo mėgautis visiška ramybe, nesibaiminti pašalinių dėmesio ir tiesiog būti savimi, jie suprato, kad tikrai nori kurti ateitį drauge.

Įsimylėjęliai savo naujai užgimusiems jausmais spėjo paslapčiomis pasidžiaugti tik keletą mėnesių: 2016-ųjų spalį žiniasklaida suuodė apie jų santykius ir visas pasaulis sužinojo, kad princas Harry ir Meghan Markle – pora. Kai jų santykiai nebebuvo paslaptis, Harry ir Meghan vis dažniau ėmė rodytis viešumoje drauge. 2017-ųjų balandį Meghan, kuri iki tol buvo aktyvi socialinių tinklų vartotoja, išsitrynė visas savo paskyras ir uždarė keletą metų kurtą gyvenimo būdo tinklaraštį.

2017-ųjų rugpjūtį per Meghan gimtadienį Harry suorganizavo jai nepamirštamą trijų savaitių kelionę į jų mėgiamą Afriką – pora keliavo po Zambiją ir Botsvaną. Daug kas spėliojo, kad per šią kelionę princas gali pasipiršti, tačiau sužadėtuvių dar reikėjo palaukti – bet jau nebeilgai. 2017-ųjų lapkritį šurmulys dėl galimų sužadėtuvių pasiekė piką: iš pradžių pasirodė pranešimai, kad Meghan pasitraukia iš ją išgarsinusio serialo „Kostiumuotieji“ („Suits“), tuojau pat sekė žinia apie jos persikraustymą į Kensingtono rūmus, o neilgai trukus sulaukta ir džiugios žinios – princas Harry ir Meghan Markle susižadėjo. 15min studijoje – pokalbis su įdomiais pašnekovais ir ekspertais apie karališkąsias vestuves:

Šaltinis: 2018-05-19, „15min“ (<https://15min.lt>)

3) Netikėta žinia: Jennifer Lopez ir Alexas Rodriguezas nutraukė sužadėtuves ir suka skirtingais keliais

Užsienio portalai praneša, kad dainininkė, aktorė Jennifer Lopez ir Alexas Rodriguezas nutraukė savo sužadėtuves.

Remiantis „Page Six“ pranešimu, 51-erių atlikėja ir 45-erių buvęs „Yankees“ beisbolo žaidėjas nutraukė ketverius metus besitęsusį romaną. „Us Weekly“ pridūrė, kad „paskutinį kartą drauge jie buvo pastebėti kovo 1-ąją. Po to jie vienas su kitu nebesimatė. Jūdviejų santykiuose jau kuris laikas buvo problemų.“ Tuo tarpu vasario mėnesį superžvaigždžių pora buvo apsistojusi Dominikos respublikoje, J. Lopez dalyvavo ten vykusiuose filmavimuose. Tiesa, įvardinta ir galima skyrybų priežastis. Teigiama, kad A. Rodriguezas sustikinėja su „Southern Charm“ žvaigžde Madison LeCroy. „Tai buvo priežastis, dėl kurios pora galutinai išsiskyrė. Buvo problemų ir prieš tai, tačiau Jennifer itin sutriko dėl to.“

Beisbolo legenda ir viena garsiausių dainininkių susitikinėjo beveik ketverius metus.

J. Lopez tai būtų buvusi jau ketvirtoji santuoka, o A. Rodriguezui - antroji. Abu jie turi po dvi atžalas iš prieš tai buvusių santuokų. Apie savo sužadėtuves pora paskelbė 2019 metų kovą. „Ji pasakė „taip“, – Instagrame pasidžiaugė Alexas Rodriguezas ir paviešino nuotrauką, kurioje ant Jennifer Lopez kairės rankos matomas gigantiško dydžio deimantas. Dainininkė savo paskyroje patalpino tą pačią nuotrauką ir pridėjo daugybę širdelių.

Šaltinis: 2021-03-13, „DELFI žinios“ (<https://delfi.lt>)

4) Paaikėjo ažiotažą tarp Maluma gerbėjų sukėlusios nuotraukos paslaptis

Pasaulinė Lotynų muzikos ikona Maluma sausio 28 d. atšventė savo 27-ąją gimtadienį ir pristatė audiovizualinį albumą „#7DJ (7 Days in Jamaica)“. Ši naujiena yra kupina saulės, bendravimo, laisvės pojūčio ir, žinoma, Jamaikos garsų bei vaizdų. Kartu su albumu išėjo ir 23 minučių filmas, kuriame – Malumos nuotykių Jamaikoje.

Prieš pristatydamas savo naujausią albumą Maluma savo socialiniuose tinkluose pasidalino nuotrauka, kurioje bučiuoja moters pilvą su užrašu „#7DJ“. Dainininko internetinėse paskyrose kilo didžiulis ažiotažas dėl galimai tėvu tapsančio Malumos. Tačiau pasirodė, kad „vaikas“, kurio laukė dainininkas, yra naujausias albumas, rašoma pranešime spaudai. „#7DJ“ albumo idėja atsirado prieš maždaug metus, kai Maluma kartu su savo artimiausiais draugais ir muzikantais septynioms dienoms išvyko į Jamaiką. Šią šalį dainininkas svajojo aplankyti dar būdamas vaikas. Malumai iškart pavyko įsiliesti į salos gyvenimą ir, be abejonės, muzikos garsus – naujos dainos gimdavo kiekvieną kelionės dieną. Laiką Jamaikoje Maluma įvardino kaip ypatingą gyvenimo pokytį.

„Tos septynios dienos sutapo būtent tada, kai man labai reikėjo pabėgti ir atitolti nuo bet kokio spaudimo. Iki to laiko netgi septynerius metus dirbau be sustojimo ir labai sunkiai. Buvau pasiekęs

ribą, kai paklausiau savęs, ar man tikrai verta tęsti muzikanto karjerą“, – atvirauja Maluma. Šios ypatingos kelionės metu Maluma iš naujo atrado savo gebėjimus ir aistrą: „Iš Jamaikos grįžau tarsi kitas žmogus, tvirtai žinodamas, kad ne tik privalau kurti muziką, tačiau ji yra mano dalis“, – toliau pasakoja Lotynų muzikos ikona vadinamas kolumbietis. Pasak Malumos, po kelionės Jamaikoje pasikeitė ne tik jo požiūris į save, bet ir gimė visiškai netikėtų ir šiam atlikėjui nebūdingų, laikiui nepavaldžių sąskambių albumas. Beje, jame išgirsite ir nusipelnusių Jamaikos muzikantų balsus: Ziggy Marley, Charly Blac. Albume groja ir daug vietinių instrumentalistų. Tos pačios kelionės metu buvo nufilmuotas ir filmas, kuriame jungiasi netgi septyni vaizdo klipai. Dainininko komanda šį filmą vadina audiovizualiniu nuotykiu.

Šaltinis: 2021-01-29, „DELFI žinios“ (<https://delfi.lt>)

5) Gimė karališkasis kūdikis: princas Williamas ir hercogienė Catherine susilaukė sūnaus

Britų princas Williamas (35 m.) ir jo žmona Kembridžo hercogienė Catherine (36 m.) susilaukė trečio vaiko – pirmadienį jiems gimė sūnus.

Apie tai Kensingtono rūmai pranešė kelios minutės po 13 val. vietos laiku (15 val. Lietuvos laiku) žinute „Twitter“ tinkle: „Jos Karališkoji Didenybė Kembridžo Hercogienė 11.01 val. (13.01 val. Lietuvos laiku, – red. past.) sėkmingai pagimdė sūnų. Kūdikis sveria 3 827 g. Kembridžo hercogas dalyvavo gimdyje. Karališkoji Didenybė ir jos kūdikis jaučiasi gerai.“

Pirmiausiai ši naujiena buvo pranešta karalienei Elizabeth II, tada apie kūdikio gimimą buvo informuoti Williamo ir Catherine šeimų nariai ir tik po poros valandų ši žinia buvo paskelbta viešai. Naujojo princo vardas kol kas neskelbiamas, tačiau anot lažybininkų, daugiausia šansų yra, kad sūnų karališkoji pora pavadins Philipu, Arthuru arba Albertu. Vos gimęs berniukas iš karto gavo karališką titulą – jis bus Jo Karališkoji Didenybė Kembridžo princas. Naujasis princas yra penktas eilėje į sostą – po savo senelio princo Charleso, tėčio princo Williamo ir vyresniųjų brolio bei sesers. Tai – jau šeštas karalienės Elizabeth II proanūkis.

Nors būta įvairiausių spėlionių ir įtarinėjimų, vis tik pranešama, kad karališkoji pora iki pat kūdikio gimimo nežinojo, turės dar vieną sūnų ar dukrą. 15min primena, kad ankstų pirmadienio rytą, maždaug prieš šešias, hercogienę Catherine prasidėjus sąrėmiams į privačią Šv. Marijos ligoninę Londone atvežė princas Williamas. Apie tai Kensingtono rūmai pranešė 8.23 val. vietos laiku (Lietuvos – 10.23 val.).

SUPRASTI AKIMIRKSNIU

2018 m. balandžio 23 d. 11.01 val. Kembridžo hercogienės Catherine pagimdė berniuką

Trečiasis hercogienės gimdymas truko penkias valandas

Naujasis princas – penktas eilėje į Jungtinės Karalystės sostą

Berniuko titulas – Jo Karališkoji Didenybė Kembridžo princas

Naujagimio princo vardas kol kas neskelbiamas

Kembridžo hercogienė Catherine gimė privačios Šv. Marijos ligoninės „Lindo“ sparne, kaip ir pirmus du kartus. Čia 1982 metais gimė ir pats princas Williamas.

Šiandien gimęs berniukas yra trečias poros vaikas – jiedu jau augina liepą penktąjį gimtadienį švėsiantį sūnų George'ą ir dukrą Charlotte, kuriai visai netrukus sueis treji. 15min primena, kad pirmąjį sūnų hercogienė Catherine taip pat pagimdė pirmadienį, tai buvo 2013-ųjų liepos 22-oji – princas George'as pasaulį išvydo 16.24 val. Tuo tarpu antras hercogienės gimdymas vyko šeštadienį, 2015-ųjų gegužės 2-ąją – princesė Charlotte gimė 8.34 val.

Sulaukus naujojo princo balandis britų karališkajai šeimai tapo dar ypatingesnis – balandžio 21-ąją yra karalienės Elizabeth II gimtadienis (šiomet jai suėjo 92-eji), o 29-ąją – princo Williamo ir Kembridžo hercogienės Catherine vestuvių metinės (šiomet – septintos). Kad princas Williamas ir jo žmona Catherine turės trečią vaiką, britų karališkieji rūmai pranešė rugsėjo pradžioje. Kaip ir laukiantis pirmus du kartus, hercogienę Catherine nėštumo pradžioje kamavo itin sunkus pykinimas, dėl kurio jai teko atšaukti ne vieną oficialų vizitą. Dėl to rūmai ir pranešė šią žinią anksčiau, nei praėjo rizikingiausių laikomų mėnesių laikotarpis – tokia pati situacija buvo ir per kitus hercogienės nėštumus.

Prezidentė pasveikino karalienę Elizabeth II su proanūkio gimimu

Prezidentė Dalia Grybauskaitė pirmadienį pasveikino Jungtinės Karalystės karalienę Elizabeth II su šeštojo proanūkio gimimu. Dalia Grybauskaitė savo ir Lietuvos žmonių vardu palinkėjo sveikatos bei greito stiprėjimo hercogienei Catherine ir naujagimiui, kuo didžiausios sėkmės ir laimės visai karališkajai šeimai. Šio džiugaus įvykio proga prezidentė taip pat pasveikino visus Jungtinės Karalystės žmones ir palinkėjo jiems visokeriopos gerovės bei klestėjimo.

Šaltinis: 2018-04-23, „15min“ (<https://15min.lt>)

6) „SpaceX“ paleido raketą su 60 interneto ryšio palydovų

„SpaceX“ ketvirtadienį paleido sunkiąją raketą „Falcon 9“, nešusią 60 nedidelių palydovų, papildysiančių pasaulinę plačiajuosčio interneto ryšio sistemą „Starlink“, pranešė ši privati amerikiečių kosmoso bendrovė.

Raketa pakilo 1 val. 19 min. vietos (8 val. 19 min. Lietuvos) laiku iš Kennedy kosmoso centro Floridoje.

Tai jau aštuonioliktas „Starlink“ palydovų iškėlimas į orbitą nuo 2019 metų gegužės. Ankstesnė 60 palydovų partija buvo iškelta sausio 20 dieną.

Iš viso orbitoje jau bus 1 083 sistemos „Starlink“ kosminiai aparatai. „SpaceX“ šiuo metu yra didžiausia palydovų operatorė pasaulyje.

Ketvirtadienį kompanija rengėsi paleisti dar vieną raketą nešėją „Falcon 9“ su dar 60 „Starlink“ palydovų, bet jos startas buvo atidėtas parai, kad būtų galima papildomai patikrinti jos sistemas.

Bendrai „SpaceX“ planuoja į orbitą iškelti 12 tūkst. tokio tipo kosminių aparatų, o vėliau ketina turėti iš viso 30 tūkst. palydovų, kurie užtikrintų globalų plačiajuosčio interneto ryšio tinklą. Anksčiau kompanija skelbė, kad 2021 metais tinklas apims beveik visą planetą.

Bendra investicijų į šį projektą suma yra 10 mlrd. dolerių (8,3 mlrd. eurų).

Ketvirtadienį paleistos raketos daugkartinė pirmoji pakopa 8 minutės ir 25 sekundės po starto sėkmingai nusileido ant plūduriuojančios platformos „Of Course I Still Love You“ Atlanto vandenyne. Ši „Falcon 9“ pakopa buvo panaudota jau penktą kartą.

Šaltinis: 2021-02-04, „LRT“ (<https://lrt.lt>)

7) Oficialu: Schumacherio sūnus debiutuos F-1 lenktynėse

„Formulės-1“ komanda „Haas“ oficialiai patvirtino, kad nuo kito sezono vienu iš jos pilotų bus legendinio Vokietijos lenktynininko Michaelio Schumacherio sūnus Mickas Schumacheris.

21-erių M. Schumacherio pavardė kurį laiką buvo minima tarp kandidatų papildyti „Alfa Romeo“ gretas, tačiau galų gale vokietis sudarė sutartį su savo pilotų gretas visiškai atnaujinančia „Haas“. Jaunasis M. Schumacheris jau yra tapęs „Formulės 3“ čempionu, o šį sezoną puikiai atrodo „Formulės 2“ čempionate, yra jo lyderis ir demonstruoja, kad kilti į aukščiausią lygį nusipelno ne dėl savo garsios pavardės. Su amerikiečių „Haas“ komanda Mickas sudarė ilgalaikę sutartį. „Galimybė jau kitą sezoną dalyvauti F-1 lenktynėse man tiesiog atima žadą. Esu neįtikėtinais dėkingas už manimi parodytą pasitikėjimą ir tikiuosi nenuvilti. Taip pat noriu padėkoti savo tėvams, aš jiems skolingas už viską. Paslapčia visada tikėjau, kad išpildysiu savo svajonę varžytis F-1 čempionate“, – teigė M. Schumacheris.

Naujoji vokiečio komanda artimai bendradarbiauja su „Ferrari“, kurios jaunųjų talentų vairavimo akademijos nariu jau keletą metų buvo Mickas. Kitu „Haas“ pilotu 2021-ųjų F-1 sezone bus rusas Nikita Mazepinas. Šiame sezone Konstruktorių įskaitoje „Haas“ už priešpaskutinę devintą vietą (3 taškai). Kartu su prancūzu Romanu Grosjeanu (2 tšk.) komandai atstovauja danas Kevinas Magnussenas (1 tšk.). Ateinantį savaitgalį vėl Bahreine vyksiančiame priešpaskutiniame „Formulės 1“ sezono etape po avarijos sveikstantį R. Grosjeaną laikinai pavaduos atsarginis komandos pilotas iš Brazilijos Pietro Fittipaldi. „Haas“ anksčiau pranešė, kad po sezono atsisveikins su abiem dabartiniais savo lenktynininkais.

Šaltinis: 2020-12-02, „DELFI žinios“ (<https://delfi.lt>)

8) Usainas Boltas laikytis atstumo paragino iškalbinga nuotrauka

Jamaikos lengvosios atletikos buvęs sprinteris Usainas Boltas surado originalų būdą laikytis socialinio atstumo per pandemiją.

„Socialinė distancija“, – parašė U.Boltas socialiniame tinkle „Twitter“ prie nuotraukos, kurioje jis užfiksuoja laimintis 2008 metų Pekino olimpinės žaidynes.

Per COVID-19 pandemiją visame pasaulyje rekomenduojama laikytis 2–3 metrų atstumo tarp žmonių. Panašiu atstumu tada savo varžovus aplenkė U.Boltas, pasiekęs įspūdingą pergalę tokia persvara, kokios per aukšto lygio sprinto varžybas beveik nepasitaiko.

Greičiausias žmogus planetoje tada buvo 21-erių, kai per olimpinės žaidynes Pekine pagerino sau priklausiusį pasaulio rekordą 100 metrų rungtyje. Nors prie finišo linijos jis jau kėlė rankas aukštyn, tokie judesiai jam nesukliudė užfiksuoti įspūdingą rezultatą – 9,69 sek. Tose žaidynėse U.Boltas triumfavo ir 200 m bėgimo rungtyje, irgi pagerinęs pasaulio rekordą (19,3 sek.).

Aštuonis aukso medalius olimpinėse žaidynėse laimėjęs U.Boltas ir pats remia savo gimtosios šalies Jamaikos kovą su koronavirusu. Prieš kelerius metus karjerą baigęs lengvaatletis, kuriam iki šiol priklauso 100 ir 200 m bėgimo pasaulio rekordai, paaukojo 3,4 tūkst. eurų per Jamaikoje rengiamą nacionalinę akciją, kurios metu norima surinkti apie 10 mln. sumą įvairioms medicininėms priemonėms.

Šaltinis: 2020-04-13, „15min“ (<https://15min.lt>)

9) Kim Kardashian 20-metė sesuo Kylie Jenner pagimdė dukrą: sukūrė filmą apie slėptą nėštumą

Visą nėštumą slapukavusi ir šios žinios taip ir nepatvirtinusi Kylie Jenner vasario 1-ąją pagimdė dukrą. Apie tai 20-metė pranešė kartu su filmu, dedikuotu ką tik gimusiai dukrai.

Kylie Jenner ir reperio Travisio Scotta dukra gimė ketvirtadienį. Nors nėštumą pora itin slėpė, tačiau pagausėjus šeimai paaiškino, kodėl taip elgėsi. „Atsiprašau jūsų dėl to, kad nieko nepasakojau, kai viešumoje buvo daroma tiek daug prielaidų. Aš suprantu, kad jūs esate įpratę, kai aš dalinuosi visomis savo gyvenimo akimirkomis. Tačiau nėštumas buvo vienintelis dalykas, apie kurį nusprendžiau visam pasauliui neskelbti. Man reikėjo pasiruošti šiai rolei, būti pozityviai, be jokio streso. Nebuvo suplanuotas joks didysis atskleidimas, už kurį būčiau gavusi pinigų. Žinojau, kad mano kūdikis jaustų visą stresą ir kiekvieną mano blogą emociją, todėl pasirinkau pergyventi šį laiką tyliai. Nėštumas buvo gražiausia, gyvenimą visiškai keičianti patirtis ir aš to pasiilgsiu. Dėkoju savo draugams ir ypač šeimai, kurie padėjo visą šį džiaugsmą išlaikyti kiek įmanoma privačiau. Mano graži ir sveika mergytė gimė vasario 1-ąją ir aš negalėjau sulaukti, kada šiuo palaiminimu galėsiu pasidalinti su jumis. Niekada nejutau tokios meilės ir laimės. Ačiū už supratimą“, – rašė Kylie.

Kartu su šiuo pranešimu Kylie Jenner paviešino ir 11-os minučių filmą, skirtą ką tik gimusiai dukteriai. Jame rodoma Kylie ir Travisio meilės istorija bei visas slėptas jos nėštumas, iki pat mažylės gimimo ir pirmo jos verksmo.

Jau po to, kai apie savo nėštumą bei gimdymą prabilo pati Kylie, jos vyresnioji sesuo Khloe Kardashian savo „Instagram“ paskyroje pasidalijo nuotrauka, kurioje jos abi rodo savo pilvukus. Abi sesės laukėsi tuo pačiu metu, tik Khloe gimdymas numatytas kiek vėliau – jos pirmagimis pasaulį išvys ankstyvą pavasarį. „Sveikinu, mano brangioji Kylie! Kokia magiška kelionė tai buvo! Pasiilgsiu

tavęs būnančios nėščios kartu su manimi. Niekada nebūčiau net pagalvojusi, kad tai patirsime abi kartu, bet būtent dėl to tai tapo dar ypatingiau. Dievas yra toks didis!! Jis viską jau seniai buvo suplanavęs! Myliu tave, mažoji mama – su meile, didžioji mama“, – rašė Khloe Kardashian.

Realybės šou žvaigždės Kim Kardashian 20-metė sesuo pradingo iš viešumos iškart, kai žiniasklaidoje pasirodė pirmieji pranešimai apie jos nėštumą. Iki tol itin aktyvi socialinių tinklų vartotoja apleido savo viešąjį gyvenimą, o milijonai gerbėjų nekantraudami laukė naujienų apie ją bei patys bandė išspręsti jos nėštumo mįslę.

Atsirado net teorija, kad Kylie Jenner savo nėštumą slėpė dėl to, jog iš tiesų ji nešiojo Kim Kardashian, kuri trečio vaiko susilaukė su surogatinės motinos pagalba, kūdikį! Tačiau nei pati Kylie Jenner, nei jos garsioji šeima žinios apie nėštumą nepatvirtino – vos sulaukusios klausimų ta tema, Kylie seserys ir mama visai išsisukinėdavo. Kylie Jenner dukters tėvas – reperis Travisas Scottas (25 m.). Su juo mergina draugauti pradėjo tik 2017-ųjų balandį – neplanuotas nėštumas juodu nustebino pačioje santykių pradžioje. 2018-ųjų pradžia Kardashianų ir Jennerių klanui – labai vaisinga: sausio 15-ąją gimė pakaitinės motinos išnešiotą Kim Kardashian ir Kanye Westo dukra Chicago, o neilgai trukus pirmagimio susilauks ir Khloe Kardashian. Ji, kaip ir Kylie Jenner, savo nėštumą ilgą laiką slėpė ir apie jį pranešė tik šeštą nėštumo mėnesį. Pranešama, kad jai ir NBA krepšininkui Tristanui Thompsonui gims sūnus.

Šaltinis: 2018-02-04, „15min“ (<https://15min.lt>)

10) Komikas Kevinas Hartas nebeves „Oskarų“ ceremonijos dėl homofobiškų komentarų

JAV komikas ir aktorius Kevinas Hartas ketvirtadienį vakare netikėtai pasitraukė iš vasarį įvyksiančios „Oskarų“ įteikimo ceremonijos vedėjo pareigų dėl praeityje paskelbtos virtinės homofobiškų ir antigėjiškų žinučių socialiniame tinkle „Twitter“.

Aktorius, vos prieš porą dienų paskelbęs apie pasitaikiusią „gyvenimo galimybę“ vadovauti ceremonijai, dabar sako, jog Kino meno ir mokslo akademija pareikalavo atsiprašyti už jo senus komentarus arba jis neteks šio darbo.

Kevinas Hartas atsakė, kad minėti komentarai buvo parašyti beveik prieš dešimtmetį, ir nuo to laiko jis gerokai subrendo.

„Aš nusprendžiau paskelbti atsiprašymą. Tai padariau todėl, kad keletą kartų liečiau šią temą“, – sakė 39 metų Kevinas Hartas vaizdo įrašė, paskelbtame socialiniame tinkle „Instagram“.

„Pasakiau, kad dabar esu visai kitoks nei buvau tada. Aš tai padariau. Nesiruošiu grįžti prie senų dienų, nes pasikeičiau ir esu visai kitame savo gyvenimo etape“, – kalbėjo komikas.

Socialiniame tinkle „Twitter“ jis atsiprašė ir LGBT bendruomenės už „netaktiškus žodžius praeityje“.

„Apgailestauju, kad skaudinau žmones, – pridūrė jis. – Aš keičiuosi ir noriu keistis toliau. Siekiu vienyti žmones, o ne juos skaldyti. Su meile ir pagarba Akademijai. Tikiuosi, mes dar susitiksime.“

Dabar organizatoriams reikės surasti naują vedėją vasarį įvyksiančiai 91-ajai „Oskarų“ įteikimo ceremonijai.

Filmo „Džiumandži: sveiki atvykę į džungles“ žvaigždė iškilmingame vakare vasario 24 dieną Holivude turėjo šeiminkauti po dvejų iš eilės metų, kai ceremoniją vedė pokalbių laidų vedėjas Jimmy Kimmelis.

Kas betaptų apdovanojimų renginio vedėju, jis jaus milžinišką spaudimą padidinti šio metinio šou reitingus. Pernai „Oskarų“ įteikimo ceremoniją žiūrėjo rekordiškai mažai – 26,5 mln. – žiūrovų. 2014 metais žiūrovų skaičius buvo 43 milijonai.

Kino meno ir mokslo akademija yra sakiusi, kad įveda virtualią pakeitimų žiūrimumui padidinti, įskaitant šou sutrumpinimą iki trijų valandų ir kai kurių apdovanojimų įteikimą per reklamines pertraukas.

Šaltinis: 2018-12-07, „15min“ (<https://15min.lt>)

11) Dar vienas Japonijos miestas dėl viruso plitimo atšaukė olimpinio deglo nešimą

Vienas Japonijos vakaruose esantis miestas dėl vis sparčiau plintančio pandemio koronaviruso trečiadienį atšaukė čia planuotą olimpinio deglo nešimo etapą ir tapo antra tokio renginio atsisakiusia teritorija.

Macujamos miesto sprendimas paskelbtas likus 100 dienų iki atidėtos Tokijo 2020-ųjų olimpiados pradžios, šalyje vėl sustiprėjus susirūpinimui dėl galimybių žaidynėms įvykti.

Anot Pasaulio sveikatos organizacijos (PSO), koronaviruso pandemija pasiekė kritinį tašką, eksponentiškai augant užsikrėtimo atvejų skaičiui. COVID-19 atvejų šiuo metu sparčiai daugėja ir Japonijoje.

„Atšauksime deglo nešimą Macujamos mieste. [Olimpinės] ugnies atvykimo šventę surengsime... be žiūrovų“, – sakė Ehimės prefektūros gubernatorius Tokihiro Nakamura.

Daugėjant COVID-19 atvejų, medicinos įstaigos regione patiria „itin didelį spaudimą“, sakė T. Nakamura.

Pasak jo, olimpiados organizatoriai su sprendimu sutiko. Organizacinio komiteto komentaro kol kas nebuvo.

Olimpinio deglo nešimas prasidėjo kovo 25 dieną Fukušimoje, o balandžio 21-ąją deglas turėjo būti nešamas per Macujamą – golfo didvyrio Hideki Matsuyamos gimtąjį miestą.

Šią savaitę olimpinio deglo nebuvo galima nešti viešaisiais Osakos regiono keliais, todėl jo nešėjai bėgo viename uždaramame parke, stebint nedideliame giminaičių ir draugų būriui.

Tebesitęsianti pandemija trukdo ruošti olimpiadai ir kursto nežinomybę dėl to, ar šis didžiulis renginys gali ir ar turėtų įvykti.

Šaltinis: 2021-04-14, „DELFI žinios“ (<https://delfi.lt>)

12) Rusija skelbia įregistravusi vakciną nuo COVID-19

Nepaisant pasaulio ekspertų abejonių greitai sukurtos vakcinos saugumu, Rusija skelbia įregistravusi pirmąją pasaulyje vakciną nuo COVID-19.

Liepos 11 d. prezidentas Vladimiras Putinas paskelbė, jog Rusija sukūrė pirmąją vakciną, suteikiančią „tvarų imunitetą“ nuo naujojo pandemio koronaviruso, skelbia naujienų agentūra BNS. Valstybės vadovas pridūrė, kad naujieji skiepai buvo išbandyti su viena iš jo dukterų.

„Kiek žinau, ši rytą pirmąkart pasaulyje buvo įregistruota vakcina nuo naujosios koronavirusinės infekcijos“, – sakė V. Putinas per vaizdo konferenciją su vyriausybės nariais. Jo teigimu, buvo atlikti visi būtini vakcinos saugumo patikrinimai.

Kritikuoja dėl skubos

Kaip praneša „The Moscow Times“, Gamalėjos nacionaliniame epidemiologijos ir mikrobiologijos institute sukurta vakcina tik praėjusią savaitę pradėjo trečiąjį klinikinių tyrimų etapą, kuriame dalyvauja tūkstančiai savanorių.

Rusijos Sveikatos ministerija skelbia, jog vakcina vartotojus turėtų pasiekti nuo 2021 m. sausio 1-osios. Kiek anksčiau Michailas Muraška, Rusijos sveikatos apsaugos ministras, yra pareiškęs, jog masinė vakcinos gamyba gal būti pradėta ir kitą mėnesį, o skiepyti žmones bus galima jau spalį.

Tarptautiniai ekspertai Rusijos siekį įregistruoti vakciną kuo greičiau, nepabaigus trečiojo klinikinių tyrimų etapo, vadina Pandoros skrynia.

Pasak BNS, Vokietija antradienį pažėrė abejonių dėl rusiškos vakcinos nuo koronaviruso kokybės ir saugumo, pabrėždama, kad Europos Sąjungoje ji gali būti patvirtinta tik po visaverčių klinikinių bandymų.

„Pacientų saugumas yra svarbiausias prioritetas, – spaudos grupei RND sakė Vokietijos sveikatos apsaugos ministerijos atstovė. – Nėra žinomų duomenų apie rusiškos vakcinos kokybę, veiksmingumą ir saugumą.“

Praėjusią savaitę Pasaulio sveikatos organizacija (PSO) įspėjo Rusiją, jog būtina atlikti nuodugnius bet kokių medicininių preparatų bandymus ir griežtai paisyti visų reikalavimų saugiam jų vartojimui.

Christianas Lindmeieris, Prancūzijos „Le Figaro“ cituotas PSO atstovas, tąsyk aiškino, jog egzistuoja esminiai principai ir aiškūs nurodymai, normatyviniai aktai, kaip viskas turi būti patikrinta, kad vakcina būtų saugi ir veiksminga. Jis teigė, jog „tarp veiksmingos vakcinos „radimo“ ar „turėjimo“ ir visų (vakcinos tyrimo) etapų užbaigimo yra didelis skirtumas“.

Trys etapai – privalomi

Klinikiniai tyrimai atliekami po bandymų su gyvūnais ir yra būtini, kad vakcinos prototipas būtų patvirtintas reguliuojančių institucijų. Jie paprastai vyksta trimis etapais. Pirmajame, kuriame dalyvauja kelios dešimtys sveikų savanorių, patikrinamas vakcinos saugumas, stebint, ar nėra neigiamo poveikio. Antrasis, apimantis kelis šimtus žmonių dažniausiai ligos paveiktoje pasaulio dalyje, parodo, kiek vakcina veiksminga, o trečiame etape tas pats pakartojama su keliolika tūkstančiais žmonių. Eidamos per šiuos etapus nemažai eksperimentinių vakcinų atkrenta.

Paskutiniuosius savo vakcinų bandymų etapus pradėjo ar netrukus pradės Oksfordo universiteto mokslininkai, kelios kinų kompanijos, JAV „Moderna“, „Johnson & Johnson“, „Novavax“, „Pfizer“.

Šaltinis: 2020-08-11, „Verslo žinios“ (<https://vz.lt>)

13) Spalvinga Tysono gyvenimo istorija – nusikaltimai, skandalai ir karaliavimas ringe

Legendinis boksininkas Mike'as Tysonas pastaruoju metu vėl džiugina savo gerbėjus. Į treniruotes sugrįžęs 53 metų sportininkas ruošiasi labdaros kovoms.

Praėjo beveik penkiolika metų po paskutinės jo kovos, tačiau negalima nesistebėti išlikusiais puikiais M. Tysono judesiais ir gerėjančia fizine forma, kurią jis demonstruoja socialinėje erdvėje. Jam pradėjus treniruotis jis jau sulaukė daugybės įvairių pasiūlymų susikauti už milžiniškas sumas.

M. Tysonas yra vienas geriausių boksininkų per visą istoriją, tačiau visą gyvenimą jį lydėjo ir kitų istorijų šleifas, nesusijusių su sportu.

Kalbant apie M. Tysoną labai tiktų žodžiai, „och, nuo ko pradėti“?

Kažkada jis nukando Evanderio Holyfieldo ausies kraštelį, pasidarė tatuiruotę ant veido, buvo nufilmuotas besigrumiantis su tigru teniso kortė.

Aptarinėjamos istorijos, kaip jis mašinoje smūgiavo į galvą garsiajam vadybininkui Donui Kingui, kol šis vairavo, ar kaip yra pasiūlęs 9 tūkst. dolerių prižiūrėtojui zoologijos sode, kad šis leistų susigrumti su gorila.

M. Tysono gyvenime būta priklausomybių, narkotinių medžiagų, kalėjimo, brutalių nokautų, kovos su depresija, rolės Holivudo filmuose. Istorijų tiek, kad visų ir neišvardinsi ar net neatsiminsi. M. Tysonas ne tik nuostabus boksininkas, tačiau ir tokia spalvinga išsiskirianti iš kitų asmenybė.

Nors praėjo jau beveik penkiolika metų po paskutinės jo kovos, žmonės niekada jo nepamiršta. Boksas turėjo didį čempioną, kuris pranokdavo visus dar prieš pačią kovą. M. Tysonas turėjo pravarde „blogiausias žmogus pasaulyje“. Kai kurie tiesiog nesugebėjo kitaip jo apibūdinti žinant, kaip jis nuolat būdavo skandalų centre.

Bokse jis pasiekė aukštumas. Būdamas 20-ties tapo jauniausiu istorijoje sunkiasvoriu čempionu ir pirmu žmogumi vienu metu laikiusiu WBC, WBA ir IBF diržus. Bet už ringo pats M. Tysonas nuolat kurdavo apie save antraštes.

Jis pats yra sakęs apie savo gyvenimą frazė: „Atėjau, pamačiau, nugalėjau, buvau nugalėtas, atsitiesiau“.

Pradžia ir pirmieji skandalai

M. Tysono kelionė prasidėjo Bruklina, Niujorke. Savo autobiografinėje knygoje „Nenuginčijama tiesa“ pats boksininkas prisiminęs savo vaikystę atviravo, kad jam teko vaikytis kitas gaujas su automatu, gyventi name be vandens ar šildymo, ar nuolat patirti patyčias. Jis prisiminė nuolatinės sunkias dienas namuose, kai jo mama su tuometiniu draugu nuolat ginčijosi ir mušėsi.

„Štai tokioje aplinkoje ir rajone užaugau, – rašė pats M. Tysonas. – Žmonės mėgo daužyti vienas kitam galvas ir kraujuoti. Jie mylėjo vienas kitą, bet ir norėjo tiesiog daužytis.“

M. Tysonas jau buvo pradėjęs gyventi nusikaltėlio gyvenimą, kai susipažino su žmogumi vardu Barkinas. Barkinas su draugu buvo kiek vyresni nei M. Tysonas ir liepė jam prižiūrėti balandžius.

„Man patiko tą daryti, tai buvo tarsi sportas. Darydavau tą aukštai apleistose pastatuose. Tai buvo smagu.“

Tačiau tuo pat metu M. Tysonas priklausė ir gaujai, su kuria vogė daiktus, rūkė marijuaną, bet vis vien prižiūrėjo balandžius. Tada jis dar nebuvo atradęs savo talento boksuotis. Tačiau kartą jis įsivėlė į konfliktą ir vyruką patiesė staigiu smūgiu. To įvykio liudininkai buvo apšalę ir patarė jam pradėti rimtai boksuotis.

Bet tada jis pradėjo ne tai, kad boksuotis, o muštis su vyresniais vaikais tiesiog gatvėje, kartais dėl pinigų, taip tarsi atkeršydamas už patirtas patyčias anksčiau. Tada gimė tikrasis M. Tysonas kaip boksininkas, kurio talento sportui negalėjai neįžvelgti.

Jo gyvenimas pasikeitė labiau, kai būdamas trylikos metų buvo pasiūstas į jaunuolių koloniją. Jau tuo metu jis buvo dėl įvairių nusikaltimų ar veikų baustas 30 kartų. Bobby Stewartas, kolonijoje dirbęs patarėju ir pats buvęs boksininkas pamatė jaunuolio talentą. Vėliau jis vaikiną supažindino su boksininku Svengaliu Cus D'Amato, kuriam buvo patikėta užduotis iš M. Tysono sulipdyti tikrą vyrą ir sportininką.

Su trenerio pagalba vaikinai mokėsi savo išsiūtį ir jėgą nukreipti teigiama linkme ir išnaudoti tą kitiems tikslams. Treneris padėjo jam laimėti aukso medalius 1981 ir 1982 jaunimo olimpiadoje. S. Cus D'Amato ibuvimas šalia M. Tysono jam padėjo ir už ringo ribų.

„Cusas norėjo pikčiausio boksininko pasaulyje, kuris dar prieš pradėdamas kovą jau įneštu baimės visiems. Jis treniravo mane būti bebaimiu ringe ir už jo ribų“, – yra sakęs pats M. Tysonas.

Blogasis berniukas M. Tysonas

Cusas vėliau ir įsivaikino M. Tysoną, kai jam dar būnant nepilnamečiu mirė jo mama. Jis vaikiną priėmė po savo sparnu ir norėjo padaryti puikiu boksininku. Tačiau Cusui ind mirus M. Tysono gyvenimas vėl tapo banguotas.

Iki 1990 metų jis buvo tiesiog nesustabdomas. M. Tysonas buvo čempionas, laimėjęs 37 kovas ir didžiąją dalį jų laimėdavo nokoutais. Tačiau vėliau paniro į depresiją, ėmė vartoti narkotines

medžiagas. Kartą M. Tysonas skrido į Japoniją, kur turėjo kautis dėl sunkiasvorio čempiono titulo su visišku kovos autsaideriu laikytu Jamesu Bousteriu Douglasu.

Tačiau po dešimties raundų M. Tysonas buvo priverstas sutikti su varžovo pranašumu ir kovą pralaimėjo. Pats boksininkas vėliau prisipažino, kad prieš kovą jis tiek ilgai šėlo vakarėliuose, kad tinkamai nelabai ir įmanoma buvo kovai pasiruošti.

Jo gyvenimas vėl tapo visiška karusele. Geras boksininkas, bet vis įsivieliantis į skandalus. Po dviejų metų nuo pralaimėjimo M. Tysonas buvo pasiūstas šešeriems metams už grotų dėl išprievartavimo. Paleistas lygtinai jis į ringą grįžo 1995 metais Las Vegase.

Pusantram milijonų dolerių, gausybė žiūrovų prie televizijos ekrano, gera kova – M. Tysonas nepaisant visko įrodė, kas jis kaip sportininkas dar vis labai gyvas. Tačiau savo knygoje pats sportininkas prisipažino, kad tuo metu jam ypač trukdė priklausomybė narkotikams, kuriuos vartodavo įvairiuose vietose ir dažnai.

1996 metais jis tapo ir vėl čempionu, bet metų pabaigoje titulą pralaimėjo E. Holyfieldui. Ši kova įsimins ilgam, nes jos metu M. Tysonas nukando varžovui ausies gabaliuką. Tiesiog nukando. M. Tysonas buvo diskvalifikuotas.

„Jis tarsi drakula, niekada niekada nesu matęs kažko panašaus, – tada sakė ringo komentatoriai. – Vis labiau manau, kad pats M. Tysonas nelabai suvokia, kas jis yra iš tikrųjų.“

1999 metais M. Tysonas vėl metams sėdo už grotų dėl užpuolimo, kai incidento metu smogė 62 metų vyrui.

Smūgis Donui Kingui ir vaidmuo filme

2002 metais jis vėl kovėsi, o jo varžovas buvo Lennoxas Lewisas. Priešprieša buvo tokia didžiulė, kad dar prieš mačą jie kibo vienas kitam į atlapus, M. Tysonas norėjo smogti varžovui. Vienas reporteris sušuko, kad M. Tysoną reiktų apvilkti tramdomaisiais marškiniais, tačiau sportininkas atsakė necenzūriniais žodžiais ir grasino tiesiog iš**** visų akivaizdoje.

Kovą ringe laimėjo L. Lewisas. 2005 metais M. Tysonas bokšą paliko ir visiškai bankrutavęs bei turėdamas didžiulį skolų. Vėliau jis apkaltino vadybininką Doną Kingą pasisavinus daugiau nei 100 mln. dolerių, kai M. Tysonas išėjo iš kalėjimo 1995 metais ir ėmė gauti puikius pasiūlymus finansiškai už kovas.

Tačiau vėliau atsiėmė ieškinį, kai abi pusės susitarė dėl 14 mln. dolerių sumos. Vėliau jis nuvyko pas Doną Kingą į Majamį, jo namus, kur abu svaiginosi. Pats M. Tysonas irasė: „Donas pasiėmė mane iš oro uosto, pasakė kažkokią nesąmonę ir aš tiesiog spyriau jam į galvą“.

Pats boksininkas pripažino, kad per keletą savo kovų karjeros metu jis buvo apsvaigęs nuo narkotikų. 2005 metais duodamas interviu „USA Today“ jis sakė: „Visas mano gyvenimas yra veltui. Aš esu niekas ir nevykėlis. Man tiesiog gėda dėl savęs. Žmonės mane kažkodėl vertino labai aukštai, mėgo, nors aš to nenusipelniau. Aš visada tarsi norėdavau pakeisti šį savo paveikslą.“

M. Tysonas spėjo suvaidinti ir Holivudo filme „Pagirios Las Vegase“ 2009 metais. Sportininkas pastaruoju metu itin atvirai yra atsivėręs ir tikino, kad sunkiai išgyvena depresiją ir jaučia tuštumą savyje.

„Aš tarsi karo studentas. Žinau visus karžygius, karius, jų kovas. Žinau kovos meną ir jį studijuoju. Todėl manęs bijojo ringe, nes aš žinojau, kas yra kova. Galbūt aš tam ir esu gimęs, bet dabar.. jaučiu tuštumą savyje. Esu niekas, tos dienos prabėgo ir jau jau negrįš. Todėl ir verkiu, kad nesu tas žmogus, kuriuo buvau, o aš jo ilgiuosi.“

M. Tysonas profesionaliame ringe kovėsi 58 kartus ir šventė 50 pergalių (44 – nokoutais), patyrė 6 pralaimėjimus. Dar dusyk tenkinosi baigtimi be nugalėtojo.

M. Tysonas visada bus tikra bokso ikona, tačiau kaip asmenybė jis išliks didžiule paslaptimi.

Šaltinis: 2020-05-11, „naujienų portalas tv3.lt“ (tv3.lt)

14) Ursula von der Leyen: moteris, išdrįsusi laužyti taisykles

Ursula von der Leyen (mergautinė pavardė Albrecht) gimė 1958 m. spalio 8 d. Belgijoje, tačiau ilgainiui tapo Vokietijos politike. Ji buvo pirmoji moteris, ėjusi Vokietijos gynybos ministro pareigas (2013–2019 metais). 2019 metų liepą ji buvo išrinkta Europos Komisijos pirmininke. Anksčiau jokiai moteriai šis postas patikėtas nebuvo.

Siūlome išsamiau pasidomėti moterimi, išdrįsusia iškelti lyčių lygybės ir kitus svarbius klausimus. Ji atsilaikė prieš spaudimą ir nepabūgo laužyti taisyklių. Ji pakeitė pasaulio veidą ir įrodė, kad gali pasipriešinti. Tokios moterys kaip U. von der Leyen neabejotinai įeis į istoriją, o jų darbai taps pavyzdžiais, iš kurių verta pasimokyti, rašoma tinklalapyje britannica.com.

Ankstyvi metai ir išsilavinimas

Ursulos tėvas – vokiečių politikas Ernstas Albrechtas, ėjęs Europos ekonominės bendrijos komisijos kabineto pirmininko pareigas. 1977–1980 metais Ursula studijavo ekonomiką Getingeno ir Mansterio universitetuose. Ji mokėsi ir Londono ekonomikos mokykloje, tačiau jos nebaigė. Užtat vėliau pasuko į mediciną ir 1987 metais baigė Vokietijos Hanoverio medicinos mokyklą (MHH). 1988–1992 metais moteris dirbo gydytojo padėjėja MHH ginekologijos klinikoje, o 1991 metais įgijo medicinos mokslų daktaro laipsnį. 1992–1996 metais Ursula gyveno Jungtinėse Valstijose, o jos vyras, Heiko von der Leyenas, dėstė Stanfordo universitete. Grįžusi į Vokietiją, 1998–2002 metais Ursula darbavosi MHH Epidemiologijos, socialinės medicinos ir sveikatos sistemų tyrimų fakultete. 2001 metais jai buvo suteiktas visuomenės sveikatos mokslų magistro laipsnis.

1990 metais U. von der Leyen įstojo į Vokietijos krikščionių demokratų sąjungą (CDU), o 1996 metais įsitraukė į Žemutinės Saksonijos, jos tėvo 1976–1990 metais valdytos federacinės žemės, politinius reikalus. Iki 2004 metų, kai buvo išrinkta į CDU komitetą, U. von der Leyen ėjo įvairias vietines ir valstybinės reikšmės pareigas. 2005 metais, kai CDU laimėjo federalinius rinkimus, jai buvo patikėtas šeimos, moterų, socialinių ir jaunimo reikalų ministro postas pirmajame Vokietijos kanclerės Angelos Merkel kabinete. Kalbant apie priemonės, kurių U. von der Leyen ėmėsi siekdama išspręsti žemo gimstamumo Vokietijoje problemą, verta paminėti apmokamų vaiko priežiūros atostogų įvedimą ir masinį vaikų priežiūros institucijų tinklo išplėtimą. 2009 metais politikė buvo išrinkta į Bundestagą (Vokietijos parlamento žemieji rūmai) ir tapo darbo ir socialinių reikalų ministre. Eidama šias pareigas dėl ištikusios finansinės krizės U. von der Leyen buvo priversta

apkarpyti socialinei paramai skirtas išlaidas. 2010 metų pabaigoje U. von der Leyen buvo patikėtas CDU pirmininko pavaduotojos postas.

Gynybos ministrės kadencija

2013 metų gruodį kai kurių apžvalgininkų A. Merkel įpėdine laikyta U. von der Leyen buvo paskirta šalies gynybos ministre. Ji tapo pirmąja moterimi šiame poste. Eidama šias pareigas U. von der Leyen stengėsi inicijuoti bundesvero (Vokietijos ginkluotosios pajėgos) reformą ir prisiėmė nemažai iššūkių.

U. von der Leyen viešai ragino savo šalį prisiimti daugiau atsakomybės Europos gynybos sektoriuje, o vėliau padėjo išrūpinti karinei įrangai skirtą finansavimą. 2015 metais, kai į Europą plūstelėjo srautai pabėgėlių, kurių dauguma prieglobsčio ieškojo Vokietijoje, prasidėjo dar viena krizė. Susiklosčiusioje situacijos teko persvarstyti turimas galimybes, o šitai privedė prie kovos su imigracija idėjų. U. von der Leyen ragino laikytis nuosaikiau: ji tvirtino, kad pabėgėlių negalima prilyginti teroristams. Po 2015 ir 2016 metais Paryžiuje bei Briuselyje įvykdytų teroristinių išpuolių jos pozicija vis dažniau sulaukdavo kritikos. 2018 metų vasarį, atlikus Vokietijos karinės įrangos patikrą, paaiškėjo, kad tik nedidelė dalis pagrindinių ginklų sistemų yra kovinės parengties. Eksploatacijai tada buvo tinkami mažiau nei trečdalis kovos orlaivių, mažiau nei pusė tankų ir tik trys kariniai transporto lėktuvai. U. von der Leyen, reaguodama į tokias patikros išvadas, konstatavo, kad prireiks nemažai laiko, kol pavyks kompensuoti dešimtmečiais trukusį finansavimo deficitą, o A. Merkel vyriausybė įsipareigojo gerokai padidinti gynybai skirtą biudžetą. Vis dėlto iki 2024 metų numatytas 1,5 proc. gynybos išlaidoms iš šalies BVP vis dar nesiekė 2 proc., dėl kurių 2014 metais susitarė NATO lyderiai, be to, bundesverui sunkiai sekėsi įgyvendinti su žmoniškųjų išteklių gausinimu susijusius tikslus. U. von der Leyen pasiūlė pradėti samdyti kitų Europos Sąjungos (ES) šalių piliečius, pakankamai ilgai gyvenančius Vokietijoje, tačiau ES šalių lyderiai ėmė reikšti būgštavimus dėl to, kaip tokia praktika paveiks kiekvienos valstybės narės karinį pasirengimą.

Kelias į Europos Komisijos pirmininkės postą

2018 metų spalį, po prasto CDU pasirodymo per regioninius rinkimus, A. Merkel pareiškė, kad nesieks dar vienos kadencijos partijos lyderės poste. Kadangi U. von der Leyen atsisakė pretenduoti į šias pareigas, galop jos atiteko A. Merkel proteguotai Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. Tai, kad kitados akivaizdžia A. Merkel įpėdine laikyta U. von der Leyen net neiškėlė savo kandidatūros, kai kurie laikė aiškiu įrodymu, jog gynybos ministro portfelis nėra trokštamas tikslas. Kadangi politinė karjera šalies viduje atrodė sustojusi, o gynybos departamente ėmė ryškėti nepotizmo ženklai, U. von der Leyen išsigelbėjimo kelią reikėtų laikyti netikėtu.

Tuometinio Europos Komisijos pirmininko Jeano-Claude'o Junckerio kadencijos pabaiga buvo numatyta 2019 metų lapkritį. Kas jį pakeis, turėjo spręsti Europos Vadovų Taryba. Galutinis sprendimas priklausė Europos Parlamentui. Deja, procesą komplikavo 2019 metų gegužę įvykusių rinkimų rezultatai, kuriuos paskelbus paaiškėjo, kad centristų valdančioji koalicija neteko ilgą laiką turėtos daugumos. 2019 metų birželį, prasidėjus deryboms už uždarų durų, ES lyderiai niekaip negalėjo rasti tokio kandidato, kuris būtų priimtinas ir centro dešiniųjų, ir centro kairiųjų blokams, be to, sulauktų palaikymo iš žaliųjų, liberalams atstovaujančių ir euroskeptiškai nusiteikusių Europos Parlamento narių.

2019 m. liepos 16 d. 383 balsais iš 747 buvo patvirtinta U. von der Leyen. Jau kitą dieną ji atsistatydino iš Vokietijos gynybos ministrės pareigų. Šį postą užėmė A. Kramp-Karrenbauer. U. von der Leyen J. C. Junckerį turėjo pakeisti lapkričio 1 d., bet dėl nesutarimų formuojant kabinetą pareigų perėmimo procesas mėnesiu užsitęsė. Taigi, tik 2019 m. gruodžio 1 d. U. von der Leyen tapo Europos Komisijos pirmininke – pirmąją moterimi šiame poste.

Šaltinis: 2020-12-06, „DELFI žinios“ (<https://delfi.lt>)

15) Neįtikėtina japono kelionė: aplink pasaulį – lankyti įžymybių kapų

Keliauti ne dėl malonumo, o tam, kad atiduotum pagarbą mirusiam garsiam žmogui. Nuo Antarktidos iki Lietuvos – japonas Kajiponas Marco Zangetsu aplankė 101 šalį, kur lenkėsi prie kapų tų žmonių, kurie buvo svarbūs ir jo gyvenime, ir žmonijos istorijoje.

Pirmą kartą iškeliauti aplankyti garsios asmenybės kapo K.M.Zangetsu sugalvojo, kai jam buvo devyniolika. Dabar vyrui 53-eji ir nepaprasta tiksliai pasakyti, kiek kapų yra aplankęs visose Žemės kertelėse.

„Atvirai sakant, tiksliai suskaičiuoti nėra kada, – prisipažino japonas. – Pastarąjį kartą, kai bandžiau, suskaičiavau 2520, bet tai buvo prieš dvejus metus.“

Savo piligrimines keliones jis vadina „gyvenimo darbu“, o jo neįprasta aistra daug kam kelia nuostabą, o kartais – susižavėjimą.

Dėkojo F.Dostojevskiui

Viskas prasidėjo 1987 metų rugpjūtį Rusijos mieste Sankt Peterburge, kuris tuo metu dar vadinosi Leningradu, prie rašytojo Fiodoro Dostojevskio kapo.

„Vis dar buvau studentas ir norėjau pareikšti padėką rašytojui, kurio darbai padėjo išlaviruoti sunkiais paauglystės metais“, – aiškino K.M.Zangetsu.

Kai jis padėjo ranką ant kapo ir rusiškai sumurmėjo žodį „ačiū“, kūną tarsi nupurtė: „Jaučiausi, lyg žaibas būtų į mane trenkęs.“

Augdamas K.M.Zangetsu nuolat pykosi su savo alkoholiku tėvu, todėl vienuoliktoje klasėje nusprendė palikti namus ir taip pabėgti nuo įtampos. Tais sunkiais metais ramybę jis atrado skaitydamas, ypač F.Dostojevskio kūrinį „Nusikaltimas ir bausmė“ bei kitus šio rašytojo darbus, kuriuos japonas apibūdino kaip išganymą. Mokykloje jis buvo paniręs į literatūrą, muziką ir meną. Jis domėjosi ir kūrėjų biografijomis bandydamas suprasti, kaip ir kodėl jie sukūrė savo geriausius darbus.

Tichvino kapinėse K.M.Zangetsu atrado ir didžiųjų Rusijos kompozitorių Piotro Čaikovskio bei Modesto Musorgskio kapus. Išeinant jį užplūdo nepaprastas noras nusilenkti ir kitiems menininkams.

„Johanas Sebastianas Bachas, Williamas Shakespeare’as, Johannas Wolfgangas von Goethe – jų tiek daug. Negalėjau eikvoti laiko“, – sakė K.M.Zangetsu, pajutęs troškimą sužinoti kuo daugiau apie tuos, kurių darbuose rado paguodą.

Prieš savo kelionę po Japoniją ir tolimesnes šalis jis užsidirbo vairuodamas vilkiką. Pamažu jo ambicijos augo, jis nutarė lankyti kapus visų, kurie buvo svarbūs žmonijos ir meno istorijai.

„Padėjo interneto plėtra. Sukūriau svetainę, o tai pritraukė pasiūlymų rašyti straipsnius ir skaityti pranešimus“, – pasakojo japonas.

Galiausiai iš savo kelionių jis sugebėjo pragyventi, bet parėžė, kad motyvų tai nepakeitė: „Jeigu tas šaltinis išdžius, ramiausiai grįšiu prie vilkiko vairo.“

Liūdi dėl sugriautos Sirijos

Japonijos kultūroje yra svarbi tradicija lankyti savo protėvių kapus – ji žinoma kaip „haka-mairi“. Žmonės dažnai pagerbia ir žmonių, kurie buvo svarbūs jų gyvenime, kapus, ypač per mirties metines. Tačiau K.M.Zangetsu pabrėžia, kad neužtenka pažiūrėti į antkapį: „Tai bereikšmiška. Svarbu išreikšti dėkingumą.“

Jis visada bando aplankyti ir žmogaus gimimo vietą ar miestą, kuriame šis augo, kad galėtų eiti jo pėdomis ir savo akimis išvysti žemę, nešiojusią tą žmogų. Nors dėl finansų trūkumo tai ne visada pavyksta, į kapus jis stengiasi grįžti mažiausiai du kartus: „Vieno apsilankymo net negali vadinti „haka-mairi“.“

Ne visos jo kelionės buvo aplankyti tikrus kapus.

Kai K.M.Zangetsu nukeliavo į Antarktidą, stovėjo laivo denyje sudėjęs rankas maldai ta kryptimi, kur buvo keliautojo kapitono Roberto Scotto paskutinė stovyklavietė. Tą patį japonas darė ir Šiaurės ašigalyje – atidavė pagarbą ta kryptimi, kur dingo poliarinių sričių tyrinėtojas Roaldas Amundsenas.

Kelis kartus kelią sugrižti į kapus užtvėrė karas ir kitos tragedijos. 1994-aisiais K.M.Zangetsu lankėsi Sirijoje, ten išpildė savo svajonę aplankyti atkastą antikinę Palmyrą ir Jono Krikštytojo kapą Damaske.

„Sutikti žmonės buvo malonūs ir draugiški. Nemokėjau nė žodžio arabiškai, net nežinojau, kaip skaitomi maršrutų numeriai ant autobusų. Turėjau visą laiką klausti žmonių“, – pasakojo keliautojas.

Kai galiausiai pasiekė antikinius griuvėsius, vaizdas jį sujaukino iki ašarų.

Paskui, kad pabėgtų nuo alpuli keliančio karščio, jis atsivėsino Eufrato upėje.

Praėjo daug metų, Sirijoje siaučia karas, ir 2015-aisiais dalis Palmyros buvo sugriauta „Islamo valstybės“ ekstremistų.

„Labai tikiuosi, kad ten greitai grįš taika, o gyvenimas šalyje vėl vyks ramiai“, – sakė K.M.Zangetsu, prisimindamas laimingus Sirijos vaikus ir sutiktų žmonių šypsenas.

Lankėsi ir Lietuvoje

Į Lietuvą jis keliavo turėdamas tikslą aplankyti buvusį Japonijos konsulatą Kaune, kur Chiune Sugihara padėjo apie 6000 žydų pabėgti iš Europos išduodamas jiems tranzitines Japonijos vizas.

K.M.Zangetsu Vilniuje, Rusų kapinėse, aplankė Lenkijos tarpukario vadovo Józefo Pilsudskio kapą, nes jis laikomas moderniosios Lenkijos tėvu.

Atrodo, nuotraukos ant J.Pilsudskio kapo padarė įspūdį Lenkijos pareigūnams, kai K.M.Zangetsu prirėkė jų pagalbos bandant kirsti sieną su Kaliningrado sritimi.

Po Lietuvos japonas aplankė astronomo Mikolajaus Koperniko kapą Fromborke ir nutarė, kad norėtų aplankyti filosofo Immanuelio Kanto kapavietę Kaliningrade.

„I.Kantas buvo vienas pirmųjų žmonių, puoselėjusių idėją įkurti tokią tarptautinę organizaciją kaip Jungtinės Tautos taikos pasaulyje labui, – aiškino K.M.Zangetsu. – Norėjau padėkoti jam už tokią įžvalgą ir atjautą žmonijai.“

Kad iš Šiaurės Lenkijos miesto Fromborko nusigautų į Kaliningradą, reikėjo važiuoti autobusu, kuris kursuoja dukart per dieną.

Tačiau kai pusę septynių ryto K.M.Zangetsu laukė stotyje, dvi valandas niekas neatvažiavo.

Japonas nusprendė pasiteirauti informacijos policijoje, bet atsidūrė kareivinėse.

Laimei, kariai pasitaikė draugiški, pavaišino svečią karšta arbata su spurgomis.

Ant sienos muitininkams japonas pradėjo rodyti J.Pilsudskio kapo nuotraukas, ir šie staigiai sustabdė pakeleivinę mašiną ir įtikino žmones pavežti keliautoją.

„Taigi susipažinau su malonia vyresne moterimi bei jos dukterimi ir taip pasiekiau I.Kanto kapą“, – pasakojo K.M.Zangetsu.

Norėtų atgulti Vienoje

Jis įsitikino: kad patirtum dramą ir nuotykius, nebūtina veržtis į ašigalių arba pėdinti džiunglėmis. Visko įmanoma patirti ir civilizuotesnėse pasaulio dalyse. Jis puikiai atsimena, kaip jam skaudėjo nugarą grįžtant iš apsilankymo prie dailininko Paulo Gauguino kapo Taityje.

„Iš Japonijos į Taitį yra tik tai keli tiesioginiai skrydžiai, bet kad pasiektum Hiva Oa salą, kurioje P.Gauguinas palaidotas, reikia dar šešias su puse valandos skristi propeleriniu lėktuvu“, – pasakojo K.M.Zangetsu.

Bet koks nedidelis incidentas gali sugriauti visą planą.

Kai „Air Tahiti“ oro linijos pradėjo streiką, namo į Japoniją teko grįžti per Los Andželą, ir būtent tuose skrydžiuose jo nugarą surakino toks skausmas, kad namie ne vieną savaitę teko gulėti lovoje. Tačiau tai nedidelė kaina už tokią unikalią patirtį.

Prancūzijoje, kai jis lankė dailininko V.van Gogho kapą Overe prie Uazos, vagys apšvarino jo automobilį: „Už mašiną buvau sumokėjęs du mėnesius į priekį, o likau be tarptautinio vairuotojo pažymėjimo. Turėjau grįžti į Japoniją ir prašyti naujo.“

Jaučiausi sugniuždytas, bet nieko negalėjau padaryti, tik tai nusijuokti.“

Mėnesio kelionės po Europą pradžioje antikvariate Belgijoje jis nusipirko kompozitoriaus Ludwigo van Beethoveno biustą. Ištikimai jį vežiojosi po visą žemyną, tačiau kelionės pabaigoje Londono oro uoste netyčia jį išmetė.

Valingas keliautojas surinko duženas, o sugrįžęs namo jas suklijavo.

L.van Beethoveno antkapis Vienoje atrodo kaip metronomas, nes jis buvo vienas pirmųjų kompozitorių, pradėjęs naudoti šį naują išradimą.

„Pasakojama, kad jis labai juo džiaugėsi, mat metronomas leido išlaikyti tempą net po to, kai pradingo klausa“, – sakė K.M.Zangetsu.

Šalia L.van Beethoveno kapo palaidotas Franzas Schubertas.

„Jeigu būtų įmanoma, norėčiau būti palaidotas tarp jų“, – sakė japonas.

Amerikoje – be viešbučių

Viena šalių, kurias K.M.Zangetsu lankė kelis kartus, yra Ispanija.

Piligrimų mieste Santjago de Komposteloje japonas aplankė apaštalo Jokūbo kapą.

Barselonoje jis kelis kartus tikrino, kiek pasistūmėjo Barselonos Šv.Šeimynos bažnyčios statybos, ir aplankė jos architekto Antoni Gaudi kapą.

Šiame mieste japonas pasiklydo ieškodamas dailininko Joano Miro kapo milžiniškose kapinėse ant Montžuiko kalvos.

„Kapinių prižiūrėtojas man nupiešė žemėlapi, bet tokį labai iš akies. Ilgiausiai vaikščiojau po tas didžiules kapines kepinant deginančiai saulei, – K.M.Zangetsu pasakojo, kaip bandė rasti eskalatorių, nupieštą žemėlapyje. – Supratau, kad susimaišiau pagalvojęs, kad ispaniškas žodis „escalera mecanica“ reiškia eskalatorių, o ne laiptus. Nuo tada J.Miro paveikslai man kelia troškulį.“

Didžiojoje Britanijoje K.M.Zangetsu aplankė apie 60 kapaviečių: karaliaus Artūro, W.Shakespeare'o, fiziko Isaaco Newtono, rašytojo Arthuro Conano Doyle'io, keliautojo Thomo Edwardo Lawrence'o, arba Arabijos Lorenso.

Jungtinėse Valstijose per kelis kartus jis aplankė apie 260 garsenybių amžino atilsio vietas: Ilinojuje – prezidento Abraamo Lincolno, Baltimorėje – rašytojo Edgaro Allano Poe, Aidahe – rašytojo Ernesto Hemingway, Naujajame Džersyje išradėjo Thomo Edisono, Los Andžele – aktorės Marilyn Monroe.

2000-aisiais jis po visą Ameriką keliavo maršrutiniais autobusais. Pinigus taupė nakvodamas naktiniuose autobusuose, o prausėsi greitojo maisto restoranų tualetuose: „Visą kelią nuo Los Andželo iki Niujorko nenakvojau jokiam viešbutyje.“

Keliauja ir su vaiku

Ilgą laiką jis keliaudavo vienas, bet būdamas keturiasdešimties K.M.Zangetsu vedė, susilaukė sūnaus ir pradėjo keliauti kartu. Jo sūnus dabar penktokas ir jau yra patyręs kapaviečių lankytojas.

Kartu jie išmaišė Europą ir JAV ir Kalifornijoje aplankė Walto Disney ir Michaelo Jacksono kapą, o Berlyne – Brolių Grimmų kapavietę.

Australijoje šeima išsinuomojo automobilį ir keliavo bandydama ant kelio išvengti susidūrimų su kengūromis. Perte jie aplankė aktoriaus Heatho Ledgerio, kuris mirė 28-erių, kapą.

„Sūnus kartu su manimi lanko žmonių kapavietes nuo tada, kai išmoko vaikščioti.

Manau, kad jam labai patinka“, – sakė K.M.Zangetsu.

Ne visada tai yra lengva, nes informacija apie kapo vietą pasitaiko netiksliai. Bet atsiradus internetui ir „Google“ žemėlapiams viskas supaprastėjo.

„Apkeliavęs 101 šalį įsitikinau, kad žmonės visur yra beveik vienodi, – sakė japonas. – Jei šypsaisi, jie irgi šypsosi. Dauguma džiaugiasi galėdami padėti keliautojui pakliuvus į bėdą.“

Dėl pandemijos jo kelionės sustojo net ir pačioje Japonijoje. Bet K.M.Zangetsu nekantraudamas laukia dienos, kai vėl galės kristi atiduoti pagarbos garsenybėms.

„Dar yra daugybė vietų, kuriose nesu buvęs. Pavyzdžiui, Pablo Picasso kapas yra „Chateau de Vauvenargues“ pilyje Pietų Prancūzijoje.

Pilis vis dar priklauso dailininko palikuoniams, todėl patekti į vidų negali, nebent pažįsti šeimą. Esu dukart buvęs prie vartų, bet į vidų nepatekau.

Esu lankęsis Malagoje name, kuriame P.Picasso gimė, esu buvęs pamatyti paveikslo „Gernika“ Madride, bet labai norėčiau pareikšti padėką ant jo kapo.

Taigi jei kas nors iš skaitytojų pažįstate P.Picasso šeimą, prašau paprašyti jos, kad man parašytų“, – kalbėjo K.M.Zangetsu.

Šaltinis: 2021-03-06, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

16) Pensininkės sėkmė: surado įspūdingą lobį

Meno saloje (angl. Isle of Man) metalo detektoriaus savininkė atrado „stulbinantį“ 1000 metų senumo auksinių ir sidabrinių vikingų juvelyrinių papuošalų rinkinį.

Į pensiją išėjusi policininkė Kath Giles radinį aptiko žemės ūkio paskirties žemėje salos šiaurėje.

Pagrindinės lobio dalys – auksinis dilbio žiedas (apyrankė) ir masyvi sidabrinė sagė, datuojama 950 m.

Lobis buvo surastas gruodį, tačiau pirmą kartą naujiena buvo viešai paskelbta tik dabar.

Mankso (angl. Manx) Nacionalinio paveldo archeologijos kuratorė Allison Fox teigia, kad būtent dilbio žiedas yra „retas radinys“.

K.Giles sako iš karto supratusi, kad rado „kažką labai ypatingo“ – ir yra sujaudinta radinio, kurio vertė greičiausiai siekia kelis tūkstančius svarų sterlingų.

„Iš karto žinojau, kad tai reikšmingas ir jaudinantis radinys. Labai džiaugiuosi radusi ne tik svarbius, bet ir gražius artefaktus“, – sako ji.

Apie archeologinės kilmės radinius saloje per dvi savaites reikia pranešti Mankso Nacionalinio paveldo agentūrai. Jei daiktai teisiškai priskiriami lobiams, jie priklauso karūnai – o radėjui atlyginama.

Kiek vertas šis naujausias radinys, dar nenustatyta – tačiau panašūs vikingų papuošalai iki šiol buvo įkainojami po daugmaž 1500 svarų (apie 1,7 tūkst. eurų) už vieneta.

2011 m. Lankašyre rastas didesnis vikingų lobis buvo įvertintas 110 000 svarų sterlingų (apie 127 tūkst. eurų).

A.Fox teigia, kad dilbio žiedai iš aukso buvo reti – nes vikingų laikais sidabras buvo kur kas labiau paplitęs.

„Dilbio žiedas, sagė ir perpjauta riešinė yra asmeniniai aukštą statusą turėjusio individo papuošalai, atspindintys sukauptą didelį turta, – sako ji. – Surasti jau vieną iš šių daiktų būtų reikšminga – o tai, kad viskas buvo rasta kartu, rodo, kad palaidotas žmogus buvo nepaprastai turtingas“.

Šaltinis: 2021-02-19, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

17) Surado ypatingą 4000 metų senumo žemėlapi – tokio Europoje dar nebuvo matę

Tyrėjai teigia, kad iš naujo atrastas bronzos amžiaus laikų akmuo gali būti seniausias trimatis žemėlapis Europoje.

Pirmą kartą atrasta 1900 m., 2 m x 1,5 m akmens plokštė buvo dingusi – bet 2014 m. vėl buvo atrasta Prancūzijos pilies rūsyje.

Archeologai, ištyrę ant 4000 metų senumo akmens išraižytus raštus, sako manantys, kad šie ženklai yra teritorijos vakarų Bretanėje žemėlapis. Jie sako, kad tai akmuo plokštę paverčia seniausiu žinomos Europos trimačiu žemėlapiu.

Manoma, kad uolos gabalas, žinomas kaip Saint-Bélec plokštė, yra iš ankstyvojo bronzos amžiaus – tarp 1900 ir 1650 m.pr.m.e.

Pirmą kartą radinys buvo atrastas 1900 m., kasinėjant priešistorinius kapus Finistero regione Bretanės vakaruose, kasinėjimus vykdant vietos archeologui Paului du Chatellieriui.

Plokštė buvo užmiršta daugiau nei šimtmetį – ir dešimtmečius pragulėjo J. du Chatelliero namuose, Kernuzo dvare (pranc. Château de Kernuz). Plokštės ieškotojai ją rūsyje aptiko 2014 m.

Išanalizavę akmenyje esančias žymes ir raižinius, mokslininkai įtarė, kad tai gali būti žemėlapis.

„Pakartotinių, linijomis sujungtų motyvų“ buvimas akmens paviršiuje leido manyti, kad jame pavaizduota Finistero sritis, sakoma Prancūzijos priešistorės draugijos biuletenyje atliktame tyrime.

Tyrėjai teigia, kad įdubimai yra trimatis Odet upės slėnio vaizdas, tuo tarpu kelios linijos vaizduoja vietovės upių tinklą.

Šiuolaikinė geolokacija parodė, kad plokštės raižiniai 80 proc. atitinka 29 km ilgio upės atkarpa.

„Tai turbūt seniausias identifikuotos teritorijos žemėlapis, – BBC sakė vienas tyrimo autorių, dr. Clémentas Nicolasas iš Bornmuto universiteto. – Visame pasaulyje yra keli tokie akmenyje išraižyti žemėlapiai. Paprastai tai būna tik interpretacijos. Tačiau čia yra pirmas kartas, kai žemėlapis pavaizduoja vietovę konkrečiu masteliu“.

Dr. C.Nicolasas teigė, kad žemėlapis galėjo būti naudojamas pažymėti konkrečiai vietai. „Tai greičiausiai buvo būdas patvirtinti, kad tuo metu vietinis princas ar karalius turi teritorijos nuosavybės teises“, – sakė jis.

„Mes linkę nuvertinti praeities bendruomenių geografines žinias. Ši plokštė yra svarbi, nes pabrėžia šias kartografines žinias“, – teigė mokslininkas.

Tyrimas apie radinį publikuotas „Bulletin de la Société préhistorique Française“.

Šaltinis: 2021-04-08, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

18) Zondas persiuntė pirmąją nuotrauką: dabar žinome, kaip atrodo paslaptinis asteroidas

NASA tolimojo kosmoso zondas „New Horizons“ į Žemę persiuntė pirmąją nuotrauką. Iš jo matyti, kad asteroidas Ultima Thule yra du susijungę objektai – primenantys senį besmegenį, sudarytą tik iš dviejų rutulių.

Remdamiesi ankstesniais zondo vaizdais, mokslininkai jau ir anksčiau spėliojo, kad asteroidas yra dvinaris ar turi du branduolius – bet dabar tam turime ir vaizdinius įrodymus.

Asteroidas Ultima Thule skrieja už 6,6 mlrd. kilometrų nuo Žemės, pirmąją 2019 metų dieną zondas „New Horizons“ praskriejo pro jį vos 3,5 km atstumu.

Misijos mokslininkai nusprendė didesnįjį asteroido gabalą pakrikštyti „Ultima“, mažesnįjį – „Thule“.

NASA tyrėjas Jeffas Moore`as sako, kad pora kažkada susidūrė itin mažu greičiu galbūt 2–3 km/h. Jis juokavo, kad jei tai būtų buvę automobiliai, „jiems tikriausiai nė nebūtų prireikę pildyti draudimo formas“.

Ultima Thule sukasi apie Saulę vadinamojoje Kuiperio juostoje. Joje yra šimtai tūkstančių į šį asteroidą panašių objektų, ir jų ledinė būsena beveik neabejotinai mėto užuominas, kaip prieš 4,6 mlrd. metų susikūrė Saulės sistemos planetos.

Šaltinis: 2019-01-02, „LRT“ (<https://lrt.lt>)

19) A.Matelio filmas sužavėjo britus

Britų leidinys „The Guardian“ paskelbė dešimt geriausių ir vertų pamatyti filmų iš posovietinių šalių sąrašą, tarp kurių ir lietuvių režisieriaus Arūno Matelio filmas „Prieš parsikrendant į Žemę“. Šiame sąrašė jis yra tarp tokių filmų kaip rusų režisieriaus Andrejaus Zviagintsevo „Leviatanas“, praėjusiais metais nominuotas „Oskarui“, ar ukrainiečio Sergejaus Loznitsos „Maidanas“.

Režisieriaus A.Matelio filmas „Prieš parsikrendant į Žemę“, kurį jis sukūrė 2005 metais, britų leidinyje apibūdinamas kaip įkvėptas tvirtybės ir gerumo. „Kai režisieriaus vaikas susirgo leukemija, jis į onkologijos skyrių pediatriinės ligoninės viršutiniame aukšte Vilniuje sugrįžo su kamera. Kad nufilmuotų pacientų ir ligoninės personalo, kurie kasdien susiduria su mirtimi, patirtis. Ant popieriaus tai gali skambėti sentimentalai ir atstumiančiai, bet iš tiesų šis nepaprastai nesentimentalus filmas pasakoja apie tai kartu ir labai dalykiškai, ir su žavingu lengvumu“, - rašoma leidinyje.

Britai taip pat rekomenduoja pasižiūrėti rusų režisieriaus A.Zviagintsevo 2014 metais sukurtą filmą „Leviatanas“ („Leviathan“), kuris praėjusiais metais buvo nominuotas „Oskarui“. Tai ir geriausio scenarijaus prizą Kanuose pelnęs filmas. Filmas triuškinančiai demaskuoja korupciją, kuri yra persismelkusi į kiekvieną rusų visuomenės sluoksnį - nuo vietinės valdžios iki ortodoksų bažnyčios.

Rekomenduojama pasižiūrėti ir ukrainiečio S.Loznitsos 2014 metais ekranus pasiekusį filmą „Maidanas“ („Maidan“). Į sąrašą pateko ir 2013 metais režisierės Madlenos Saker (Madeleine Sackler) sukurtas filmas „Pavojingi vaidinimai“ („Dangerous Acts Starring the Unstable Elements of Belarus“).

Ir kazachstaniečio Emiro Baigazino filmas „Harmonijos pamokos“ („Harmony Lessons“), gruzinų Nanos Ekvtimišvili (Nana Ekvtimishvili) ir Saimono Groso (Simon Gross) filmas „Pačiame žydėjime“ („In Bloom“), kirgizo Aktano Arymo Kubato „Šviesos vagis“ („The Light Thief“), latvės Lailos Pakalninės „Įkaitas“ („The Hostage“), esto Jako Kilmio (Jaak Kilmi) „Kiaulių revoliucija“ („Revolution of Pigs“) ir rusų režisieriaus Aleksejaus Popogrebskio „Koktebelis“ („Koktebel“).

Šaltinis: 2019-01-02, „Respublika“ (<https://republika.lt>)

20) Virš Šiaurės ašigalio pastebėtas įspūdingas gamtos reiškiny

Astronominis reiškiny, vadinamas „kosminiu uraganu“, pirmą kartą buvo aptiktas viršutinėje Žemės atmosferoje, kelių šimtų kilometrų aukštyje virš Šiaurės ašigalio.

Savo formavimusi kosminis uraganas turi daug panašumų su tais, kuriuos patiriame Žemėje: tai yra sukuriuojanti energijos masė, tačiau vietoj lietaus vandens čia siaučia elektronai. Redingo universiteto (D.Britanija) pranešime kosminės aplinkos fizikas ir profesorius Mike'as Lockwoodas

sako, kad iki šiol net nebuvo aišku, ar kosminės plazmos uraganai išvis egzistuoja – todėl įrodyti tai tokiu įspūdingu liudijimu yra tiesiog neįtikėtina.

Kosminių uraganų egzistavimas viršutinėje planetos atmosferoje anksčiau nebuvo užfiksuotas.

Tokie uraganai, koks buvo užfiksuotas čia Žemėje, taip pat buvo pastebėti žemosiose Marso, Jupiterio ir Saturno atmosferose, o taip pat Saulės atmosferoje – ten siaučia milžiniški Saulės viesulai, sakoma Redingo universiteto pranešime.

„Plazmos ir magnetiniai laukai planetų atmosferose egzistuoja visoje Visatoje, tad galima daryti išvadą, kad kosminiai uraganai turėtų būti plačiai paplitęs reiškinys“, – aiškina M.Lockwoodas.

Šiam projektui vadovavo Kinijos Šandongo universiteto mokslininkai. Jie tiki, kad informacija padės mums toliau suprasti ryšius tarp planetų ir atmosferų.

Manoma, kad kosminiai uraganai gali sukelti ir kitus kosminių orų padarinius – tokius kaip palydovų nukrypimus nuo orbitos, aukšto dažnio radijo ryšio trikdžius ir klaidas radarų bei palydovinės navigacijos ir ryšio sistemose.

Vaizdinė uragano medžiaga, užfiksuota palydovu, iš tikrųjų yra iš 2014 m. rugpjūčio mėnesio, tad atradimas dabar padarytas retrospektyviai. Apskaičiuota, kad uraganas siautė daugmaž 1000 kvadratinių kilometrų plote, viskas vyko kelių šimtų kilometrų aukštyje virš Šiaurės ašigalio. Kosminis uraganas, kaip ir įprasta uraganams Šiaurės pusrutulyje, sukosi prieš laikrodžio rodyklę. Gamtos reiškinys truko beveik aštuonias valandas – kol palaipsniui nurimo.

Tyrimas paskelbtas moksliniame žurnale „Nature Communications“.

Šaltinis: 2021-03-08, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

21) Sueco kanalo istorija: kas pirmieji iškasė Sueco kanalą ir kodėl?

Praėjusios savaitės Sueco kanale užstrigusio „EverGiven“ laivo vaizdai pakerėjo visą pasaulį, tačiau per pirmuosius 15 jo gyvavimo metų – nuo 1869 iki 1884 metų – 3000 laivų taip pat buvo sustabdyti vandens kelio, jungiančio Viduržemio regioną su Azija.

Anuomet kanalas buvo tesudarė dalelę dabartinio kelio pločio ir gylio, tad kas 6 kilometrus įrengtose įlankėlėse laivai privalėdavo laukti kol kitos įgulos sėkmingai įveiks siaurą vandens atkarpą.

Įprasta kelionė iš vieno kanalo galo į kitą užtrukdavo 40 valandų, keturis kartus ilgiau nei šiandien.

Tačiau 1870 m. ir laivai buvo lėtesni, ir nebuvo tiek daug žmonių, kurie užsisakytų tiek daug baldų ir kavos iš užsienio. Vandens transportas taip pat buvo daug mažesnis lyginant su šiuo metu pasaulyje išgarsėjusiu „EverGiven“ laivu, kurio svoris siekia 220 000 tonų, o ilgis beveik 400 metrų.

Kodėl buvo pastatytas Sueco kanalas?

Pažvelgus į žemėlapi nesunku pamatyti logiškas priežastis, kurios paskatino Prancūzijos planuotojus tuometinėje Egipto kolonijoje nuspręsti iškasti Sueco kanalą.

Patogiausiame taške Sueco sąsmauka yra tik 121 kilometro ilgio tarp Viduržemio jūros ir Raudonosios jūros ir yra išmarginta ežerais, kurie vėliau buvo įjungti į kanalą. Iki Sueco iškasimo laivai turėdavo keliauti pavojingu keliu aplink Afriką, kad pasiektų Azijos ir Tolimųjų Rytų rinkas.

Tačiau prancūzai ne pirmieji sugalvojo tokio projekto idėją. Dar nuo 1850 m. Pr. Kr. kanalai buvo kasami siekiant susieti slėnius ir ežerus šiame regione, o 332 m. Pr. Kr., kai į kraštą atvyko Aleksandras Didysis, Raudonoji jūra vandens takais jau buvo sujungta su Nilo upe.

Kai po dviejų šimtmečių romėnai atvyko į Egiptą, jie atliko kanalo plėtimo darbus, tačiau, kaip ir anksčiau, jis buvo skirtas palengvinti prekybą ir transportą tarp Nilo deltos ir Raudonosios jūros, o ne sujungti Viduržemio jūrą su anapus esančiu Indijos vandenynu.

Visi kanalai buvo užpilti 775 m., į regioną įžengus Abbasido kalifatui. Nors Venecijos, o vėliau ir Prancūzijos inžinieriai, norėdami įgauti pranašumą prieš Portugaliją, Olandiją ir Angliją diskutavo apie naujo kanalo statybą dar iki XVIII a., tačiau nedaug buvo padaryta.

Idėja įgavo pagreitį tik Napoleono valdymo laiku, kuris Egipte būdamas susidomėjo senovės kanalo liekanomis. Legendinio karvedžio susidomėjimas paskatino atlikti daugiau kanalo tyrimų 1830–1850 m., kol galiausiai 1856 m. tai tapo oficialu – Prancūzijos įmonei „Suec Canal Company“ buvo suteikta 99 metų nuomos sutartis kanalui pastatyti ir eksploatuoti.

Oficialus atidarymas

Statybų pradžioje buvo pasitelkti vietiniai Egipto darbininkai, o vėliau atvyko ir europiečiai. Dėl sudėtingos vietovės kasimo darbai užsitęsė kiek ilgiau nei planuota – projekto įgyvendinimas užtruko visą dešimtmetį.

Galčiausiai, 1869 m. Lapkričio 17 d. oficialiai buvo atvertas Sueco kanalas.

Iš pradžių projektas priklausė prancūzams ir tuometiniam Egipto valdovui Saidui Pasha, tačiau praėjus šešeriems metams Egiptas, susidūręs su finansiniais sunkumais, pardavė didelę dalį savosios dalies. Kas gi nedelsdamas išpirko visas Egipto akcijas? Žinoma, Britai.

Egiptas iki pat 1956 m., kai Gamalas Abdelis Nasseris nacionalizavo Sueco kanalą, gaudavo tik nedidelę finansinę naudą už jo teritorijoje nutiestą pelningą vandens kelią.

Kai Sueco krizės metu Izraelis įsiveržė į Sinajų, Didžioji Britanija svarstė galimybę įsiveržti į Egiptą, tačiau Dwighto Eisenhowerio vadovaujamos JAV įtikino to nedaryti. Jis grasino finansiškai nubausti Britaniją, jeigu tik britų kariuomenė įžengs į egiptiečių teritoriją.

Nuo 2015 m. Sueco kanalas yra pagrindinis Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi režimo prioritetasis, kuris nuolat skiria pinigų infrastruktūros projektams ir kanalo plėtrai.

Šaltinis: 2021-04-04, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

22) Mokslininkai ieškos anksčiausių vėžio ženklų

Skaičiuojama, kad maždaug pusė vėžio atvejų diagnozuojama pažengusiose stadijose, kai gydymo prognozės – prastos. Britų ir amerikiečių tyrėjai ieškos, kaip aptikti ligą jos užuomazgoje. Mokslininkų komanda augina vėžines ląsteles laboratorijoje, taip pat tikimasi išrasti tokius tyrimus, kurie vėžį aptiktų iš kraujo, šlapimo ar iškvėpiamo oro tyrimo.

Naujai įkurtoje Tarptautinėje ankstyvosios vėžio diagnostikos sąjungoje dalyvauja šeši Jungtinės Karalystės ir JAV universitetai bei organizacijos. Iki šiol ankstyvosios vėžio diagnostikos tyrimai buvo nedideli ir padirki, vykdomi mažose žmonių grupėse. Į organizaciją susibūrę britų ir amerikiečių mokslininkai vykdys bendrus tyrimus, dalinsis idėjomis, technologijomis, ieškodami onkologinių ligų užuomazgos.

Pagrindinė problema – aptikti pirmines vėžio užuomazgas dažnai neįmanoma, liga diagnozuojama, kai navikas jau išsivystęs. Vienas iš tikslų – atrasti anksčiausius vėžio ženklus, kad vėžį būtų galima aptikti dar prieš jam išsivystant, ir kad gydymą būtų galima pradėti kuo greičiau. Mančesterio universiteto tyrėjai laboratorijoje augina krūties audinį su sintetinėmis imuniteto ląstelėmis, kurios turėtų pastebėti anksčiausius ir mažiausius ląstelių pokyčius, kurie gali virsti į vėžį.

Taip pat bus siekiama sukurti neinvazinius tyrimus, iš kurių būtų galima aptikti vėžį – tikimasi, kad didelės rizikos pacientams onkologinę ligą galima būtų aptikti iš kraujo, šlapimo, iškvėpto oro ar net nosies tepinėlio tyrimo. Taip pat tikimasi patobulinti vizualinių tyrimų technikas, kad būtų galima aptikti beveik nematomus ligos požymius.

Dar viena kryptis, kuria dirbs mokslininkai – ieškos būdų, kaip identifikuoti žmones, kuriems gresia didesnė tam tikrų organų vėžio rizika, tokie pacientai galėtų būti dažniau tikrinami. Bus siekiama, kad kiekvieno paciento vėžio rizika būtų individualiai įvertinama – atsižvelgiant į genetiką ir aplinką, kurioje pacientas augo.

Tarptautinė mokslininkų komanda tikisi, kad jų darbas atneš pokytį sveikatos apsaugos sistemose – nuo brangaus vėlyvų vėžio stadijų gydymo bus pereita iki ankstyvos diagnostikos. Aptikus ligą pačioje pradžioje, gydymas greitesnis ir efektyvesnis. Tačiau pripažįstama, kad sulaukti rezultatų gali užtrukti ir 30 metų.

Šaltinis: 2019-10-22, „manodaktaras.lt sveikatos naujienos“ (<https://naujienos.manodaktaras.lt>)

23) Neįtikėtina: 7 maratonai per 7 dienas 7 žemynuose

Kai Chau Smith buvo jaunesnė, ji nemėgdavo bėgiojimo. Ji manė, kad tai yra nuobodi sporto šaka. Tačiau dabar 71-metė C.Smith mano visai kitaip. Kanzas Sičio (JAV) gyventoja praėjusiais metais nubėgo 7 maratonus per tiek pat dienų, 7 skirtinguose žemynuose. Tokiu būdu ji paminėjo savo 70 metų jubiliejų.

Tarp 2017 metų sausio 25 ir 31 dienų ji bėgo maratonus Perte (Australija), Singapūre, Kaire (Egiptas), Amsterdame (Nyderlandai), Niujorke (JAV), Punta Arenase (Čilė) ir Karaliaus Jurgio saloje (Antarktida). Viską suplanuoti ir suorganizuoti padėjo kompanija „Marathon Adventures“, o visa tai

buvo projekto „Triple 7 Quest“ dalis. Šiame projekte dalyvavo 8 žmonės, o C. Smith iš jų buvo vyriausia.

C. Smith mano, kad tapo seniausiu žmogumi pasaulyje, kuriam per 7 dienas pavyko įveikti 7 maratonus, todėl ji ketina kreiptis į Guinnesso pasaulio rekordų knygą.

„Marathon Adventures“ įkūrėjas Steve‘as Hibbsas, kuris pats yra nemažai pasiekęs bėgikas, sako, kad C. Smith tokiu būdu gyvena pilnavertį gyvenimą. Anot jo, jis jau ne kartą keliavo kartu su C. Smith, kuri visuomet labai nori išbandyti įvairius dalykus. Kartą ji su guma šoko nuo Viktorijos krioklio Zambijoje.

Nors C. Smith yra 71 metų amžiaus, jos oficialus amžius yra 68 metai. Mat moteris 1947 metais gimė Vietname Pirmojo Indokinijos karo metu, o jos tėtis buvo rezistentas, kuris buvo suimtas ir nužudytas 5 mėnesius prieš C. Smith gimstant. Dėl karo jos mama laukė 3 metus, kol pateikė prašymą gimimo liudijimui gauti, o galiausiai šį gavus, jame nurodyta liudijimo išdavimo, bet ne gimimo data.

Vietnamo karo metu – kai mergaitei – buvo 13 metų, ji buvo sužeista skeveldra. Skeveldros dalelės vis dar yra jos dešinėje rankoje ir kojoje, o kartais šios dalelės bėgimo metu jai sukelia didžiulius skausmus. Tomis akimirkomis moteris teigia kovojanti su skausmu pozityviomis mintimis.

Karo metu C. Smith emigravo į JAV, kur su tuometiniu vyru apsistojo Misūrio valstijoje. Porai išsiskyrus, C. Smith dirbo du darbus – gamykloje ir restorane, kad galėtų išlaikyti savo dvi dukras. Pirmasis jos darbas prasidėdavo 5 valandą ryto, o namo ji grįždavo tik vidurnaktį.

1982 metais moteris susipažino su Michaelu Smithu, su kuriuo po 6 mėnesių draugystės susituokė. M. Smithas buvo bėgikas, todėl C. Smith palaikydavo savo vyrą įvairiuose bėgimuose. Tačiau net ir tada ji negalvodavo, kad pati norėtų bėgti.

Netrukus jos gyvenimas tapo dar labiau užimtas – ji padėjo net 25 giminaičiams įsikurti JAV. Tad dieną ji rūpindavosi savo giminaičių reikalais, o naktimis dirbdavo. Tuomet ji pradėjo bėgti kartu su savo vyru – nes pajuto, kad bėgimas padeda atsikratyti streso. Ji ėmė jaustis geriau.

1995 metais, sulaukusi 48 metų amžiaus, ji sudalyvavo savo pirmose bėgimo varžybose. Moteris teigia prisimenanti, kad šios varžybos jai buvo sunkios, nes ji dar ir kentėjo nuo šienligės – ir vos nenualpo. Tačiau iškart po varžybų ji pasakė savo vyrui, kad nori dalyvauti dar vienoje varžybose, kurios būtų dvigubai ilgesnės. M. Smithas atkreipė dėmesį, kad ji vos įveikė šias varžybas... tačiau po kelių mėnesių C. Smith įveikė pusmaratonį.

C. Smith skaičiuoja, kad dabar ji yra įveikusi apie 70 maratonų, visame pasaulyje. Smithai maratonuose dalyvavo kartu, o 2014 metais, kai abu išėjo į pensiją, jie nubėgo maratonus visuose 7 žemynuose, tik ne tokiu dideliu tempu. Būtent tada C. Smith užsimanė nubėgti 7 maratonus per 7 dienas 7 žemynuose.

M. Smithas nemėgino jos sulaikyti, bet į šią idėją žiūrėjo skeptiškai – nes traumų tikimybė tokio intensyvaus maratono metu yra didžiulė. Ji pasikonsultavo su treneriu ir ėmė treniruotis pagal specialiai sudarytą programą, kad pagerintų savo ištvermę.

Anot jos, įdomiausias maratonas buvo Egipte, kur ji bėgo kartu su vietiniu bėgiku, kuris bėgo vien tam, kad jai būtų lengviau orientuotis. Amsterdame ji nukrito ir susižeidė, tačiau vis tiek užbaigė

maratoną. Pasibaigus paskutiniam, septintajam, maratonui ji nepuolė švęsti gimtadienio. Mat ji sužinojo apie dar vieną maratoną ir po kelių dienų jau buvo pasirengusi bėgti dar viename maratone.

Šaltinis: 2018-01-24, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

24) Egiptas stato naują sostinę

Didžiuliame žemės plote, esančiame tarp Nilo upės ir Sueco kanalo, statoma nauja Egipto sostinė, kuri pakeis senąją Kairą.

Naujasis metropolis kol kas primena milžinišką statybų aikštelę, tačiau darbai vyksta didžiuliu tempu. Miestas bus didesnis už Singapūrą ir tikimasi, kad jame gyvens apie 6,5 mln. gyventojų.

Tikimasi, kad dar šiais metais vyriausybė į naująją sostinę perkels 34 ministerijas ir pačią prezidentūrą. Įdomu tai, kad prezidentas Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi apie šį projektą paskelbė vos prieš keturis metus.

Manoma, kad miestas, kuris dar neturi pavadinimo, bus technologiškai pažangiausias šalies miestas, turės aukščiausią statinį Afrikoje, didžiausią mečetės minaretą ir aukščiausią bažnyčios koplyčią.

Kitaip sakant, tai bus pirmasis išmanusis miestas šalyje. Tarp inovacijų bus ir išmanioji eismo sistema bei jutikliai, automatiškai pranešantys apie dūmus ar gaisrą skubios pagalbos tarnyboms.

Naujajame mieste taip pat bus milžiniška žalioji zona, kuri bus didesnė už Niujorko centrinį parką, taip pat milžiniškas prekybos centras, mokslo ir technologijų slėniai, kultūros kompleksas su operos rūmais, teatrais ir kinu.

Naujos bažnyčios statybos jau artėja į pabaigą, o Al Masa viešbutis buvo atidarytas dar 2017 metais.

Nors valdžia tikina, kad projekto išlaidas padengs žemės pardavimai, ekspertai abejoja naujojo miesto statybų tikslingumu.

Vidurinei ir žemesnei klasei teks mokėti naujus mokesčius, o valdžia nustos teikti subsidijas už suvartojamą energiją, šalyje taip pat egzistuoja ir didelė infliacija.

Pati valdžia visuomenei siunčia labai dviprasmišką žinutę – skatina veržtis diržus ir kalba apie taupymą, tačiau tuo pačiu leidžia milijardus dolerių naujo miesto statyboms.

Idėja statyti naujus miestus viduryje dykumos visiškai nuo nulio nėra nauja. Prieš 40 metų Egipte buvo pastatytas Sadato miestas, kuris turėjo tapti nauju traukos centru tarp Kairo ir Aleksandrijos.

Tačiau projektas nebuvo sėkmingas ir dabar mieste gyvena viso labo 150 000 gyventojų.

Tuo tarpu Kairas nuolatos plečiasi, daugėja gyventojų, kurie plūsta iš visos šalies, tikėdamiesi rasti darbą, plečiasi sostinės priemiesčiai. Jo dydis net du kartus lenkia Niujorką, o jame gyvena penktadalis visų 97 mln. Egipto gyventojų. Jis yra ne tik politinė šalies sostinė, bet ir kultūrinė širdis.

Tačiau miesto plėtra tapo pragaištinga. Miesto infrastruktūra nebegali atlaikyti didesnio gyventojų skaičiaus, miestą kamuoja automobilių spūstys.

Todėl valdžia tikisi, kad naujoji sostinė perims gerąsias Kairo savybes ir taps ne tik vyriausybės būstinės vieta.

Per pastarąjį dešimtmetį Kairo vidurinė ir aukštesnė klasė ėmė keltis į priemiestį, tikėdamiesi geresnės gyvenimo kokybės.

Priemiestyje statomi namai nuperkami dažniausiai dar neužbaigus statybų. Visa tai gali lemti naujosios sostinės sėkmę.

Visa tai priklausys nuo to, kas kelsis į jį gyventi ir ką jie atsiveš su savimi. Jeigu žmonės į naująją sostinę važiuos tik iš reikalo, miestas bus miręs. Tačiau jeigu žmonės bus įtikinti persikelti ten gyventi, miestui gali pasisekti.

Šalies prezidentas mato daugybę priežasčių, dėl ko naujojo miesto idėja yra gera. Visų pirma, šis projektas atneša ekonominę sėkmę statybų sektoriui, kadangi pastatyti miestą nuo nulio reikalauja daug darbo.

Antra, miestas turės saugumo pranašumą. A.F. el-Sissi nuvertė pirmąjį demokratiškai išrinktą prezidentą Mohamedą Morsi po didžiulių protestų, išplitusių Kaire. Tuo tarpu naujajame mieste kariuomenė kontroliuos miesto centrą, o likusi miesto dalis bus kontroliuojama iš centro – tai gali padėti apsaugoti miestą nuo sukilimų.

A.F. El-Sissi, kuris pernai buvo perrinktas antrai kadencijai, neslepia savo ambicijų atkurti Egipto praeities šlovę ir tapti arabų pasaulio lydere. Tikimasi, kad naujoji sostinė būtent tai ir leis padaryti, bei pritrauks naujas investicijas iš užsienio.

Tai leistų pasivyti Persų įlankos šalis, kurios padarė stulbinamą pažangą per pastaruosius du dešimtmečius. Tuo tarpu Kairas ir kiti senieji miestai jau nebėra patrauklūs užsienio investuotojams.

Tarptautinės įmonės renkasi miestus pagal tai, kokį gyvenimo būdą jie siūlo.

A.F. El-Sissi jau ėmė keisti šalį, atnaujindamas šalies kelius, platindamas greitkelius ir gerindamas susisiekimą su atokesniais regionais.

Pernai Egipto valdžia pristatė didžiausią pasaulyje saulės energijos parką Asuane, o 2015 metais atidarė naują Sueco kanalą, kad prikeltų šalį iš ekonominio sąstingio. Tiesa, šie projektai neturėjo tokios ekonominės naudos, kokios tikėjosi valdžia.

Šaltinis: 2019-02-24, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

25) Po 50 metų rasti dar niekur nematyti nusileidimo Mėnulyje vaizdai

Kiek mažiau nei prieš savaitę visas pasaulis minėjo 50-ąsias sėkmingos „Apollo 11“ misijos metines. 1969 metų liepos 20 diena jau visiems laikams yra įrašyta į istorijos vadovėlius – tuo metu pirmą

kartą žmogaus kojos palietė Mėnulio paviršių. Norėdama paminėti šį jubiliejų, kosmoso agentūra NASA surengė daugybę įvairių renginių, susitikimų ir parodų.

Kaip rašo „AirSpaceMag“, metinėms ruošėsi ir kosmoso istorikas Robertas Godwinas. Jis peržiūrinėjo vaizdinę nusileidimo Mėnulyje medžiagą, kurią NASA jam buvo atsiuntusi jau anksčiau, ir pats nustebė kai atrado kai ką visiškai naujo ir nematyto.

Vaizdinė medžiaga, kurioje yra dokumentuotas nusileidimas Mėnulyje, yra pilna tamsių šešėlių, o per juos nėra labai patogu matyti ką veikia astronautai Neilas Armstrongas ir Buzzas Aldrinas. Tačiau šiame vaizdo įrašė, kurį atrado R.Godwinas, viskas matosi daug geriau.

Ši medžiaga fiksuoja tai, ką du astronautai veikė prieš padarant populiariąją B.Aldrino nuotrauką, kurioje jis stovi Mėnulyje. Istorikas teigia, kad ši medžiaga leidžia iš naujo pajusti tą džiaugsmą ir jaudulį, kurį žmonės jautė stebėdami istorinį įvykį tiesiogiai.

„Apollo 11“ misijos tikslas buvo saugiai nuskraidinti tris vyrus į Mėnulį, o vėliau juos saugiai grąžinti atgal į Žemę. Misijose dalyvavo jos vadas N. Armstrongas, pagrindinio erdvėlaivio pilotas Michaelis Collinsas ir „Apollo“ Mėnulio modulio pilotas B. Aldrinas.

Pasiekus nustatytą orbitą N.Armstrongas ir B.Aldrinas įsėdo į Mėnulio modulį, kuriuo ir nusileido ant Mėnulio paviršiaus. Žengdamas ant dulkėto mūsų palydovo paviršiaus, misijos vadas radijo ryšiu visam pasauliui ištarė legendinius žodžius: „Tai mažas žingsnelis žmogui, bet didelis šuolis žmonijai“.

Beveik iš karto po to ant Mėnulio paviršiaus žengė ir B.Aldrinas. Mėnulyje abu vyrai praleido apie dvi su puse valandos, čia jie rinko įvairius uolienų pavyzdžius ir fotografavosi, galiausiai grįžo atgal į Mėnulio modulį, o vėliau – į Žemę.

Gyvai nusileidimą Mėnulyje stebėjo apie 530 mln. žmonių iš viso pasaulio, NBC teigia, kad tai 27 kartus daugiau nei paskutinio „Sostų karų“ epizodo auditorija. Per 50 metų ši vaizdinė medžiaga buvo peržiūrėta daugybę kartų, ji net gi buvo naudojama kuriant dokumentinį filmą „Apollo 11“. Pats D.Godwinas sako, kad yra neįtikėtina, jog dar pavyko rasti nematytos medžiagos. Ją patys galite pasižiūrėti šiame „Youtube“ patalpintame vaizdo įrašė nuo 54:13 minutės.

Šaltinis: 2019-08-01, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

Appendix 3. Articles of ‘hard’ news in the source language (English)

1) 2 Ukrainian Soldiers Killed in War-Torn Separatist East

Two Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in clashes with pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine's war-torn east, its military said Monday, as Kiev again accused Moscow of massing tens of thousands of soldiers on its border.

Clashes have regularly broken out in the east in recent weeks, undermining a ceasefire brokered last year that had raised hopes of ending a conflict that erupted in 2014 after Russia annexed Crimea.

The Ukrainian army said that one serviceman was killed on Saturday when separatist fighters opened fire with small arms, while another soldier "received a gunshot bullet wound incompatible with life" on Monday.

The fresh clashes come as Russia has massed thousands of its soldiers on its border with Ukraine, with the White House last week saying the number of Russian troops at the border was now greater than at any time since 2014.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's spokeswoman told AFP on Monday that Russia now has 41,000 troops on Ukraine's eastern border and 42,000 soldiers on the Crimean peninsula.

Spokeswoman Yulia Mendel also said that Zelenskiy had sent a query to the Kremlin in late March requesting talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin over the escalating conflict, but was yet to receive an answer.

"We hope that President Vladimir Putin does not refuse dialogue," Mendel told AFP.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, however, denied that Moscow had received a request for talks.

"I am not aware of any such enquiries in recent days," he told reporters on Monday.

The Kremlin, which has not denied the troop movements, has said it is not moving towards war with Ukraine, but also that it "will not remain indifferent" to the fate of Russian speakers in the east.

The conflict, which has claimed more than 13,000 lives, has seen 28 Ukrainian soldiers killed since the start of the year compared to 50 in all of 2020.

Kiev and its Western allies accuse Russia of sending troops and arms to support the separatists, claims Moscow denies.

Source: 12-14-2021, *The Moscow Times* (<https://themoscowtimes.com>)

2) Deadly stabbing attack in UK's Reading is a terrorist incident, police say

A stabbing attack in the southern English city of Reading is being treated as an act of terrorism, British police said Sunday. The attack, which took place Saturday evening in a public park, left three people dead and another three injured.

A 25-year-old man from Reading was arrested for suspected murder Saturday night. Reuters reports that the man is Libyan national Khairi Saadallah, citing a Western security source, though the police have not yet confirmed this.

"Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon, senior national coordinator for the Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) network, has this morning declared the incident a terrorist incident," a statement from Thames Valley police said Sunday. The CTP South East will carry out further investigation, the statement added.

“This was an atrocity,” chief U.K. counter-terrorism officer Neil Basu said. He described unarmed police officers subduing the assailant, and added that the attack was not connected to a demonstration by Black Lives Matter activists held in the same park earlier that day. Reading is about 40 miles west of London.

The police have said they have no intelligence on any further attacks thus far and believe this to be an isolated incident.

The attacker seemed to strike his victims at random, police and witnesses said. One witness, speaking to the BBC, described the man moving from group to group stabbing people who were talking and drinking with one another in the park.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the attack “appalling” on Sunday, vowing that “lessons will be learned.”

U.K. Home secretary Priti Patel called it “a senseless attack on people simply enjoying a Saturday evening.”

“My thoughts are with all of those affected by the appalling incident in Reading and my thanks to the emergency services on the scene,” Johnson said Saturday.

Source: 21-06-2020, *CNBC* (<https://cnbc.com>)

3) Kobe Bryant, NBA superstar and future Hall of Famer, is dead at 41

It's hard to believe NBA superstar Kobe Bryant, whose prodigious talent and win-at-all-costs spirit made him one of the most famous and decorated athletes in history, is gone.

He was the rare celebrity who didn't need a last name. Oprah. LeBron. Beyonce. Kobe. Everyone knew who you were talking about.

Still youthful at 41, Bryant -- who died in a helicopter crash Sunday in California -- looked like he could suit up and drop 30 points on a rival NBA team. It doesn't seem that long ago that he was scoring 60 points in his final NBA game, soaking up the cheers of Los Angeles Lakers fans who worshiped him for two decades as one of the city's favorite sons.

After his 20-year NBA career -- all with the Lakers -- Bryant is all but assured of being a first-ballot inductee into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame later this year.

"He was a fierce competitor, one of the greats of the game and a creative force," said fellow NBA icon Michael Jordan.

An 18-time All-Star, Bryant was known for his remarkable scoring ability -- his turnaround jumper was nearly unstoppable -- and his championship pedigree. He teamed with fellow All-Star Shaquille O'Neal to win three consecutive NBA titles from 2000 to 2002 and later won two more rings, in 2009 and 2010.

Known as the Black Mamba -- a nickname he gave himself -- Bryant twice led the NBA in scoring and won the league's Most Valuable Player award in 2008.

Bryant's daughter Gianna, 13, was with her father on the helicopter and was also killed in the crash, a source with knowledge of the situation told CNN.

"Kobe was so much more than an athlete, he was a family man. That was what we had most in common," O'Neal wrote on Twitter Sunday. "We love our families. Whenever we got together I would hug his children like they were my own and he would embrace my kids like they were his."

"The NBA family is devastated by the tragic passing of Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna," said NBA Commissioner Adam Silver in a statement.

"For 20 seasons, Kobe showed us what is possible when remarkable talent blends with an absolute devotion to winning. He was one of the most extraordinary players in the history of our game with accomplishments that are legendary ... But he will be remembered most for inspiring people around the world to pick up a basketball and compete to the very best of their ability."

He entered the NBA at age 17

Bryant was born on August 23, 1978, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents, Joe and Pam Bryant, gave him the namesake after seeing a type of steak on a restaurant menu. Kobe beef is from a species of cattle, Wagyu, raised in the Kobe region of Japan.

He lived in Italy from the age of six to 13 while his father played professional basketball, and he spoke Italian fluently. In one of his final interviews before he died, Bryant told CNN how he developed a love of soccer in Italy but also witnessed racism before moving back to the United States.

"When I was growing up in Italy, I've obviously witnessed it firsthand going to certain soccer matches and things of that nature," Bryant told CNN's Andy Scholes. "My parents have taught me and educated me on how to deal with those sorts of things."

Bryant played high school basketball at Lower Merion in Pennsylvania.

"This is a difficult day for everyone in our school community," said Amy Buckman, a spokeswoman for Lower Merion School District.

"Mr. Bryant's connection to Lower Merion High School, where he played basketball prior to joining the NBA, has raised the profile of our high school and our district throughout the world. Our school community will always be grateful for his ongoing generosity to his alma mater, including his dedication of our Kobe Bryant gymnasium and his support of our girls and boys basketball teams."

Bryant went straight from high school to the NBA, drafted by the Charlotte Hornets with the 13th overall pick of the 1996 draft, making him the youngest NBA player in history at age 17. Bryant was then traded to the Los Angeles Lakers for veteran center Vlade Divac.

He soon became one of the most decorated players in NBA history and also won two Olympic gold medals for USA men's basketball, in 2008 and 2012.

Off the court his dazzling smile sold everything from Nike shoes to McDonald's hamburgers.

There was controversy, however, when Bryant was accused of sexual assaulting a 19-year-old Colorado hotel worker in 2003. Bryant insisted the encounter was consensual. The criminal sexual assault charge was dropped in 2004, and the accuser agreed to settle her civil lawsuit against Bryant in 2005.

LeBron James: 'Kobe is a legend, that's for damn sure'

At 6 feet, 6 inches, Bryant could run the point or play shooting guard, even though his position was small forward.

One of the most memorable games in NBA history came on January 22, 2006, when Bryant scored 81 points in a Lakers' 122-104 win over Toronto. Only Wilt Chamberlain's 100-point game in 1962 tops this performance.

And in his final game of his career in 2016, the Black Mamba did it his way, dropping 60 points -- on 50 shots -- in a Lakers win against the Utah Jazz at a frenzied Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Bryant finished his NBA career with 33,643 points. A day before he died, he was passed by another Laker and superstar, LeBron James, on the league's all-time scoring list. James accomplished the feat in -- of all places -- Philadelphia, against the 76ers.

Bryant took to Twitter after James passed him, writing, "Continuing to move the game forward @KingJames. Much respect my brother."

James, who had "Mamba 4 Life" and "8/24 KB" in gold marker on his sneakers before Saturday's game, talked after the game about Bryant's influence on him.

"The story is just too much," James said Saturday night. "It doesn't make sense. ... Now I'm here in a Lakers uniform, in Philadelphia, where he's from... it's surreal."

James -- who, like Bryant entered the NBA straight out of high school -- said Bryant was someone he looked up to when he was in grade school and high school.

"Seeing him come straight out of high school, he is someone that I used as inspiration," James said. "It was like, wow. Seeing a kid, 17 years old, come into the NBA and trying to make an impact on a franchise, I used it as motivation.

"He helped me before he even knew of me because of what he was able to do. So, just to be able to, at this point of my career, to share the same jersey that he wore, be with this historical franchise and just represent the purple and gold, it's very humbling and it's dope.

"Kobe's a legend, that's for damn sure."

Another Lakers legend, Magic Johnson, posted a series of tweets on the loss of Bryant, including one showing a picture of Bryant with his two different jersey numbers -- 8 and 24 -- being retired.

"Kobe and I shared so many special conversations about life and basketball," Johnson wrote in one tweet. "We had so much in common off the court. I used to love talking to him about Lakers basketball, being fathers and husbands and how much we loved Italy. I will miss those conversations and him so much."

He coached his daughter, Gianna

Bryant married wife Vanessa in 2001. They had four daughters: Natalia (born in 2003), Gianna (2006), Bianka (2016) and Capri (2019).

He and his daughter Gianna were expected at the Mamba Sports Academy in Thousand Oaks for a basketball game scheduled for Sunday afternoon. Bryant was to coach his daughter's team in the game.

Bryant said that he had watched little basketball after retiring -- in 2018, he won an Oscar for best animated short for "Dear Basketball," which was based on a poem he wrote -- but Gianna's love of the game sparked his interest in coaching her team.

The two were seen together at numerous NBA games recently, and videos of Gianna's basketball skills went viral despite her just being 13.

Bryant described Gianna -- who had WNBA aspirations -- as "hellbent" on going to the University of Connecticut, the alma mater of Diana Taurasi and Maya Moore, two players Bryant recently told CNN "could play in the NBA right now."

"The best thing that happens is when we go out and fans will come up to me -- and she'll be standing next to me -- and be like, 'Hey you've got to have a boy. You and V gotta have a boy and then have somebody carry on the tradition, the legacy,'" Bryant once said in an interview with ABC's Jimmy Kimmel.

But, Bryant added, Gianna would then pipe up, saying, "I got this."

Source: 27-01-2020, *CNN* (<https://edition.cnn.com>)

4) The New Chapo: An inside look at the hunt for El Mencho, Mexico's bloodiest drug lord

The DEA is targeting a cartel kingpin the agency says is responsible for tons of meth flowing into the U.S. each month.

Sometimes, the decapitated bodies are hanging from bridges. Other times, the mutilated torsos are just discarded on the street. Often, the carnage comes with a calling card: "CJNG" in scrawled lettering.

The Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación likes to send a message.

To those who have been tracking the resurgence of the Mexican drug war in the last few years, the cartel's rise is particularly troubling — it is as brazen as it is ruthless. The Drug Enforcement Administration now believes the CJNG is responsible for tons of meth and fentanyl flowing into the United States each month.

“CJNG is our No. 1 priority right now,” said Bill Bodner, the special agent in charge of the DEA's Los Angeles field division, who oversees a group of agents specifically tasked with tracking down the cartel's leader.

Still, that man — Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes, known as “El Mencho” — has successfully eluded U.S. federal authorities so far.

Multiple American and Mexican law enforcement officials tell NBC News the CJNG's head has filled the void after the 2016 capture of the notorious “El Chapo” Guzmán — who led the rival Sinaloa cartel. The CJNG has swooped in, these sources say, and it's now considered the deadliest cartel in Mexico.

“The Zetas were very feared,” Bodner said. “But they met their match.”

Hunting a ‘ghost’

The DEA has touted a \$10 million reward for information leading to El Mencho's arrest. But so far, authorities have come up empty.

The CJNG has only existed for about a decade, but it rose to power much more quickly than the rival Sinaloa cartel. Its influence now stretches across six continents and 28 of Mexico's 32 states. Major U.S. cities — including Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Atlanta and New York — are all affected by the CJNG's drugs, DEA officials said.

El Mencho has been indicted in U.S. federal court on charges of drug trafficking, corruption and murder.

But following his trail has been difficult. At one point, the DEA believed he might be hiding in the mountains, but it has been challenging to pin him down.

In many ways, he's been a “ghost,” one source said.

The cartel leader was born in the tiny Mexican town of Naranjo de Chila in 1966 and lived for a time in California; he was arrested in the U.S. in the 1980s for selling drugs. He eventually made his way back to Guadalajara and began working for the Milenio cartel, a subsidiary of the Sinaloa cartel. He rose through the ranks, before splintering off into his group around 2010. The resulting group, the CJNG, would quickly unleash a new wave of violence on its rivals. After 2016, when El Chapo was captured, the bloodshed intensified.

El Mencho's shadowy history doesn't reveal much — except perhaps why it's been so hard to find him.

“El Mencho seems to be a lot more disciplined than Chapo was,” Bodner said. “El Chapo liked to live the flashy lifestyle — the cars, women, nice restaurants, alcohol. El Mencho is content to stay away from that stuff, to work out, to eat right, to stay off the radar.”

One of his few known vices: his reported love of cockfighting, which has earned him another nickname — “The Lord of the Roosters.”

Family ties

El Mencho's American-born son, Ruben Oseguera González, was arrested in 2015 and is now being held in a maximum security prison in Mexico as U.S. authorities ask for his extradition on drugs and weapons charges.

According to the Mexican newspaper El Universal, in 2019 González's attorneys accused a DEA agent of bribing a local magistrate to intervene and speed up the process — an allegation the agency vehemently denies.

“They're trying to slow [the agent] down on this case,” Bodner said. “This is a tactic by a defense attorney trying to slow down an investigation into a cartel that's trying to put up roadblocks to stop us from extraditing a person — who is a U.S. citizen, by the way.”

The battle between the DEA and cartels in Guadalajara has raged for decades. It was recently featured in the Netflix series "Narcos: Mexico," which told the story of agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who was kidnapped and murdered in 1985.

‘We are at war’

With his face obscured in darkness, the man vividly remembered the last time he spoke to his son.

It was more than a year ago. Almost 400 days of agony have followed: the searing pain of a parent who knows their child has been murdered – but can't find the body.

“I didn't believe human beings could do this,” he said in an interview. “We are at war.”

For security reasons, he asked that his face not be shown, nor his name used. That's a common request in Mexico, where the government just announced that more than 61,000 people have disappeared amid the ongoing drug war -- and where homicides topped 31,000 in 2019, the deadliest year in memory.

He wore a ball cap, a mustache and a tired smile. He worked as a chiropractor but his family owned a ranch in rural Mexico, which had been handed down through the generations. Until, he said, dozens of cartel members seized it to make meth.

“The government can't handle them,” he said.

Across social media, the CJNG has posted gruesome displays of beheadings and executions. Other postings are propaganda videos meant to recruit new members. One former Mexican intelligence official said the cartel grooms potential recruits from a very young age — in their early teens — with easy access to drugs, promises of money and jobs. CJNG business cards with popular logos like Louis Vuitton are openly handed out. In some neighborhoods, cartel members employ Robin Hood-type tactics, handing out food and other supplies to poor communities. The young men who are lured into joining are immediately tortured and forced to become sicarios, or assassins, for the cartel. By the time they get older, they're willing to torture and decapitate their own victims.

The ruthlessness of the attacks has drawn comparisons to the Islamic State militant group.

“In terms of violence, yes,” Bodner, the DEA agent, said. “They may not have a religious ideology, but the violence is the same.”

'Stain of blood'

The DEA gave NBC News rare access to one of its secret labs that analyzes drug seizures at an undisclosed location. The agency is seeing more methamphetamine cross the border — and much of it is attributed to the CJNG. Unlike marijuana or heroin, meth doesn't require huge swaths of land or good weather. The labs can be built in isolated areas — and the synthetic drug can be much more profitable.

At the DEA's lab, technicians combed through the chemical composition of the meth.

“It's much more pure (than before),” said Bodner, the DEA agent.

In Mexico, the security commissioner of the state of Guanajuato said in an interview that Americans' addiction to drugs fuels the demand — which in turn fuels the cartels and their violence.

“Unfortunately, with each dose consumed, there comes the stain of blood,” Sophia Huett said. “And it's something we cannot deny.”

Source: 01-03-2021, *NBC News*, (<https://nbcnews.com>)

5) Heads of state in Europe mourn Prince Philip

A number of European heads of state have expressed their sympathies on the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh.

King Philippe of Belgium has conveyed the condolences of the Belgian Royal Family to the Queen in a private message. A public message will be released soon, but the King hoped to speak to the Queen in person when it was possible.

King Carl Gustaf of Sweden has said he and Queen Silvia are "deeply saddened to learn of the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh". "Prince Philip has been a great friend of our family for many years, a relation which we have deeply valued. His service to his country will remain an inspiration to us all".

Taoiseach of Ireland Micheál Martin said he was "saddened to hear of the death of HRH, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Our thoughts and prayers are with Queen Elizabeth and the people of the United Kingdom at this time".

Malta's prime minister, Robert Abela, said he was "truly saddened by the loss of Prince Philip, who made Malta his home and returned here so often. Our people will always treasure his memory".

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda said: "It is with great sadness that I learned about the passing of Prince Philip. May his soul rest in peace. I extend my deepest condolences to Queen Elizabeth II. In this hour of immense loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you & the people of the UK".

Latvian President Egils Levits said: “My deepest condolences to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family on the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.”

Source: 09-04-2021, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com>)

6) Driver found with corpse on wrong side of highway

A man who was stopped for driving on the wrong side of the road in Catalonia was found to have a dead body in the front passenger seat.

Police made the grim discovery after the 66-year-old suddenly turned around at the checkpoint between Spain and France.

Investigators believe the deceased, an 88-year-old man, had been dead for about three weeks.

They say the driver may have been taking him home to Switzerland.

The body, believed to be the driver's partner, had started to decompose. It was covered with a blanket and was wearing a seatbelt, reports Spanish newspaper *La Vanguardia*.

An autopsy will be carried out on Friday to determine how he died, although investigators say there is no evidence of criminality, the Mossos d'Esquadra (Catalan police) tweeted.

The driver was initially heading towards France on Thursday and arrived at the La Jonquère border checkpoint.

Upon seeing police, he turned around and drove 30km (19 miles) back into Spain, this time on the wrong side of the motorway.

France and Spain both drive on the right-hand side of the road.

Catalan police signalled to the man to pull over, but he ignored them, according to French newspaper *Le Monde*. He eventually left the motorway and took a local road, where he had a crash in the town of Jafre shortly before noon.

France Bleu reports that toll and parking tickets found in the car suggest the driver may have chauffeured his deceased partner to various locations before being discovered, including visits to Madrid, Vilafranca del Penedès and even Italy despite travel restrictions because of the pandemic.

The driver, who is a dual Swiss/Spanish citizen and lives in Spain, is still being questioned by police. He is currently only charged with traffic offences.

La Vanguardia reported the driver told police the deceased man was his partner whom he "loved very much". But he gave conflicting reasons as to why he was driving on the wrong side of the road.

Source: 09-04-2021, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com>)

7) 'It's complete chaos': Brazilian state overwhelmed by rash of gang violence

Attacks in Ceará are an early challenge for new president Jair Bolsonaro, who swept to power with tough-on-crime proposals

Carlos Robério and his colleagues were expecting an attack on their minibus co-op in Fortaleza, north-eastern Brazil. Over the previous few nights, gang members had already destroyed one of their vehicles, and torched dozens of city buses.

But when the assault came, there was little Robério could do but watch the CCTV feed as a group of youths doused one of the co-op's kiosks and set it on fire.

"I was desperate," said Robério. "That's our property – it's how we make a living and support our families," he said.

Authorities in the state of Ceará have been overwhelmed by more than a week of violence, which has been most intense in the capital, Fortaleza, a metropolitan region home to 4 million people.

Security forces say three rival drug gangs have come together to carry out more than 160 attacks in retaliation for a proposal to end the practice of separating gang factions inside Brazil's prisons.

Buses, mail trucks and cars have been torched. Police stations, city government buildings and banks have been attacked with petrol bombs and explosives. On Sunday, criminals blew up a telephone exchange, leaving 12 cities without mobile service. Other explosions have damaged a freeway overpass and a bridge.

The rash of violence is an early challenge for new president Jair Bolsonaro, who swept to power with his tough-on-crime proposals, which include military takeovers of Brazilian cities and shoot-to-kill security tactics.

Police say that three suspects have been killed in shootouts and the outbreak has brought Fortaleza to a standstill: buses and taxis have stopped running, shops have closed for days and many frightened residents refuse to leave their homes.

Five hundred national guard troops have been deployed to the region. Camilo Santana, the governor of Ceará state, said on Monday that authorities have made 148 arrests in association with the attacks. At least 20 prisoners suspecting of ordering the violence have been transferred from state to federal prisons.

Despite the chaos, the government said it would not pull back on its plan to combat gang activities in prisons.

Fortaleza and other cities in Brazil's north-east have seen homicides soar in recent years, as Brazil's most notorious gangs, the First Capital Command (known as the PCC in Portuguese) from São Paulo and the Red Command (Comando Vermelho) from Rio de Janeiro began to encroach on the region, which they are disputing with the Fortaleza-based Guardians of the State, and also the Northern Family from Amazonas state.

The PCC and the Red Command are locked in a bitter fight to control Brazil's drugs trade, and Fortaleza is seen as a strategic prize because it is the closest large port to Europe and Africa.

“We used to only see this kind of savagery on television in Rio de Janeiro. Things used to be mellow here,” said Robério, who added that the mayhem had made him want to arm himself.

“It’s complete chaos here and I feel like I’m in the middle of the ocean without a life raft,” he said.

Bolsonaro capitalized on such sentiments during the election, and proposed facilitating gun ownership and rewarding police for extrajudicial killings.

“Bolsonaro promoted a war rhetoric throughout his campaign, which won’t solve Brazil’s problem with violence,” said Renato Sérgio de Lima, the president of the Brazilian Forum on Public Security.

Brazil’s security forces are already violent and killed 5,000 people in 2017, an average of 14 a day.

De Lima said Bolsonaro, and many politicians before him, tend to propose more violence instead of more effective strategies such as investing in better intelligence capabilities for police investigations and reforming the draconian prison system.

He cited promise in justice minister Sérgio Moro’s proposal to investigate gangs’ money laundering to suffocate them financially, but said that Bolsonaro’s forceful proposals make violent cities like Fortaleza a “time bomb”.

“It’s really the local police and institutions that have to put out the flames of these politicians’ warlike proposals,” he said.

Source: 09-01-2019, *The Guardian* (<https://theguardian.com>)

8) A global neo-Nazi organisation led by a 13-year-old Estonian schoolboy

Estonia’s Internal Security Service (KAPO) captured a ringleader of the extremist Feuerkrieg Division (“Firewar Division” in German; FKD for short) – a 13-year-old schoolboy, known online as “Commander FKD”; the boy lived in a small Estonian town.

KAPO stopped the activities of the boy, using a “Commander FKD” or “Kriegsherr” (“Warlord” in German) pseudonym in the encrypted FKD online forums, in January, the Estonian weekly newspaper, Eesti Ekspress reported. The boy, who cannot be prosecuted (nor named) due to his age, was a ringleader of the Feuerkrieg Division – a small, international neo-Nazi organisation founded in late 2018.

Mass-murderer heroes

According to the New York-based Jewish NGO, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) – an international anti-hate organisation – the Feuerkrieg Division embraces the most extreme interpretations of white supremacist ideology. “Their current leader lives in Estonia, but the group’s membership is increasingly American. The group celebrates the concepts promoted in *Siege*, a collection of noxious essays written by US-based neo-Nazi James Mason,” the ADL said in a brief, written before the capture of the Estonian ringleader.

The “FKD was established in October 2018 in the Baltics, most likely Estonia. Over time, the group has expanded its footprint to include Belgium, [the] UK, Ireland, [the] Netherlands, Norway, Latvia, Germany and Russia. In 2019, [the] FKD continued to expand their recruitment efforts in Europe and in North America, including Canada and especially the US,” the ADL noted.

The Feuerkrieg Division is heavily influenced by the Atomwaffen Division (“Atomic Weapon Division” in German), a neo-Nazi group allegedly tied to five murders across the US. The “FKD advocates similar core beliefs, racist and vitriolic propaganda with shared graphics and general subculture. While the bulk of their activity is online, members have engaged in leafleting efforts, distributing violent, racist and anti-Semitic propaganda,” the ADL said in a brief, seen by Estonian World.

The FKD’s stated enemies include a range of ideological and symbolic targets, in addition to minority groups including Jews, Muslims, the LGBTQ community, religious leaders and police, among others. “They refer to their calls for violence as holy war, which they term ‘white jihad’. In private chats, FKD members discuss elaborate plans to target ‘the system’, including kidnapping, executing or otherwise harming others, while applauding previous deadly white supremacist attacks,” the ADL said.

In encrypted forums, FKD members honour the lives and violent actions of some of the most notorious murderers in recent history, quoting and referencing figures including the Christchurch shooter, Brenton Tarrant; the Charleston church shooter, Dylann Roof; the Norwegian mass-murderer, Anders Behring Breivik; and the Oklahoma City bomber, Timothy McVeigh. “The ideology weaves the teachings and actions of James Mason, Adolf Hitler and Charles Manson, among others, into a tapestry of extreme hate,” the ADL said.

The 13-year-old “commander” set the minimum age limit of 16 for other recruits

The administration and management of the FKD was all conducted online, enabling the Estonian ringleader to hide his identity, including his real age. Ironically, the “commander” set the minimum age for recruits at 16, while he himself is just 13 years old. “The members of the organisation were, of course, unaware of this fact,” Eesti Ekspress said.

According to the weekly, the “commander” was probably the only official member of the FKD from Estonia. However, there were others in Estonia who showed interest of the FKD and Siege ideology and some of them may have had contacts with the “commander”. “They probably did not have access to the official FKD channels, but, for example, one of the forums created by the Commander (not directly dealing with FKD matters) contains the usernames khan, Kupper and Kert Valter from Estonia,” the paper said. It is important to note here that “Kert Valter” as well as “Bert Valter” were used as pseudonyms by bogus University of Tartu students who wrote opinion articles for the Estonian newspaper, Eesti Päevaleht. Ruuben Kaalep, a neo-Nazi MP of the Estonian Conservative People’s Party, EKRE, later admitted that he used the “Bert Valter” synonym.*

As far as is known so far, the Estonian “commander” was influenced by the texts of a US-based neo-Nazi, James Mason. He read the texts in a Russia-based English-language forum, IronMarch, set up by an Uzbek, Alisher Mukhitdinov, using alias Alexander Slavros, who is reportedly still living under the radar in a Soviet-era apartment block in Moscow. The Atomwaffen Division (a neo-Nazi group

allegedly tied to five murders across the US) that influenced the FDK, also grew up from the IronMarch forum.

Teachings on how to make explosives

The US-based non-profit media portal, Unicorn Riot, recently posted the leaked material from the Feuerkrieg Division's encrypted Wire and Riot communication channels – the earliest information is from July 2019, the latest from February this year. Eesti Ekspress reviewed all the material and said it offers a “unique insight” into the activities of FDK as well as Siege culture in general.

In the conversations, the members share teachings on how to make explosives and instruct on how to modify or acquire weapons. Some of the FDK members are also gun owners who post photos, their faces covered with skull masks. “They encourage each other to train and, of possible, practice with weapons,” Eesti Ekspress said.

In a similar style, in late 2018 and in 2019, EKRE's MP Ruuben Kaalep organised firearms training sessions with pistols and assault rifles to youngsters from the Blue Awakening, EKRE's youth wing. They later posted posing pictures, some of which carried anti-Semitic messages, publicly on the social media. When EKRE's deputy leader and Estonia's finance minister, Martin Helme, was asked to comment by the Estonian daily newspaper, Õhtuleht, on the party's youth wing actions, he responded he “supported” and “encouraged” them.

Threatening the Estonian Jewish community

There were also references to rape in the FDK forum. “Rape Christian nuns in Hitler's name,” the Estonian “commander” wrote in one place. He also shared the prison addresses of both Anders Breivik and Brenton Tarrant, so that the members could “send Christmas and birthday cards” to them.

The most talked about topic in the forum was the “system”, which in the worldview of the FDK members means the “Jewish-led Western way of life”, the state, banks and corporations. “As with the Nazis, the story always ends up revolving around the Jews,” Ekspress noted. “We only have one synagogue. But I'm not going to give up. We have a Jewish school and their community centre in the same building. So if I survive, I'll probably kill some yid kids too...ahahhaaa,” the 13-year-old Estonian “Kriegsherr” wrote in the forum.

“In general, however, everyone is an enemy. Everyone must be killed and sent to the wall,” the paper summarised the forum's discussions. “In one place, the Commander FDK formulates an official list of enemies in order of importance: 1) police officers, politicians, racial traitors, 2) Jews, 3) libertarians, 4) conservatives, 5) communists, 6) liberals, 7) furries, 8) Negroes, 9) gays, 10) transgenders.” It is not clear what he meant under “furries” – but probably either long-haired people, like heavy metal fans, who are in Estonian sometimes derogatively referred to as karvased, ie “furry people”, or the furry subculture, ie people dressing up as animals.

The Estonian internal security service is keeping an eye on

Eesti Ekspress concluded that probably the most dangerous aspect is that so-called lone wolves could become inspired by the FDK and the Siege movements – encouraging and pushing each other. “There are already examples. Several FDK members have been arrested in different countries. They didn't just talk.”

“Internet radicalisation is a wider societal problem and indeed a global phenomenon that we are working with international partners to tackle. People with similar extremist views communicate with each other internationally. The Estonian Internal Security Police is aware of it,” Alar Ridamäe, a representative of KAPO, told Eesti Ekspress. He added that the security service was verifying the allegations about the participation of Estonians in the online discussions of extremists. “When there is a suspicion of danger, we intervene to prevent things from getting worse, which is what we were doing in this case,” he said, referring to the 13-year-old ringleader of FDK.

Ridamäe said children and young people were especially at risk from online radicalisation, as they are often more vulnerable than adults. “Extremists try to draw young people into their sphere of influence by mystery, concealment and rebellion. We would like to emphasise the role of parents, who have the first opportunity and primary obligation to notice the dangers. Unfortunately, in practice, there are cases where parents themselves have bought extremist literature for their children, which contributes to radicalisation,” he said.

Ridamäe emphasised that to date, no form of violent extremism has wider support in Estonia, but the danger of “lone wolves” cannot be ruled out. As for the now stopped “Commander FDK”, KAPO simply said “he is being taken care of”, without specifying.

Source: 10-04-2020, *Estonian World* (<https://estonianworld.com>)

9) Maduro claims sweep of boycott-tainted poll, wins control of Venezuelan congress

President Nicolas Maduro regained control of Venezuela's National Assembly after winning Sunday's legislative election amid a boycott by his US-backed opposition rival Juan Guaido, low voter turnout and international criticism of a “sham” election.

Hours after polls closed on Sunday, Venezuela's election commission declared Maduro's United Socialist Party and allied parties had won 67 percent of the vote. The fraction of the opposition that participated in the legislative election obtained 18 percent, declared election commission head Indira Alfonzo.

Just 31 percent of the country's 20 million registered voters participated in the election, she said.

The results were a foregone conclusion with the vote largely shunned by opposition candidates and declared a sham by the EU, US and several other nations.

The boycott effectively handed Maduro's party control of an expanded 277-seat National Assembly – the only institution that was not in the ruling party's hands. Maduro already has the loyalty of the courts, the military and other institutions.

“We have recovered the National Assembly with the majority vote of the Venezuelan people,” Maduro said in a televised address. “It's a great victory without a doubt for democracy.”

In a videotaped message issued Sunday, opposition leader Guaido noted the election's low voter turnout. "The truth cannot be hidden. The majority of Venezuela turned its back on the fraud that began months ago," he said.

Despite Venezuela's political turmoil, voting took place Sunday with no apparent problems in the capital Caracas. A light flow of voters walked up to ballot boxes at Andres Bello School downtown. Voters checked their names on a wall outside, and showed identification cards inside before registering their votes on touchscreen machines, which printed paper ballots they then dropped into a box.

Supreme Court removes opposition party leaders

The Supreme Court this year appointed a new elections commission, including three members who have been sanctioned by the US and Canada, without participation of the opposition-led Assembly as the law requires.

The court also removed the leadership of three opposition parties and appointed new leaders the opposition accuses of conspiring to support Maduro.

Maduro has campaigned for his party's candidates – including his son and wife – and promised to finally silence what he identifies as the right-wing opposition, which he accuses of inciting violent protests and inviting US sanctions.

"There are those who plot coups, those who ask for military intervention," Maduro said on Saturday night in a broadcast on state television, dismissing criticism of the election. "We say: Votes yes – war no, bullets no."

The election comes amid uncertainty over the impending change of US administration. Like outgoing President Donald Trump, President-elect Joe Biden has called Maduro a "dictator", though it's unclear what approach he'll take toward Venezuela's political crisis.

Guaido's opposition movement is holding its own referendum over several days immediately after Sunday's election. It will ask Venezuelans whether they want to end Maduro's rule and hold new presidential elections.

Source: 07-12-2020, *France 24* (<https://france24.com>)

10) Five years on, is France still Charlie?

Charlie Hebdo republishes controversial cartoon to mark start of trial into 2015 massacre of its staff.

A show trial opens in France today.

Fourteen people will be tried for their alleged part in the Charlie Hebdo massacre in Paris in January 2015 and the slaughter at the Hyper Cacher Jewish supermarket that followed the next day.

The 10 weeks of evidence and pleading will be filmed and the footage preserved for posterity — a first in French judicial history.

Only three of the defendants are said to have been directly involved in the 17 killings. They are being tried in absentia after fleeing to the now-defunct Islamic State caliphate in Syria and Iraq. They may well no longer be alive.

The 11 other defendants are alleged to have played minor parts in helping Chérif and Saïd Kouachi before they attacked the satirical magazine or assisted Amedy Coulibaly before his hostage-taking and murders at the Jewish supermarket. All three principal protagonists died at the time.

And yet, this 10-week televised trial of 11 minor figures is significant all the same. The court will try to unravel in public the often-confused ideological motivation of the killers and their helpers. It will also examine the blunders in the French security apparatus that failed to forestall the attacks.

It may be a show trial, but it's a very welcome one.

It's also an opportunity to look back five years and eight months and ask what, if anything, has changed in France.

The Charlie Hebdo and Hyper Cacher attacks — followed within 10 months by the even more murderous assault at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris — were declared at the time to be “France's 9/11.”

France would never be the same again, it was said. There would be a before January 7, 2015 and an after January 7, 2015.

More than 3.7 million people took to the streets of Paris and other French cities four days later. These people were not fulminating against Muslims or against radical Islamists. They were declaring themselves — white, brown and Black, left or right, Muslim, Catholic or Jewish — to be united in support of French republican values of tolerance and solidarity.

Their catchphrase was “Je Suis Charlie” — “I am Charlie.”

That slogan also came — for some of the marchers, not all — to mean support for the principle of freedom of opinion and for Charlie Hebdo's right to publish cartoons representing the Prophet Mohammed. (It is important to stress that the drawings did not mock the prophet. They mostly showed him despairing at the behavior of some of his most radical followers.)

Many French people who had never read Charlie Hebdo regarded the assault on the magazine — which killed several celebrated cartoonists and 12 people in all — as an attack on the French and Western way of life.

To them, Charlie Hebdo represented not just freedom of speech but France's love of vituperative wit; its truculence; its sense of permanent rebellion.

Five years on, what remains of the two strands of “Je Suis Charlie”?

First, free speech.

The magazine has brought forward its publication date to publish once again on Wednesday the cartoons of Mohammed that provoked the attack. Its editor “Riss” (Laurent Sourisseau) said that he had not done so this time to lampoon radical Islam but to mourn the decline of freedom of speech in France — and the West generally — in the last five years.

He said the magazine’s front-page headline — “Tout ça pour ça” (“All of this for this”) was an attack on the “tyrannical associations and navel-gazing minorities” who had brought cancel and no-platforming culture to France.

“We’ve seen universities cancel conferences, plays boycotted, all sorts of attempts to prevent divergent views on social media,” he said. “It’s astonishing to see how popular censorship has become.”

Riss is right. The free-speech strand of “Je Suis Charlie” is in poor shape in France in 2020 — and especially on the radical Left.

The other strand — support for French republican values of tolerance and solidarity — seems to be doing just fine.

In hindsight, it appears that the January 2015 attack was not really France’s 9/11. The country was not changed radically in the way that, arguably, the U.S. was changed radically by the fall of the Twin Towers.

From 9/11, you can follow a thread that winds through the Patriot Act, the Iraq war, Guantánamo Bay, the polarization of opinion and politics, and then, after a detour through Barack Obama, to Donald Trump.

After the Charlie Hebdo killings, France followed a thread in which the failed Socialist François Hollande was replaced by the centrist Emmanuel Macron.

There has been no radical turning away from tolerance and democracy — no widespread or systematic backlash against France’s 5,000,000 Muslims. Support for Marine Le Pen’s far-right National Rally remains strong (at around 23 percent) but no stronger than it was in 2014 before the attacks.

To be sure, there has not been any continuation of the “Je Suis Charlie” spirit — the spirit of common values — of the 3.7 million-strong marches of January 11, 2015. French political life rapidly returned to its ill-tempered normality. Hollande’s favorable ratings, which doubled after January 7, 2015, fell so far and so fast that he decided not to run in 2017.

But while politics in the Macron era may be sharper and more polarized and have a more negative edge than before, that can be explained in several ways — the power of social media, the perils of being a centrist.

France’s *annus horribilis*, 2015, produced neither a deeper intolerance nor a lasting new sense of common purpose. For good or ill, France, five years after Charlie Hebdo, remains, for the most part, stolidly France.

Source: 02-09-2020, *Politico* (<https://politico.eu>)

11) Trial of former French president Sarkozy postponed over co-defendant's health

French judges on Monday postponed the corruption trial of former president Nicolas Sarkozy until November 26 to assess the health of one of his co-defendants.

Sarkozy was set to go on trial Monday for attempted bribery of a judge in what could turn into a humiliating postscript to a political career tainted by a litany of legal woes.

The ex-president, along with his lawyer Thierry Herzog and judge Gilbert Azibert, are accused of corruption.

A lawyer for Azibert asked for the trial to be suspended because his client was at high risk of contracting Covid-19 given a long-term heart condition.

The judges ordered an independent medical assessment by Thursday before deciding whether to go ahead with the trial or suspend it.

Though Sarkozy won't be the first modern French head of state in the dock – his predecessor and political mentor Jacques Chirac was convicted of embezzlement – he is the first to face corruption charges.

Sarkozy fought furiously for six years to have the case thrown out, denouncing "a scandal that will go down in history".

"I am not a crook," the 65-year-old, whose combative style made him one of France's most popular politicians, told BFM TV this month.

Prosecutors say Sarkozy promised Azibert a plush job in Monaco in exchange for inside information on an inquiry into claims that Sarkozy accepted illicit payments from L'Oréal heiress Liliane Bettencourt for his 2007 presidential campaign.

Their case rests in large part on wiretaps of phone conversations between Sarkozy and his longtime lawyer Herzog, which judges authorised as prosecutors have also looked into investigating the suspected Libyan financing of Sarkozy's 2007 campaign.

That inquiry is still underway, though Sarkozy caught a break this month when his main accuser, the French-Lebanese businessman Ziad Takieddine, suddenly retracted his claim of having delivered millions of euros in cash from Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

Sarkozy and Herzog have assailed the taps on their phones as a breach of client-attorney privilege, but in 2016 a top court upheld their use as evidence.

Charged with bribery and influence peddling, Sarkozy risks a prison sentence of up to 10 years and a maximum fine of €1m.

Herzog, a leading member of the Paris bar, faces the same charges as well as that of violating professional secrecy. The trial is expected to last three weeks.

'A boost'

Investigators discovered that Sarkozy used an alias – Paul Bismuth – to buy a private phone for conversing secretly with his lawyer.

On around a dozen occasions, they discussed reaching out to Azibert, who as well as being a top French judge was also a general counsel at the Cour de Cassation, France's top appeals court for criminal and civil cases.

Prosecutors say Azibert was tasked with obtaining information from the court lawyer in charge of the Bettencourt inquiry, and to induce him to seek a verdict in Sarkozy's favour.

In exchange, Sarkozy would use his extensive contacts to give "a boost" to Azibert's efforts to secure the cushy Monaco post.

"I'll make him move up," Sarkozy told Herzog, according to the indictment by prosecutors, who compared his actions to those of a "seasoned offender".

But later, Sarkozy appeared to back away from approaching the Monaco authorities on Azibert's behalf – a sign, according to prosecutors, that the two men had been tipped off about the wiretaps.

"Mr Azibert never got any post in Monaco," Sarkozy told BFM television this month – though under French law, just an offer or promise can constitute corruption.

Still in the limelight

Sarkozy, a lawyer by training, claims the French judiciary have been waging a vendetta against him as payback for his attempts to limit judges' powers and telling them they were being too soft on delinquents.

Regardless of this trial, he will be back in court in March 2021 along with 13 other people over claims of campaign finance violations during his unsuccessful 2012 re-election bid.

Prosecutors accuse Sarkozy's team of using a fake-invoices scheme orchestrated by the public relations firm Bygmalion to spend nearly €43 million on the lavish run – nearly twice the legal limit.

The long-running legal travails helped sink his comeback bid for the 2017 presidential vote, but Sarkozy has surfed on a wave of popularity since announcing his retirement from politics in 2018, pressing the flesh with enthusiastic crowds at public appearances.

Lines of fans queued over the summer to have him sign his latest memoirs, "The Time of Storms", which topped best-seller lists for weeks.

Source: 23-11-2020, *France 24* (<https://france24.com>)

12) 'I still can't believe this' Witnesses describe horror as gunman attacked Vienna's 'Bermuda Triangle'

Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister watched in horror as a gunman weaved in and out of bars and pubs in central Vienna, shooting at people enjoying a last night of fun before Austria's nationwide coronavirus curfew came into effect.

"He was working like a professional, trained attacker," Hofmeister told CNN. "He looked professional, he didn't look confused and he wasn't shooting around randomly -- it was very targeted and coordinated, like a fighter."

Hofmeister witnessed the attack Monday evening at the busy Bermuda Triangle entertainment quarter, watching from his home near the Seitenstettengasse Temple, the synagogue where he gives religious instruction.

Hofmeister called the police and told them that a gunman was running towards people at a bar, shooting "dozens, maybe hundreds, of rounds."

"He was running," Hofmeister said. "He was running back and forth and ran inside the bars and I heard shots being fired inside the bars. And then within the next 15 or 20 minutes, I heard shots from farther away. And as we heard, there were several places of attack."

Police in Vienna told CNN that it is still unclear if Monday night's shootings involved a lone gunman or two or more attackers. Authorities there advised parents to keep their children home from school on Tuesday, in case other assailants are on the loose.

An Austrian law enforcement source told journalists on Tuesday that authorities had identified six locations by a stretch of the Danube canal where shootings took place: the streets of Salzgries, Fleischmarkt, Bauernmarkt, Graben, Seitenstettengasse and Morzinplatz.

Jimmy Eroglu, a waiter at Cafe Theo, described how guests sitting at outside tables suddenly rushed into the restaurant as shots rang out.

"I ... went to look and asked: 'What's going on?' And they said there's a shooting, and then I heard for sure at least 15 or 20 shots," he said, smoking a cigarette Monday night to calm his nerves. He said he had locked the customers inside the cafe until police arrived.

"I still can't believe this. At the beginning I thought I was somewhere in the US," he said. "This is something we only see in America, or in Iraq or Afghanistan, but not here in Austria."

Eroglu, a Turkish Muslim who migrated to Austria when he was four years old, said he wanted to send a message to the world that the attacker did not represent Islam: "Islam isn't bad. Islam doesn't tell us to kill anyone — it's the opposite," he said.

Two Austrian mixed martial arts (MMA) fighters of Turkish descent told journalists that they helped save a police officer and two women during the attack, Reuters and Turkish state-run media Anadolu reported.

Recep Tayyip Gultekin said he came face to face with the attacker as he carried an injured woman to safety. "After I carried the wounded woman to a nearby restaurant, the terrorist pointed his gun at me," he told Anadolu, adding they also helped an elderly woman find shelter.

His friend, Mikail Ozen, told reporters that the pair helped carry a police officer to an ambulance. "He was lying on the ground and we ran over in zig-zag fashion," Ozen said, according to Reuters.

Two other police officers had thrown themselves onto the injured officer to protect him and tried to hold the two MMA fighters back, but the men helped carry the injured officer to an ambulance anyway.

"They were shocked, and we were shocked," Ozen said. "We looked at each other and we just walked over. We did what was necessary." Ozen also made a call for unity, saying that as an Austrian Muslim, he stood firm with the country.

"I, as a Muslim of Turkish descent, want to say: I live in Austria, I was born in Austria, I went to school in Austria and learned my profession here in Austria," Ozen said. "If the same thing were to happen again today, I would do the exact same thing without a second thought. Because we live in Austria, we stand with Austria."

Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer referenced "two Austrians with an immigration background" having brought a police officer to safety, though he didn't mention their names, according to Reuters.

Werner Beninger was having dinner with his wife nearby when he heard a series of shots ring out. He told CNN he initially thought the noises were fireworks. "The shots came closer and then I realized that it was a volley of shots."

"People fled into the garden of the restaurant, many were nervous," he said. "Then [special police unit] WEGA came and told us to go to the basement, and there were roughly 50 people, and we waited it out in the basement."

Beninger said they stayed there until after 1 a.m., when police finally gave them the all-clear to leave the scene.

The bloody attack, in which at least four people were killed and more than 20 injured, took place in the city's historic first district, an area known for its art nouveau architecture and narrow cobblestone streets lined with fashion boutiques.

The area was busy on Monday night, as friends met for a final drink before Vienna -- like the rest of Austria -- went into coronavirus lockdown on Tuesday. Unseasonal warmth had also attracted crowds of people to the area, many sitting outside in thin jackets.

Robert Schneider, 39, told CNN he was heading towards the area from his home in the city when he noticed a laser pointing at his chest -- he believes it was likely from a weapon belonging to police officers called to the area in response to the attack.

"I was just going to have a meal with friends" he said on Monday night. "All we wanted to do have a meal and some drinks and enjoy the evening. Now we need to have a drink to calm down."

Source: 03-11-2020, *CNN* (<https://edition.cnn.com>)

13) France attack: Three killed in 'Islamist terrorist' stabbings

Three people have died in a knife attack at a church in Nice, in what French President Emmanuel Macron said was an "Islamist terrorist attack".

He said France would not surrender its core values after visiting the Notre-Dame basilica in the southern city. An extra 4,000 troops are being deployed to protect churches and schools.

In Nice, one elderly victim was "virtually beheaded", officials said. Another woman and a man also died.

A male suspect was shot and detained.

Anti-terror prosecutors have opened an investigation into the attack and France has raised its national security alert to its highest level.

French anti-terrorist prosecutor Jean-François Ricard later said the attacker was seriously wounded by police.

Mr Ricard said the suspect was a 21-year-old Tunisian national who had arrived in France earlier this month. He had a document issued by the Italian Red Cross.

Police sources earlier named the attacker as Brahim Aioussaoi. They said he had travelled by boat from Tunisia to the Italian island of Lampedusa in September. He was placed in coronavirus quarantine there before being released and told to leave Italy.

Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi spoke of "Islamofascism" and said the suspect had "repeated endlessly 'Allahu Akbar' (God is greatest)".

Two other attacks took place on Thursday, one in France and one in Saudi Arabia.

A man was shot dead in Montfavet near the southern French city of Avignon after threatening police with a handgun.

A guard was attacked outside the French consulate in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. A suspect was arrested and the guard taken to hospital.

Speaking after visiting Nice, President Macron said: "If we are attacked once again it is for the values which are ours: freedom, for the possibility on our soil to believe freely and not to give in to any spirit of terror.

"I say it with great clarity once again today: we won't surrender anything."

The president said the number of soldiers being deployed to protect public places across the country would rise from 3,000 to 7,000.

Mr Estrosi compared the attack to the recent murder of teacher Samuel Paty, who was beheaded close to his school outside Paris earlier this month.

Police have not suggested a motive for the attack in Nice. However, it follows days of protests in some Muslim-majority countries triggered by President Macron's defence of the publication of

cartoons that depicted the Prophet Mohammed. There have been calls in some countries for a boycott of French goods.

Who were the victims?

All three were attacked inside the basilica on Thursday morning before the first Mass of the day.

Two died inside the church: a 60-year-old woman who was "virtually beheaded", and a 55-year-old man whose throat was cut.

The male victim was a lay member of staff responsible for the upkeep of the church. He reportedly had a wife and two children.

Another woman, aged 44, managed to flee to a nearby cafe after being stabbed several times, but died later.

It later emerged that a witness had managed to raise the alarm with a special protection system set up by the city.

Chloe, a witness who lives near the church, told the BBC: "We heard many people shouting in the street. We saw from the window that there were many, many policemen coming, and gunshots, many gunshots."

Tom Vannier, a journalism student who arrived at the scene just after the attack, told the BBC that people were crying on the street.

Four police officers arrived at the scene at 08:57 local time (07:57 GMT) and the attacker was shot and detained shortly afterwards, the French anti-terrorist prosecutor said.

Four years ago Nice was the scene of terrorist attack, when a Tunisian drove a truck into crowds celebrating Bastille Day on 14 July, killing 86 people.

Disorientated and frightened

The terrorist threat level in France is as high now as it was in 2015-16, the terrible days of Charlie Hebdo, Bataclan, the Nice lorry-killer and the murder of Father Hamel in his church in Rouen. Things were bad enough then - and many more people died in those attacks. So why does this outbreak of Islamist violence feel somehow more scary?

One reason must be the symbolism of the Samuel Paty beheading. That a simple history teacher could be murdered - and not randomly but actually selected for murder - has been deeply unsettling for French people. Likewise the targeting today of Christian worshippers in Nice.

But it is also the context: the instant logic of action-response that followed President Macron's robust defence of secularism at Samuel Paty's memorial 10 days ago. All it took was a speech, then there were the threats, then there were the deaths.

With a new Covid lockdown providing an eerie backdrop to these events, small wonder the French are feeling disoriented and frightened.

What has the reaction been?

A minute's silence was held in the National Assembly.

The French Council of the Muslim Faith condemned the attack and spoke of its solidarity with the victims and their families.

Turkey, which has seen ties with France sour in recent days over remarks by Mr Macron, strongly condemned the "savage" attack.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said the killings had "brought death to a place of love and consolation".

What's the context?

Thursday's attack has echoes of another attack earlier this month near a school north-west of Paris. Samuel Paty, who was a teacher in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, was beheaded days after showing controversial cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad to some of his pupils.

The murder has heightened tensions in France and the government's attempt to crack down on what Mr Macron described as "Islamist separatism" has angered Turkey and other countries.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was among those calling for a boycott of French goods.

The situation worsened after a cartoon on Mr Erdogan appeared in the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo.

A timeline of recent attacks in France

October 2020: French teacher Samuel Paty is beheaded outside a school in a suburb of Paris

September 2020: Two people are stabbed and seriously hurt in Paris near the former offices of Charlie Hebdo, where Islamist militants carried out a deadly attack in 2015

October 2019: Radicalised police computer operator Mickaël Harpon is shot dead after stabbing to death three officers and a civilian worker at Paris police headquarters

July 2016: Two attackers kill a priest, Jacques Hamel, and seriously wound another hostage after storming a church in a suburb of Rouen in northern France

July 2016: A gunman drives a large lorry into a crowd celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, killing 86 people in an attack claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group

November 2015: Gunmen and suicide bombers launch multiple co-ordinated attacks on the Bataclan concert hall, a major stadium, restaurants and bars in Paris, leaving 130 people dead and hundreds wounded

January 2015: Two Islamist militant gunmen force their way into Charlie Hebdo's offices and shoot dead 12 people

Source: 29-10-2020, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com>)

14) France: Teacher decapitated, suspect shot dead by police

Nine people, including a minor, said to be related to the dead assailant, have been arrested in connection to the attack.

A French teacher, who had recently shown students cartoons of the Prophet Muhammed, was beheaded outside his school on Friday.

The man suspected of the beheading was an 18-year-old born in Moscow and originating from Russia's southern region of Chechnya, a judicial source said on Saturday.

Five more people have been detained over the murder on Friday outside Paris, including the parents of a child at the school where the teacher was working, bringing to nine the total number currently under arrest, said the source, who asked not to be named.

According to the source, the two detained parents had signalled their disagreement with the teacher's decision to show the cartoons.

The other new people detained for questioning are members of the suspect's social circle but not family members.

The assailant was shot by police and later died of his injuries.

Early on Saturday, a judicial source told AFP news agency that four people, including a minor, have been arrested in connection to the attack, which took place in the Conflans Sainte-Honorine suburb northwest of Paris.

Those held were related to the assailant. The French anti-terrorism prosecutor opened an investigation into Friday's incident.

A police official – speaking on the condition of anonymity to The Associated Press – said the suspect, armed with a knife and an airsoft gun, was shot to death by police about 600 metres (656 yards) from where the male middle school teacher was killed.

The killing was described by French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday as a “terrorist attack”.

Macron and Prime Minister Jean Castex visited Conflans Saint-Honorine hours after the attack took place, as government officials convened a crisis meeting to discuss the case.

“One of our citizens was assassinated today because he was teaching, because he was teaching pupils freedom of expression,” Macron said.

The teacher had received threats after opening a discussion “for a debate” about the caricatures about 10 days ago, the police official said.

He had shown pupils in his class cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, which are considered by Muslims to be blasphemous, according to a police source.

The attack took place in the street in front of the middle school where the victim worked.

French anti-terror prosecutors said they were treating the assault as “a murder linked to a terrorist organisation” and related to a “criminal association with terrorists”.

The parent of a student had filed a complaint against the teacher, another police official said, adding the suspected killer did not have a child at the school. The suspect's identity was not made public.

Police on Twitter advised the public to avoid the area. President Emmanuel Macron arrived at the scene on Friday evening.

The mayor of Eragny, Thibault Humbert, praised "the speed with which police neutralised the individual" on Twitter.

French Interior Minister Gerard Darmanin said he had set up a crisis centre to deal with Friday's attack.

Charlie Hebdo

France has over the past several years seen a series of violent attacks. Bombings and shootings in November 2015 at the Bataclan theatre and sites around Paris killed 130 people.

Late last month, a man who emigrated to France from Pakistan used a meat cleaver to attack and wound two people outside the former offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo.

That was the spot where armed men gunned down employees of the magazine five years ago in retaliation for the magazine's publication of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

The issue of the cartoons was revived last month when Charlie Hebdo decided to re-publish them to coincide with the start of the trial of accomplices in the 2015 attack.

Al-Qaeda, the group that claimed responsibility for the 2015 attack, threatened to attack Charlie Hebdo again after it republished the cartoons.

The magazine said last month it published to assert its right to freedom of expression, and to show it would not be cowed into silence by violent attacks. That stance was backed by many prominent French politicians and public figures.

Source: 16-10-2020, *Al Jazeera* (<https://aljazeera.com>)

15) Russian Surgeons Perform Open-Heart Surgery During Hospital Blaze

Surgeons in Russia's Far East successfully performed an open-heart surgery despite the outbreak of a major fire in their hospital Friday.

A wiring malfunction is believed to have caused the fire at the cardiac surgery center in the city of Blagoveschensk, regional prosecutors told state media. Around 120 personnel and patients were evacuated as the blaze spread across 1,600 square meters of the building's roof.

The team of eight surgeons, who had already started operating on their patient, remained in the first-floor operating room to complete the procedure as it couldn't be halted early, the city's mayor said on Telegram.

The operation was completed successfully and the surgeons and their patient were evacuated from the building, Interfax cited a source as saying. The patient was transferred to a regional hospital for postoperative care in stable condition, the source added.

The operating room received electricity via a separate cable during the blaze and firefighters stood by to ensure smoke didn't spread to the room, authorities said.

The fire was contained with the help of 59 firefighters and 28 pieces of equipment, the regional Emergency Situations Ministry told the state-run TASS news agency.

Amur region Governor Vasily Orlov is now preparing awards for the doctors, he wrote on his Telegram channel.

Source: 02-04-2021, *The Moscow Times* (<https://themoscowtime.com>)

16) Gunmen raid school in Nigeria's Kaduna, seize three teachers

Attack by motorcycle-riding attackers is the latest in a series of incidents targeting schools in northern Nigeria.

Attackers have stormed a primary school in the northwestern Nigerian state of Kaduna and seized three teachers but no children, according to a state official.

The raid by the motorcycle-riding gunmen on Monday was the latest in a series of attacks targeting schools in Nigeria, coming just days after nearly 40 students were kidnapped by a gang.

Samuel Aruwan, Kaduna state's commissioner for internal security, said in a media briefing that Rema Primary School, in the Birnin Gwari Local Government Area, was attacked at about 8:50am (07:50 GMT).

He said children fled as the attackers, referred to locally as bandits, entered the compound shortly after pupils arrived.

"This led to two pupils going missing. We are happy to inform you that the two missing pupils have been found," Aruwan said. "We can also confirm that no single pupil was kidnapped from the school.

"The government can confirm that three teachers ... have been kidnapped."

Aruwan had earlier said an unspecified number of pupils and teachers were kidnapped.

The latest kidnapping is the fifth mass school abduction since December.

Gunmen abducted 39 students late on Thursday from hostels on the outskirts of Kaduna city, the state capital. On Monday, the authorities shut down their college and sent home 180 other students and staff who had been rescued.

At the weekend, security forces thwarted a gang that had stormed a secondary school in Ikara.

“The number of abductions in the north is just mind-boggling,” said Al Jazeera’s Ahmed Idris, reporting from Nigeria’s capital, Abuja. “It’s becoming the most lucrative criminal enterprise in Nigeria today – and it’s growing fast.”

Between June 2011 and March 2020, at least \$18m was paid to kidnappers as ransom, according to a report by SB Morgen.

The trend of abduction from boarding schools was started by the armed group, Boko Haram, which seized 270 girls from a school in Chibok in the northeast in 2014. About 100 of them were never found. Armed criminal gangs seeking ransom have since carried out copycat attacks.

Attempts by the military and police to tackle the gangs have had little success, while many worry state authorities are making the situation worse by letting kidnappers go unpunished, paying them off or providing incentives.

The unrest has become a political problem for President Muhammadu Buhari, a retired general and former military ruler who has faced mounting criticism over the rise in violent crime and replaced his longstanding military chiefs earlier this year.

Source: 15-03-2021, *Al Jazeera* (<https://aljazeera.com>)

17) Earthquakes put Ridgecrest residents on edge: 'Nobody in this town has slept for days'

Ridgecrest is a town in a California desert where the 28,000 residents are used to earthquakes.

As California Institute of Technology seismologist Egill Hauksson pointed out Saturday, the city was once known as the earthquake capital of the world. That's because so many small earthquakes happen there.

Friday's magnitude 7.1 earthquake was very different.

Jason Corona co-owns a Mexican restaurant that was packed that night.

At first, the temblor felt like other strong quakes that had hit the area.

"It started off low, and as soon as that bouncing started then I think it set a whole new different level of panic for everybody," he told CNN. "It was different from the other ones that we've had before."

Bottles fell behind the bar, patrons dropped to the floor under tables and spilled food made a slippery getaway for frightened guests who sprinted outside.

People in Ridgecrest are on edge, he said.

"We've never had anything like this," he said. "Nobody in this town has slept for days."

'I felt safer outside'

The major earthquake was centered 11 miles northeast of Ridgecrest, according to the US Geological Survey. It released 11 times the amount of energy of Thursday's quake, also centered near Ridgecrest, CNN Meteorologist Brandon Miller said.

The quake swayed buildings and cracked streets and foundations in Southern California on Friday night, sending terrified residents into the streets.

Ridgecrest resident Jaye Krona said the earthquake felt like her "rocking chair gone crazy."

"We had to sit down or crawl on hands and knees to get around because you couldn't stand up and be in an upright position without falling over," Krona said.

Krona and her friend Kelly-Jo Lewis spent the night outside on Lewis' driveway.

"With everything shaking, things are falling. It's just not safe," Lewis said. "I felt safer outside, and I felt me and her were safer together being in pairs."

So many aftershocks

The region has seen an average of one aftershock per minute since Friday's quake in the southern part of the state, according to the US Geological Survey website.

More than 4,700 quakes have occurred since Thursday, said USGS geophysicist John Bellini.

"They are coming in every 30 seconds, every minute," he said.

At least 3,000 quakes above a magnitude 1, according to CalTech seismologist Lucy Jones.

After Friday's 7.1 quake, three of magnitude 5 or greater struck within the first hour, he said.

Gas leaks caused structure fires throughout Ridgecrest, residents reported water main breaks, and power and communications were out in some areas, according to Mark Ghilarducci, director of the Governors' Office of Emergency Management.

Several injuries were reported, said Kern County spokeswoman Megan Person.

Kern County Fire Chief David Witt told reporters he knew of no fatalities.

About 130 residents from Bakersfield and Trona were staying in a temporary shelter, Person said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in Kern County on Thursday and in San Bernardino late Friday. Newsom also requested a presidential emergency declaration for assistance, which President Donald Trump approved Saturday.

U.S. weapons testing facility was damaged

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, a US weapons testing facility near Ridgecrest, said on its Facebook page that it sustained "infrastructure damage" as a result of the earthquakes Thursday and Friday.

"NAWS China Lake is not mission capable until further notice; however, security protocols remain in effect," the Facebook post said.

The air station also authorized the evacuation of non-essential personnel as well as dependents, according to the post.

According to the NAWS China Lake website, the facility is the Navy's largest single landholding, covering more than 1.1 million acres -- an area larger than the state of Rhode Island -- in Kern, San Bernardino and Inyo counties.

No power or water in San Bernardino town

The San Bernardino County Fire Department said it received multiple reports of damage as well from northwest communities.

"Homes shifted, foundation cracks, retaining walls down," the department said. "One injury (minor) with firefighters treating patient."

Trona, a town of 2,000 people, does not have power or water, San Bernardino County Fire spokesman Jeremy Kern told CNN. Workers had been restoring power from the initial earthquake when Friday's disrupted power again.

Both earthquakes disrupted the main water system. Officials are bringing in water to residents and fire teams.

No injuries have been reported in the town.

There were two reports of burglary in Ridgecrest, police chief Jed McLaughlin said.

In Los Angeles, about 150 miles south of Ridgecrest, residents felt the quakes, but no reports of serious damage were made, Mayor Eric Garcetti said. The LA County Fire Department reported no major damage, deaths or serious injuries, but said some wires were down and power was out in some locations.

Shaking felt in Mexico and Las Vegas

The shaking Friday was felt as far away as Mexico and Las Vegas, according to the USGS.

The NBA Summer League game between the New Orleans Pelicans and the New York Knicks in Las Vegas was postponed Friday following reports of the quake. Scoreboards and speakers near the ceiling of the arena shook when the earthquake hit.

Quakes are part of an ongoing system

Jones, the CalTech seismologist, said Friday both large earthquakes are part of an ongoing sequence of a "very energetic system."

On Saturday morning, the USGS said the chance of another magnitude 7 or higher earthquake is 3%.

On the other hand, the chance of a magnitude 3 or higher earthquake hitting the area is more than 99%.

"It is most likely that as few as 240 or as many as 410 such earthquakes may occur in the case that the sequence is reinvigorated by a larger aftershock," the USGS said on its website.

Source: 06-07-2019, *CNN* (<https://edition.cnn.com>)

18) More than a dozen slum residents in an Indian city say they thought they were being vaccinated. They were part of clinical trials

The white van arrived in slum areas of Bhopal, a city in central India, blasting a message over the speaker system that seemed too good to refuse: "Come and take the coronavirus vaccine and get 750 rupees (\$10)."

Locals who recalled hearing it back in December said they scrambled to take up the offer -- 750 rupees was about twice what they'd usually earn for a day's hard labor. And many had struggled to work at all during the pandemic.

"They told us it is the corona vaccine and we should get it so that we don't fall sick," said Yashoda Bai Yadav, a housewife from Bhopal who participated in the trial alongside her husband.

They say they later discovered from local activists that some of them hadn't been given an approved vaccine and had unwittingly taken part in a clinical trial for India's homegrown vaccine, Covaxin. Only half of the participants in Covaxin's Phase 3 trial received a vaccine -- the other half received a placebo, a normal part of clinical trials. One participant -- Radha Aherwar -- even found out it was possible she got a placebo while speaking to CNN for this story, saying "Oh, so what I got wasn't a vaccine? I didn't know that there was a possibility you could get a water shot."

The experience of some participants in Bhopal suggests the medical team from People's Hospital, who was running the trial, may not have adequately explained that they were part of a trial and that only some of them would receive a vaccine -- both alleged lapses, if proven true, appear to violate India's clinical trial rules that require informed consent from all participants. This raises questions about the quality of data in the trial, and experts such as Amar Jesani, the editor of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, worry that this could lead to vaccine hesitancy among some groups in India, which has reported more Covid-19 cases than any other country except the United States.

The Covaxin Phase 3 study, sponsored by the vaccine's developers, Indian biotech company Bharat Biotech and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), involves almost 26,000 people at 26 locations, including more than 1,700 in Bhopal, the site of one of the world's worst industrial disasters.

The Shankar Nagar slum -- where many of the participants live -- is just 3.7km (2.3 miles) from the abandoned Union Carbide factory which was at the center of the 1984 disaster that exposed more than half a million people to a toxic gas cloud. Nearly 4,000 people died in the immediate aftermath, and the disaster was blamed for at least 10,000 subsequent deaths, and more than 100,000 permanent injuries.

Decades later, many residents still suffer related health issues, raising questions from local non-governmental organizations about residents' suitability to take part in a study that vaccine developer Bharat Biotech has called the biggest Phase 3 vaccine trial ever conducted in India.

Phase 3 trials are traditionally the final step of human trials before a vaccine is authorized to roll out en masse. However, Covaxin was approved by the Drugs Controller General of India for restricted emergency use in January, before preliminary results from the trial were released. Its Phase 3 trial isn't expected to be completed until next year. The government has procured 5.5 million doses of Covaxin and 11 million doses of Covishield -- the local name for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine -- for the first phase of what it is calling the largest immunization drive in the world.

At least two bioethics experts, one public health expert and four local non-governmental organizations, have raised ethical questions about the trial site in Bhopal, run by People's Hospital, which is associated with the People's College of Medical Sciences and Research Centre. In addition, those concerns were also raised in a joint statement released on January 14 by more than 40 organizations and 180 individuals, including public health activists and bioethicists.

More than a dozen Bhopal trial participants told CNN they did not know they were taking part in a clinical trial. Another four knew they were part of a trial, but say they did not understand what that meant.

Bharat Biotech, ICMR and People's Hospital have all denied wrongdoing. They say that the trial complied with study protocol, guidelines and regulatory provisions, and that they are focused on generating high quality data and would not do anything that compromises patient safety. They say that participants gave informed consent and denied that the money offered acted as an incentive. India's drug regulator, the country's health ministry, and the ethical committee overseeing the trial in Bhopal have not commented on the allegations.

The push for Covaxin is tied up in national rhetoric, as India -- already the global leader in vaccine production -- aims to complete an ambitious rollout at home, and engage in vaccine diplomacy by exporting Indian-made shots. On January 16, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: "The world's confidence in India's scientists and our vaccine expertise is going to be further strengthened after the Made in India corona vaccines."

But Jesani, Dr. Anant Bhan, a Bhopal-based bioethics expert, and Amulya Nidhi, a public health expert and the co-convener of the People's Health Movement India, all say that the alleged recruitment process, if proven true, would be a violation of Indian protocols governing how vaccine trials should be conducted.

That could undermine the quality of the trial data, and potentially global trust in India's prized coronavirus vaccine.

'We thought it was the vaccine'

Shankar Nagar slum in Bhopal is made up of tiny, colorful houses with roofs created from tin sheets and discarded tarps.

Typically, many locals work as day laborers, waving down vans on the main road each morning to go to construction sites where they spend hours lifting stones and bricks. Since the pandemic, there hasn't been enough work to go around, forcing many to rely on government-provided rations. Some women wander the slum, carrying sticks to sell as firewood. Others have turned to alcohol or chewing tobacco to pass the time.

So when the white van that locals recalled arrived in Bhopal slum areas near People's Hospital offering the vaccine, 18 people saw it as a quick way to make money, they told CNN.

"My life will go anyway someday," Hira Bai, a mother of three, said sardonically. "I went because of the greed of 750 rupees, anyway we are used to dying ... my life has no value."

Locals say they believed the van was from People's Hospital, a private institute less than 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) away from Shankar Nagar which would often send vans to the area to conduct checkups as part of the hospital's community outreach program. Some said they immediately piled into the vehicle, which seated more than a dozen passengers.

"The van came and everyone around me was going so I also went," said Kesri Chillaar, 59, a laborer who lives with his wife and three children in nearby Gareeb Nagar slum.

"We thought it was the vaccine, so we went," said Yadav, the housewife, who lives in Oriya Basti, another slum close to Shankar Nagar. "We didn't know it was a trial."

Chotu Das Beragi, a 27-year-old laborer, said he heard the loudspeaker announce that if he didn't take the vaccine now, he may have to pay money for it later. "I thought, 'There is no work anyway these days' ... so I thought, 'Let me get the vaccine, I will get 750 rupees as well,'" he said. "I thought, 'This will be a good way to get the day's earnings.'"

Once at the hospital, a large white building with columns and reflective blue windows, 12 participants told CNN they were asked to sign forms, although two people only signed the forms when they received their second shot. Another one gave audio-visual consent and another was asked for a thumb print instead of a signature. However, of those 14 participants, eight said that they were unable to read -- the state of Madhya Pradesh, where Bhopal is located, has one of the lowest literacy rates in India at around 70%, according to the country's most recent Census in 2011. Only participants over 60 said they were offered audio-visual consent forms. The four who could read said they weren't given the opportunity or time to go through the 10-page form written in Hindi. The form, which CNN has obtained, includes jargon such as "immuno response," "placebo" and "immunogenicity" -- terms that would be confusing to anyone without medical training.

Although six people CNN spoke to said they were aware they were in a trial, four said they did not understand what a trial involved, or concepts such as a placebo. "I did not understand what it was a trial of," said Beragi, the day laborer. Only two of the 21 participants CNN spoke to knew they were in a trial and had full understanding of what that entailed.

At least eight Bhopal slum residents told CNN they were not asked about underlying health conditions, even though "uncontrolled" comorbidities is listed as a reason for excluding participants in the trial's own protocol. Rajesh Panti, 45, a survivor of the Bhopal gas tragedy, said when he received the first dose, he was not asked whether he was taking any medicine. Chillaar said he takes medication for diabetes every morning, but was not asked at the hospital whether he had any underlying health issues. Sarita Jathav, 26, said she is pregnant, but was only told that pregnant women couldn't take the vaccine when she went to take her second dose, which she did not receive.

All 21 of the participants CNN spoke to said they were given forms to record any adverse effects of the shot. However, none had written anything on it, despite eight of the 21 participants describing side effects, including aches, vomiting, stomach issues, pains, and feeling weak. It is unclear whether

the people who described side effects received the vaccine or the placebo. They said they didn't know why recording their symptoms was important. At least 13 of the 21 participants told CNN they were illiterate, meaning they were unable to use the form anyway.

Anil Kumar Dixit, the dean of People's College of Medical Sciences and Research Centre in Bhopal, said he was not aware of any van and did not send one to the slums. He said it was clarified to participants that they were part of a trial, and that only 50% would receive the vaccine while the other half would be given a placebo. He said the hospital did pay participants 750 rupees, per the ICMR and Bharat Biotech's instructions, but it was to cover them for any lost wages -- not as an incentive to take part in the trial.

Under ICMR's 2017 Ethical Guidelines, subjects may be paid for their inconvenience and reimbursed for expenses incurred, although not to such an extent that it induces them to take part.

Dixit said his hospital did not ask participants if they were Bhopal gas victims, although administrators did examine them for underlying health conditions and rejected them if they had a chronic health problem. Bhan, the Bhopal-based bioethics expert, said he was surprised the hospital hadn't considered that some participants might be victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Around 10% of all Bhopal participants reported minor adverse effects, while around 1 to 2% were treated in hospital, according to Dixit. He said his hospital was only registering adverse events that required treatment, and that most of the minor events had been resolved over the phone.

Dixit said that for those who couldn't read, the form was explained in either Hindi or English, depending on what they preferred, before they signed.

Staff from People's Hospital which is administering the trial told participants they would check up on them via phone, according to Dixit and the participants, but two participants CNN spoke to said they hadn't received a call, and two said they didn't know if they had. Another participant said they had received calls in the first week, but not in the second week when their adverse effects started.

Two others said they had received calls but that their phone belonged to a family member, making communication harder.

Four people CNN spoke to said they needed to go to a hospital for treatment, and of those two said they were asked to pay for treatment for what they considered adverse effects, including neck pains and vomiting, despite the 10-page document that they signed stating that they would be covered, something that is also required by India's Good Clinical Practice guidelines.

Chillaar, for instance, said that when hospital administrators called to check on him following the shot, he told them that he was having neck problems. They told him to come in for treatment, but when he did, he said he was told to pay more than 3,000 rupees (\$41). Dixit, dean of People's College of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, said there were only "one or two cases" where miscommunication led to participants being charged.

Chillaar says he got the first shot on December 10 and the second on January 7 -- Covaxin requires two shots administered four weeks apart. When he spoke to CNN on January 28, he said that he was still not able to work. "I am the primary earner and it has come to the point where we are going hungry," he said. "I am not even able to go earn and I have spent 3,000 to 4,000 rupees on treatment."

CNN has no evidence that the shot caused his health issues and it is unclear whether he received the placebo or vaccine as the trial is blinded.

What the rules say

Hundreds of people who live in the Shankar Nagar slum still live with health effects from the Bhopal gas tragedy, according to Rachna Dhingra, the leader of Bhopal Group for Information and Action (BGIA), which works with communities impacted by groundwater contamination from the leak.

In late December, Dhingra says she began hearing reports of people living in the slum being given the coronavirus vaccine. That set off alarm bells: she knew India hadn't yet formally rolled out a coronavirus vaccine.

Dhingra began investigating and found that many of those people had actually been part of a clinical vaccine trial -- and many said they did not realize it.

Dhingra and BGIA spoke to 233 participants, and estimate that 800 residents from more than five slum communities impacted by the 1984 tragedy in Bhopal had been part of the Phase 3 clinical trial. Nasreen, a field worker from BGIA who uses only one name, said that in many cases entire households of five or six people had taken part in the trial.

Dhingra says in all of the cases there were issues around how consent had been obtained.

"It spread like wildfire because people thought they were not only getting vaccinated, but also that they were getting money," Dhingra said. "They could never do this kind of announcement in middle-class neighborhoods because everyone would know that this is not possible."

India's New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019 require "freely given, informed, written consent" from each study subject, including that they understand the risks and responsibilities involved in receiving an unapproved drug. Information must be provided verbally and in a patient information sheet in "language that is nontechnical and understandable by the study subject."

In the case of Covaxin, the vaccine had only been tested on approximately 755 people across both Phase 1 and 2 trials before it was administered in Phase 3 clinical trials -- and those Phase 1 results, which were released in the Lancet in January, were not out when many of the participants received their first dose. That study found that the vaccine can produce antibodies to coronavirus and no serious adverse events related to the vaccine were reported.

ICMR's head scientist of the division of epidemiology and communicable diseases, Dr. Samiran Panda, said the seriousness of the pandemic justified using the accelerated approval process without cutting any corners when it came to safety.

Dhingra also says around 25% of the participants the NGO spoke to reported experiencing adverse effects -- more than twice the number that Dixit said had suffered minor adverse effects. In trials across the world, it is common for participants to report some adverse effects during a trial.

One Bhopal trial participant who died nine days after receiving the injection has drawn widespread media attention in India, prompting outlets to publish stories raising questions over the trial.

CNN has no evidence that 45-year-old Deepak Marawi's death was linked to the vaccine trial, but because of the lack of transparency around his death -- the post-mortem still hasn't been made public -- his widow, Vaijayanti Marawi, and others following the trial say the case raises concern and requires further examination. Bharat Biotech could not confirm if Marawi received the vaccine or placebo as the study is blinded, but they said his death "had been thoroughly investigated" and found not to be connected to the trial. The company says Marawi died from cardiorespiratory failure as a result of suspected poisoning.

Dixit said staff had followed up with Marawi for seven days, as he said they do with all participants, to ask about any problems. Marawi had said no every day, Dixit said.

Arun Shrivastav, the head of the pharmacology department at the Gandhi Medical College in Bhopal, which headed the investigation into Marawi's death, said that his committee's investigation found that the trial protocols had been adequately followed. When asked generally about the alleged use of vans in recruitment, he said that if a van loudspeaker was used to advertise the vaccine for 750 rupees, then it would be "unethical, totally wrong."

"If there is anything like this happening then it cannot be counted in the trial and the trial would be barred," he said.

'Violation of good clinical practices'

Bioethics and public health experts Bhan, Jesani and Nidhi all said Bhopal residents should have been considered vulnerable, and extra care should have been taken to ensure they knew what they were agreeing to.

The standard for getting consent is even higher for vulnerable communities -- including people who are impoverished or illiterate. According to India's 2019 New Drugs and Clinical Trials rules, if a trial participant is unable to read or write, an impartial witness should be present throughout the entire informed consent process to help sign the consent form. An audio-video recording of the informed consent process is required in cases using "vulnerable subjects," which includes "impoverished persons" and patients with incurable diseases.

"You are dealing with people who are highly vulnerable, who are not even fully educated, do you expect them to come and say, 'These are my rights'?" said Jesani, the editor of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics. "You have to inform them about their rights."

As for the offer of 750 rupees, Bhan, the Bhopal-based bioethics expert, said it was not necessarily an ethical violation for money to be offered -- the issue is whether it was used as an incentive.

But statements made by participants suggest that even though the amount offered was relatively low, it was enough to motivate some trial participants in Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh, where Bhopal is located, has some of the lowest wages for casual workers in India, according to a 2018 India Wage Report by the International Labour Organization. "I thought it was some patriotic thing and, I won't lie, we were getting money also," said Bhopal resident Panti.

If the allegations about misleading participants, failing to get informed consent and failing to follow up on adverse events are true, the problem goes beyond ethics -- it reflects on the quality of the trial data, according to experts.

Bhan said that if adverse events were missed, that meant crucial data points had been left out of the Phase 3 trials.

"If that is what has happened, it's obviously a violation of good clinical practices. It's also a violation of guidelines around how ethical conduct of research should happen," he said, speaking about the allegations.

The current guidelines for clinical tests in India are relatively new. After Delhi liberalized its clinical trial policy in 2005, international companies rushed to test their drugs in India, where it was cheaper and easier to find participants. Some of the tests were reportedly carried out in Bhopal, on residents who allegedly weren't aware they were involved in trials. The 2019 New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules are a result of various orders from the Supreme Court following a case filed in 2012 by non-profit Swasthya Adhikar Manch, which Nidhi is also a co-convenor of.

Bhan, Jesani and Nidhi believe the new Bhopal allegations, if true, suggest that more work needs to be done to improve oversight over clinical trials.

Jesani says, if the allegations are founded, it means the data from Bhopal should be excluded as the trial on that site wouldn't have been done in a scientific way.

What can be done

On January 10, Dhingra and three other Bhopal-based NGOs wrote a letter to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, asking them to stop the Bhopal trial. They wrote that the involvement of the Indian Council of Medical Research in a trial with "glaring and grave violations" of the guidelines ICMR laid down was "alarming and deeply troubling" and said the situation must be addressed to avoid the public losing faith in vaccines.

They copied the letter to the Drugs Controller General of India, which has the power to investigate alleged breaches.

More than a month later, the groups say they have received no response.

Despite multiple requests for comment, Bharat Biotech has not responded to CNN's emailed questions. In a public statement in January, the company said participation was voluntary and every participant gave fully informed consent, even those who were not able to read or write. All participants were paid 750 rupees, but it was not an inducement, the company said, rather a payment to cover transport and expenses, adding that they are following practices set by the Indian Good Clinical Practice guidelines. Participants are only enrolled after a careful assessment of their "various health parameters," the company said.

"The development of Covaxin is a matter of great pride to us, not just at Bharat Biotech but also for India, and indeed the rest of the world," the company said. "We would not do anything that would compromise either the scientific rigor of what we do or the lives of patients."

"Our constant focus during the development of the vaccine and the clinical trials has been on ensuring patient safety and ensuring that the study is done to the requirements of all the relevant and applicable rules and guidelines, and that the data generated is of the highest quality and valid."

Three other trial sites told CNN they had collected data on all minor adverse events, including headaches or fever.

Four trial sites told CNN they had difficulty reaching the target of 1,000 trial participants. By contrast, the People's Hospital site in Bhopal managed to register cases quickly. "Other centers were not able to achieve the target so then (Bharat Biotech) asked us to do more numbers," Dixit said.

ICMR's head scientist of the division of epidemiology and communicable diseases, Panda, said excluding the Bhopal gas victims from the study would have been discriminatory, denying them an "opportunity."

Panda said the ICMR spoke to the principal investigator running the Bhopal trial following the ethical violation allegations in the media, but were assured by the investigator and his medical team that they had followed protocol. They did not independently speak to any of the participants in the trial, although they kept the Drugs Controller informed of their Bhopal communications, Panda said.

According to Panda, there have been no allegations of wrongdoing at any other site. CNN has contacted 12 other sites but has found no evidence that the alleged issues that happened in Bhopal took place at other sites.

According to Dr. Mohammad Shameem, the principal investigator of a Phase 3 Covaxin trial site in Uttar Pradesh, Bhopal's alleged recruitment strategy of offering vaccines for 750 rupees using a van with a loudspeaker would have needed sign-off from the local ethical committee. It's not clear if the People's Hospital's institutional ethics committee knew that a van was allegedly being used for promotional purposes. CNN has attempted to contact the committee for comment.

Push to roll out

The controversy over the Covaxin trials is taking place as India rolls out its ambitious plan to immunize 300 million of its 1.3 billion population by August.

But some healthcare workers in India, who were first in line to receive a shot, have expressed reticence to take the vaccine until there is more data on Covaxin.

Experts worry the ethical questions over Bhopal could undermine trust in the vaccine when it's rolled out more broadly -- both in India and abroad.

Bharat Biotech has signed an agreement to supply Brazil with the vaccine, and is applying to conduct trials in Bangladesh, Reuters reported. Bharat Biotech also signed an agreement with biopharmaceutical company Ocugen to develop its vaccine for the US market.

India has traditionally been receptive to vaccines, and there isn't a strong anti-vaccination movement in the country, but Jesani, from the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, says that could change if the government doesn't act to restore confidence in Covaxin. Bhan, the bioethics expert, said an audit of the Bhopal trial would build confidence in the process.

If these initial questions linger and manifest as general anti-vaccination sentiment, that could be a problem for the public's willingness not only to get the Covaxin vaccine, but also other coronavirus vaccines as India continues to report more than 10,000 cases each day.

Jesani said that is why it is so crucial that authorities investigate claims that some Bhopal participants didn't know they were part of a trial.

"We don't want people to lose faith. We don't want people to lose trust in the vaccination," he said. "If they lose trust in the Covid vaccine, they will lose trust in other vaccines."

Source: 26-02-2021, *CNN* (<https://edition.cnn.com>)

19) Officer detained for allegedly throwing boy off bridge at a protest in Chile

A Chilean police officer has been detained on suspicion of attempted murder after he allegedly threw a teenage protester from a bridge during protests on Friday, the country's Prosecutor's Office has said.

Videos purporting to show the incident at an anti-government protest in capital city Santiago have gone viral in Chile, sparking anger and a fresh round of demonstrations over the weekend. The footage appeared to show a scuffle before the boy, 16, falls head first over the side of the bridge.

The Prosecutor's Office also said the officer involved "abandoned the victim" and "gave false information to the Prosecutor's Office."

But the officer's lawyer Nubia Vivanco rejected the charges at a hearing Sunday, saying that the officer had followed protocol and that teenager had been trying to escape.

Enrique Monrás, Chief of police in the region of Santiago where the incident occurred, said that the teenager lost his balance and fell, and that the officer immediately notified emergency services.

The boy was injured in the fall into Santiago's Mapocho River and was admitted to a medical care center, Reuters reported.

Protests were taking place in the city ahead of the Chilean national plebiscite on October 25, which will determine whether the country will move away from its current Pinochet-era constitution.

Chile's government said on Saturday that it had ordered an investigation into the matter, and that the officer involved will be removed from his duties while it is carried out.

A gathering took place in Santiago that day in response to the incident, with protesters demanding the arrest of the officer involved.

Source: 05-10-2020, *CNN* (<https://edition.cnn.com>)

20) Three-quarters of Wuhan patients hospitalized for Covid-19 still had symptoms 6 months later, Chinese study finds

Most patients who had been hospitalized with Covid-19 still suffered a variety of symptoms -- including fatigue and sleep difficulties -- six months after infection, a Chinese study has found.

The study of more than 1,700 patients treated in the Chinese city of Wuhan, the original epicenter of the pandemic, shows 76% suffered at least one symptom months after they were discharged from hospital.

The findings indicate that even people who recover from Covid-19 could suffer long-lasting health impacts from their bout with the coronavirus, which has infected more than 90 million people worldwide.

The study, the largest of its kind yet carried out, was published Friday in the medical journal *The Lancet*. It found that fatigue and sleep difficulties were the most common post Covid-19 symptoms, occurring in 63% and 26% of the patients, respectively, six months after the onset of their initial diagnosis.

The disease could also have long-lasting psychological complications, with anxiety or depression reported among 23% of the patients, the study found.

Patients who were more severely ill tended to have continued evidence of lung damage on X-rays, according to the researchers.

"Because Covid-19 is such a new disease, we are only beginning to understand some of its long-term effects on patients' health," Dr. Bin Cao of the China-Japan Friendship Hospital and Capital Medical University, who led the study team, said in a statement.

"Our analysis indicates that most patients continue to live with at least some of the effects of the virus after leaving hospital, and highlights a need for post-discharge care, particularly for those who experience severe infections. Our work also underscores the importance of conducting longer follow-up studies in larger populations in order to understand the full spectrum of effects that Covid-19 can have on people," the statement said.

Covid-19's long-term health effects

Scientists around the world are studying the long-lasting effects of the virus, commonly referred to as "long Covid" symptoms.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists fatigue, shortness of breath, cough, joint pain and chest pain as the most commonly reported long-term symptoms. Others, such as difficulty with thinking and concentration -- known as "brain fog," depression and headache, are also reported among coronavirus long-haulers.

"While most persons with Covid-19 recover and return to normal health, some patients can have symptoms that can last for weeks or even months after recovery from acute illness. Even people who are not hospitalized and who have mild illness can experience persistent or late symptoms," the US CDC says.

A study published in the *British Medical Journal* in August found that around 10% of patients had a prolonged illness from Covid-19 lasting more than 12 weeks.

But the Chinese study is the largest, with the longest follow-up duration, to investigate the long-term impact on discharged patients, according to its authors.

The patients of the study, with a median age of 57, were all discharged between January 7 and May 29, 2020, from Wuhan's Jinyintan Hospital, a designated Covid-19 facility that treated the world's first known people to contract the disease from December 2019.

In total, the study included 70% of all discharged Covid-19 patients in that period, after excluding those who died, who were unable to participate due to severe mental or physical conditions, and who declined to participate.

All participants were interviewed with a series of questionnaires for evaluation of symptoms. They also underwent physical examinations, a six-minute walking test and blood tests, the study said.

Unexpectedly, 13% of patients who did not appear to have acute kidney injury while hospitalized exhibited signs of kidney malfunction.

However, a team of researchers at the Institute of Pharmacological Research in Bergamo, Italy, who were not involved in the study, wrote in an accompanying commentary in *The Lancet* that the findings "must be interpreted with caution" as there were limits to the way it was measured.

However, the findings on fatigue, sleep difficulties, and anxiety or depression fit in with previous research following patients who had a related coronavirus that caused severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and 2004, according to the Chinese researchers.

A follow-up study of SARS survivors showed 40% of patients had chronic fatigue symptoms more than three years after infection, the researchers said.

Another study showed that 38% of SARS survivors had evidence of lung damage 15 years later, the researchers at the Institute of Pharmacological Research noted in their commentary.

Growing coronavirus outbreak

China largely contained the initial coronavirus epidemic in Wuhan in March, and has been able to swiftly curb sporadic local outbreaks in its territory since then.

But it is now facing the country's worst coronavirus flare-up in months in the northern province of Hebei, which surrounds the capital Beijing, just weeks before the Lunar New Year festival -- the most important time for family reunion in China.

Last week, the province rolled out mass coronavirus testing on 13 million people in the cities of Shijiazhuang and Xingtai, which identified 364 positive cases, Hebei officials said at a news conference on Sunday afternoon.

Shijiazhuang, the provincial capital and epicenter of the ongoing outbreak, was placed under a strict lockdown last week. Residents have been barred from leaving the city, as major highways were blocked, train and bus stations closed and flights canceled.

Within the city, public transport and schools have been suspended, and residential communities and villages are also closed off, with residents ordered to stay home for seven days after completing their coronavirus tests.

On Sunday, Hebei province detected 82 locally transmitted Covid-19 cases, with 77 reported in Shijiazhuang and five in Xingtai, according to China's National Health Commission.

Local coronavirus infections are also being reported in several cities in northern China, including Beijing, and the provinces of Liaoning and Heilongjiang.

In Beijing, an online ride-hailing driver was identified as an asymptomatic case on Saturday, prompting authorities to track down 144 passengers who had been in his car. Starting from Monday, all passengers must present a QR code from Beijing's Covid-19 health app on their smartphones, before they are allowed to get in any taxis or ride-hailing cars.

Source: 13-01-2021, *CNN* (<https://edition.cnn.com>)

21) 100 days later, Brexit isn't working and business wants it fixed

When British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced his Brexit trade deal on December 24, he said it would enable UK companies "to do even more business" with the European Union.

Britain would be "prosperous and dynamic and contented" after completing its exit from the European Union, Johnson declared, free to strike trade deals around the world while continuing to export seamlessly to the EU market of 450 million consumers.

But it's been 100 days since the United Kingdom split from its single biggest trading partner and Brexit is proving to be disastrous for many British exporters, which have rejected Johnson's description of the issues as "teething problems" and are now asking the government to take urgent action to prevent further losses.

"We are calling on both the UK and EU to get back around the table and produce solutions that reduce trade barriers and give exporters a fighting chance," British Chambers of Commerce co-executive director Hannah Essex said in a statement on Monday.

"The difficulties exporters are facing are not just 'teething problems.' They are structural issues that, if they continue to go unaddressed, could lead to long term, potentially irreversible weakness in the UK export sector," she added.

The deal has been bad for trade. But it's also contributed to recent violence and rising anger in Northern Ireland.

During negotiations on the Brexit deal, the problem of goods moving between Ireland, which is a member of the European Union, and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, proved the most intractable. Honoring the 1998 Good Friday Agreement that ended three decades of sectarian violence meant avoiding the return of a border on the island of Ireland.

Instead, Johnson agreed that Northern Ireland would remain subject to EU market rules and to erect a trade border down the Irish Sea to police them, angering pro-British unionists who object to Northern Ireland being treated differently than the rest of the United Kingdom. Johnson had pledged in 2019 that there would be no checks on goods moving between Britain and Northern Ireland.

Riots and violence in the streets of Belfast this month have stoked fears of a return to Northern Ireland's troubled past and led a spokesperson for the US State Department to warn that the Good Friday Agreement must not "become a casualty of Brexit."

Exports collapse

The UK government has not published an assessment of the economic fallout from Brexit, and continues to tout its purported benefits.

A government spokesperson told CNN Business that the Brexit deal "protects high quality jobs and investment right across the UK and ensures that businesses continue to trade effectively and sell to their customers in the European Union."

But a survey of over 1,000 UK business leaders conducted by EY and lobby group London First in late February found that three quarters have experienced disruption to their operating model following the end of the Brexit transition period, and half expect it to continue over the long term.

Trade with Europe has taken a major hit. Exports of goods to the European Union plummeted by over 41% in January compared to the same month the previous year, according to the Office for National Statistics. Exports bounced back in February, according to data published Tuesday, but were still 12.5% lower than 2020, when the pandemic was taking hold in Europe, and 22% down on 2019.

Many companies say that their ability to continue trading with the bloc is at risk due to issues arising from the trade agreement. Businesses that could previously get goods into Europe within hours of an order being placed are now facing lengthy delays and higher transportation costs due to new customs and food safety checks.

A British Chambers of Commerce survey published Monday of 2,900 UK exporters found that 41% of firms reported decreased export sales in the first quarter, driven by Brexit and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

UK exporters are struggling to adjust to "the sheer volume of paperwork" that they must now tackle, according to Suren Thiru, head of economics at the British Chambers of Commerce.

There is also a lack of clarity around the payment of sales taxes as well as confusion about new rules of origin requirements, with companies reporting very little accessible advice from the UK government on these issues, he told CNN Business. Rules of origin determine where goods, including raw materials and component parts, originate and whether they should face tariffs.

"The fact is, companies trading with the EU did not need to know or understand customs until now. And there isn't enough capacity in the [customs] industry to provide the required support," said Anna Jerzewska, the founder of international trade consultancy Trade & Borders.

While larger companies can absorb new costs, small businesses have been particularly hard hit. A survey of 132 exporters by the Federation of Small Businesses in March found that 23% have temporarily stopped sales to the European Union and five have stopped permanently.

"Smaller traders are struggling, and considering whether exports are worth the effort anymore," the organization's national chairman Mike Cherry said in a statement last month.

Can the deal be fixed?

On Monday, a group of lawmakers, business leaders and economists announced an independent commission to scrutinize Britain's trade deals with Europe and the rest of the world.

The UK Trade and Business Commission, which counts Virgin chairman Peter Norris among its organizers, will make recommendations to government on how to improve these deals.

"We will be looking in detail at the impact of these deals, particularly upon the small businesses that are bearing the brunt of new red tape at our borders," Conservative member of parliament Roger Gale, who sits on the commission, said in a statement. "This is about setting ideology aside and finding a pragmatic, evidence-based way forward," he added.

The situation is particularly urgent for food producers, which have seen exports all but wiped out by the new trading arrangements. As of January 1, all plant and animal products entering the European Union require an export health certificate (EHC) that must be stamped by a government-certified vet.

That has prevented the Cheshire Cheese Company from selling to online shoppers in the European Union because the cost of a certificate is many times its average sales price of £25 (\$34) to £50 (\$69) per order.

Before Brexit, these sales were worth about £180,000 (\$247,800), or 20% of the company's revenue, and on track to reach £250,000 (\$344,000) this year, according to managing director Simon Spurrell. "We used to have an ocean of opportunity, we dealt with 27 different countries. That quickly became a pond," Spurrell said.

UK food and drink exports collapsed in January, driven by a 76% decline in sales to the European Union compared to the same month last year, according to the Food and Drink Federation. Exports of salmon tumbled 98%, beef slid 92% and animal feed declined 80%. Whisky exports fell 63%. According to the Office for National Statistics, exports of food and live animals recovered somewhat in February, but remain below 2020 levels.

"The solution is to swallow our pride and strike a veterinary agreement," according to L. Alan Winters, founding director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory at the University of Sussex. "Without it we are going to see little chance of animal products picking up," he added.

There are several other areas that also need attention.

For example, mutual recognition of professional qualifications, such as for doctors, accountants and architects, must still be agreed to on a sector by sector basis. That has not yet happened and it's a "major issue" facing businesses, said Thiru.

Johnson's Brexit deal made no provision for financial services, an industry that accounts for almost 11% of government tax revenue and 1.1 million jobs, according to PwC and the Office for National Statistics.

Prospects for an agreement that would grant Britain the same market access rights as some other non-EU countries look slim, and that could further undermine London's position as Europe's top financial city.

Since the referendum, international financial services firms have migrated almost £1.3 trillion (\$1.8 trillion) worth of assets and relocated 7,600 jobs from Britain to the European Union, according to data tracked by EY. Amsterdam has already overtaken London as Europe's top share trading center.

"The days of significant swathes of asset and job relocation announcements appear to have passed and will likely be replaced by the slower yet ongoing movement of people and assets to Europe for compliance purposes," Omar Ali, a financial services managing partner at EY, said in a report last month.

Long-term consequences

Leaving the EU single market means the end of frictionless trade and higher costs for UK companies, even once they have adjusted to the new way of doing business.

"It's important to recognize that there are some teething troubles, but there are also troubles to come as the long-term consequences of making commerce more difficult come home to roost," said Winters.

That will knock foreign direct investment into the United Kingdom over time because companies wanting to serve the European market will no longer choose to base themselves in Britain, he added.

There are early signs that this is already happening. Alfred Van Pelt, the managing director of Something Different, a clothing and accessories wholesaler based in England, said in a statement Monday that Brexit has "killed a massive growth opportunity" for the business.

"Our foreign investor had plans for the UK entity to become a European distribution hub. This is now no longer on the cards as the only distribution that can be done from within the UK cost effectively is to UK postcode addresses," he added.

The new trading relationship is expected to lead to a long-run loss of output in Britain of around 4% compared to remaining in the European Union, according to the UK Office for Budget Responsibility, which produces economic forecasts for the government. Exports and imports will be around 15% lower in the long run.

According to Jerzewska, the trade expert, the main consequence will be the gradual shift of supply chains as EU producers find alternative suppliers. "Businesses follow the path of least resistance and the new barriers to trade can make the UK suppliers less competitive on the EU market," she said.

Source: 13-04-2021, *CNN* (<https://edition.cnn.com>)

22) South Korean victims of Budapest boat crash weren't wearing life jackets: authorities

After a river boat collision in Budapest killed at least seven people and left 21 missing, a boat captain has been detained.

Thirty-five people -- including 33 South Koreans -- were on board a sightseeing boat when it collided with another vessel in the Hungarian capital Wednesday night, according to South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). The collision occurred in the city center.

After the tourist boat was hit by the larger vessel, it flipped and sank in seven seconds, according to Hungarian Police,

The captain of the other boat has been detained and his arrest proposed, Budapest police said in a statement Thursday. The 64-year-old Ukrainian citizen, named only as Mr. Yuriy, was first questioned after police found evidence that warranted suspicion during their investigation into the accident's cause.

Budapest police say they continue to search for the 21 people who remain missing. Of the seven who were rescued, six have now been discharged from the hospital. One person remains in hospital with several broken ribs, a doctor from the ER confirmed to CNN.

Seven South Korean tourists died in the accident, of whom two have been identified. None were wearing life jackets, authorities said.

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in said in a statement yesterday that rescue efforts had been hampered by poor weather.

Very Good Tour's chief operating officer, Lee Sang-moo, said at a press conference in Seoul that the group was on the fifth day of a nine-day tour around Croatia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria and Germany.

Most of the tourists were middle aged, Lee added. The oldest was in their 70s -- while the youngest was born in 2013.

"I deeply apologize to the parties affected by the accident, families of victims and the people who are suffering after hearing the news this morning," Lee said. "I understand that the boat took every precaution."

Lee added in a later press conference that 40 family members are scheduled to leave for Budapest by Friday.

A large rescue operation was launched following the collision, which adjacent countries including Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine have been asked to assist in.

The Hungarian rescue team has widened its search range to 30 kilometers downstream, MOFA said, adding that the salvage of the boat involved is expected to take days.

'No signs of a possible issue'

Mihaly Toth, a spokesman for boating company Panorama Deck, which operated the capsized ship, said the company could not confirm why the boat sank.

"It was just an average day and this was a regular trip. We carry out thousands of tourist boat trips every day, there were no signs that something like this could happen," Toth said.

The tourist boat, called The Mermaid, had been operating on the Danube since 2003 and there had been "no signs of a possible issue with the boat," he added.

Panorama Deck "ensures all the necessary technical maintenance is carried out every year," he said.

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in has ordered a rapid response team to be dispatched to help the rescue effort in Budapest, a presidential spokesperson in Seoul said Thursday.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban told Moon in a phone call that 200 divers and medical professionals were sent to the scene to aid the search, the South Korean government said in a statement.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha will head up a central disaster and safety countermeasures headquarters, which will aim to ensure smooth dialogue with the victims, families and the tour boat collision.

Source: 31-05-2019, *CNN* (<https://edition.cnn.com>)

23) Boy, one, is diagnosed with leukaemia just three weeks after he nearly died from sepsis which he developed from his chickenpox

A one-year-old was diagnosed with leukaemia just weeks after he almost lost his life to sepsis.

Fletcher Smith, of Bridgwater, Somerset, was admitted to hospital on July 3 after his body had a life-threatening reaction to the chickenpox he caught from his sisters.

Just days after being allowed home, the youngster's temperature skyrocketed, with tests revealing his blood cell count was abnormally low.

On July 25, three weeks after catching chickenpox and just two days after his first birthday, Fletcher was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia.

Fletcher, who has had his first dose of chemo, is starting further treatment as part of a clinical trial today.

He will spend the next seven months at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, with his family not knowing 'if they will have their little boy at the end'.

Speaking of her son's diagnosis, Kerry Smith, 32, said: 'When we heard Fletcher had cancer we just broke down.

'I felt like someone had stamped on my chest, it was horrific. It's a surreal experience to go through.'

Mrs Smith, a stay-at-home mother, added: 'This will be a long road for us as a family and we know worse days are coming.'

Fletcher caught chickenpox from one of his older sisters, who both battled the infection.

Within days, the youngster's head had swelled up, prompting his mother to rush him to hospital.

Doctors told Mrs Smith her son had developed sepsis. This occurs when the body reacts to an infection by attacking its own organs and tissues.

'We watched our boy's face swell like a balloon', Fletcher's parents wrote on their GoFundMe page.

'He couldn't open his eyes and felt awful because of the various antibiotics and anti viral drugs he was dosed with'.

After a course of IV antibiotics, Reggie was eventually discharged.

However, within days of being home, Fletcher's temperature skyrocketed, with him also becoming pale and fussy.

Back in A&E, tests revealed he once again had sepsis, which Fletcher overcame for a second time.

Noticing the youngster was anaemic, doctors carried out further tests to check his full blood count.

With the results coming back unclear, Fletcher was sent to Bristol Children's Hospital, where samples of his bone marrow were analysed. This led to his diagnosis.

Within just six hours of Fletcher starting chemo, his heart started beating abnormally fast. He was also 'violently sick and had excruciating tummy pain'.

Fletcher's mother, father James, 32, and sisters Olivia, five, and Florence, three, will be at his bedside when he starts his second course of treatment today.

Mr Smith was working as an electrician at the time of Fletcher's diagnosis but has since taken time off to be with his family.

None of the family know what the future holds. 'We don't even know if we will have our little boy at the end,' Mrs Smith said.

'There are some days when he's happy, sitting up and playing and I forget what's even happening. Then he has a bad day and everything hits me like a brick wall.

'The effects of the cancer are starting to show, his belly and cheeks have become swollen, his eyes are sunken and his hair is starting to recede.

'What's happening hasn't fully sunk in yet, it's too soon.'

Mrs Smith is speaking out to raise awareness of her son's disease.

'Cancer is one of those things that you always expect to happen to somebody else, but it doesn't discriminate,' she said.

The family are raising money to help them makes ends meet while Fletcher undergoes treatment. Donate here.

WHAT IS ACUTE MYELOID LEUKAEMIA?

Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) is a type of blood cancer that starts in young white blood cells in the bone marrow.

AML affects around one in 200 men and one in 255 women in the UK at some point in their lives.

Approximately 19,500 new cases occur every year in the US.

It is most often diagnosed in older people.

Symptoms can include:

Fatigue

Fever

Frequent infections

Bruising or bleeding easily, including nosebleeds or heavy periods

Weight loss

Bone and joint pain

Breathlessness

Swollen abdomen

Pale skin

AML's exact cause is unclear, however, risks include:

Smoking

Being overweight

Radiation exposure

Previous chemotherapy

Certain blood disorders, such as myelodysplastic syndrome

Some immune conditions, like rheumatoid arthritis

AML is usually treated via chemotherapy. A bone marrow or stem cell transplant may be required.

Source: Cancer Research UK

Source: 05-08-2019, *Daily Mail* (<https://dailymail.co.uk>)

24) Are YOUR children playing the Blue Whale challenge? Police warn British parents over 'suicide game behind hundreds of Russian teen deaths'

British police are warning parents about the dangers of a sick social media 'game' that's said to be responsible for hundreds of teenage suicides in Russia.

The 'Blue Whale challenge' encourages at-risk participants to take part in a series of tasks like cutting themselves every day for 50 days.

They are then instructed to kill themselves on the final day of the sick 'challenge'.

The social media 'game' is being investigated by police in Russia in relation to a rash of teenage suicide attempts.

Now police officers in Britain are posting online warnings to alert parents about the challenge.

Devon and Cornwall Police PCSO Kirsty Down posted on Twitter: 'Who ever created this horrible game is sick! Parents: Please be aware of this 'game' talk to your children about it if concerned.'

The panic over the online challenge was prompted by the death of two teenagers in Russia last month who were believed to be participating.

Two school girls Yulia Konstantinova, 15, and Veronika Volkova, 16, fell to their deaths from the roof of an apartment block in industrial Ust-Ilimsk.

A girl named only as Ekaterina, 15, was critically injured after she fell onto snowy ground from a flat in the city of Krasnoyarsk, also Siberia.

Just two days beforehand a 14-year-old girl from Chita, near Mongolia, was reported to have thrown herself under a commuter train.

In all cases state investigators are probing whether a controversial web 'suicide game' has influenced the girls to seek to take their lives.

Yulia left a note saying 'End' on her social page and earlier she had posted a picture with big blue whale, seen as a symbol of a social media movement encouraging children to take their own lives.

Her friend Veronika wrote: 'Sense is lost... End.'

She regularly posted sad messages such as, 'Do you feel that gradually you become useless?' or 'I'm just a ghost'.

It was reported that two teenage boys were detained by police at the scene after allegedly filming the tragic double suicide.

The Russian Investigative Committee has opened a probe on 'incitement to suicide' regarding the pair's death.

'Investigators checked the scene, the homes of the minors, and interviewed relatives and friends of the victims, to establish the motives,' said a statement.

'Particular attention during the investigation of the criminal case will be given to the study of their social contacts on the Internet.'

In Krasnoyarsk, law enforcement recently opened three criminal cases of incitement to suicide involving schoolgirls via the groups in social media.

In all these cases, the teenagers were rescued.

One local school director told police he had received an anonymous call saying a student had joined a 'group of death' and planned soon to kill herself.

The police identified the girl who explained that had had joined a 'game' in social media network 'Vkontakte', and had been given 'tasks' by the administrator of the group.

She was told to cut certain words on her hands and search for a high-rise building from which she could jump.

She did not obey the commands - but there are fears that others did.

In the Chita case, transport police confirmed that the so-called suicide game 'Blue Whale' is seen as a possible 'cause of death'.

A second girl had made plans to kill herself with the dead teenager, but changed her mind at the last moment.

Teenagers are urged to use a knife or razor to make the shape of a whale on their wrist or leg, say Russian reports.

They are also urged to watch horror movies all day, and to wake themselves at 4.20am, steps leading up to demands to take their own lives on the 50th day of being in the game.

There was deep concern last year when there were fears that the sinister masterminds could be behind at least 130 suicides across Russia.

After the arrest of a supposed ringleader, there was a reduction in cases, but now there is major new fear of vulnerable teenagers being swayed by the barbaric death social media accounts.

Investigative newspaper Novaya Gazeta reported last year: 'We have counted 130 suicides of children that took place between November 2015 to April 2016.

'Almost all these children were members of the same internet groups and lived in good, happy families.'

It went on: 'We know absolutely for sure is that adults are working with children, with the help of knowledge of their habits and passions, using their favourite language and culture,' reported the newspaper.

'They know psychology well, they convince girls that they are 'fat', tell boys that they are 'losers' in this world. And that there is another world and they will be among the chosen.'

A report on Ren TV said that an internal report by the FSB secret service, once headed by Vladimir Putin, 'indicated that the problem of provoking suicides among underage children via Internet is really serious'.

Last year an alleged ringleader named as 21-year-old Philip Budeikin was detained, and he has been charged with organising eight groups between 2013 and 2016 which 'promote suicide'.

Some 15 teenagers committed suicide, and another five were rescued at the last moment, according to the case against him.

Children are told on such social media that 'the best things in life start with the letter 'S' - semiya (family), Saturday, sex, suicide.'

A song tells them: 'We have left for the open space, we have nothing left in this world.'

The children are asked: 'How many dull days like this are you going to drag yourself through?'

A picture of an approaching train has a sign: 'This world is not for us.'

A photograph of teens on a roof is captioned: 'We are children of the dead generation.'

However there are also some doubts about the extent to which the Blue Whale phenomenon was responsible for the rash of teenage suicides in Russia.

Fact-checking website Snopes reported that it was 'Unproven' that the suicide game was solely responsible for the deaths.

Source: 10-03-2017, *Daily Mail* (<https://dailymail.co.uk>)

25) Princess Latifa: The Dubai ruler's daughter who vanished

Dramatic new details have come to light about the extraordinary kidnapping and secretive detention of Princess Latifa.

It has been many months since Tiina Jauhiainen last heard from her friend.

Princess Latifa, imprisoned in Dubai after attempting a daring escape, had kept in touch with her for some time using a secret phone.

But all of a sudden, the contact stopped.

When Tiina last saw Latifa, they had lain on the deck of a yacht gazing at the stars, travelling across the Indian Ocean.

It was February 2018, and they had embarked on a risky plan to get Latifa out of Dubai and start a new life abroad.

The princess is one of 25 children of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai.

The sheikh has transformed the emirate into a glittering city, a place people flock to for business, and the playground of the region. But for Emirati women, the laws and customs can make life very restrictive.

"I'm not allowed to drive, I'm not allowed to travel or leave Dubai at all," Latifa said in a video recorded just before her escape.

"I haven't left the country since 2000. I've been asking a lot to just go travelling, to study, to do anything normal. They don't let me. I need to leave."

Sitting in Tiina's apartment, Latifa spoke cheerfully of what was to come.

"I'm feeling positive about the future. I don't know how I'll feel just waking up in the morning and thinking I can do whatever I want today. I'm really looking forward to that."

The princess had no access to her passport and was under surveillance, so they had to slip out of Dubai and drive to the coast of Oman. It took hours for them to get out to international waters, riding a dinghy and jet ski. By the evening they reached the yacht which was supposed to carry them to freedom.

In a Whatsapp message to a friend, Latifa declared: "I'm free".

They planned to sail across the Indian Ocean, and then fly to the United States where Latifa could try to claim political asylum.

But eight days later, as the coast of India neared, the escape went horribly wrong.

Armed men boarded the boat. The friends hid in the bathroom until smoke grenades forced them up to the deck.

"Latifa was screaming and kicking. She kept saying 'don't take me back to the UAE. Just shoot me here'," Tiina said. It was the last time she saw her friend.

In her later videos, released only now, Latifa gives a vivid account of the storming of the yacht.

"I was fighting, and this guy came with a small pouch and he took out the needle and he injected me in my arm."

Latifa says she was then transferred to an Indian military ship.

"The commandos carried me through this corridor, and to a big room, and there was in front of me like maybe four or five generals.

"I'm repeating to them 'my name's Latifa al Maktoum'.

"I don't want to go Dubai, I want to get asylum. I was in international waters, you should let me go."

Her pleas fell on deaf ears, and she says she was then manhandled by an Emirati commando.

"He grabs me. Lifts me up. Kicking and fighting, he's much bigger than me. So I see that his sleeve is rolled up and arm exposed. I had one shot. Bit as hard as I can, and shake my head. And he screamed."

She says she was tranquilised and flown back to Dubai.

"I just felt really sad at that point. I felt everything I was working on for so many years to get my freedom was gone. And I've been here ever since, by myself, so solitary confinement. No access to medical help, no trial, no charge, nothing."

Tiina was taken back to the UAE with the yacht's crew, where she was detained for two weeks. Then she began telling the story to the international media. She formed the campaign group Free Latifa and took the princess's case to the United Nations.

But as the months passed, she heard nothing from Latifa.

Then one day in early 2019, while she was visiting family in Finland, she got a message from a stranger.

First she had to answer security questions. Years earlier, Tiina had taught Latifa capoeira, a Brazilian martial art. Now the stranger wanted to know Latifa's capoeira nickname.

Soon Tiina was able to get a phone to the princess directly.

"When I first heard her voice, I was crying. I couldn't help it. It was very, very emotional."

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"When I first heard her voice, I was crying. I couldn't help it. It was very, very emotional."

The villa is just metres from the beach, in a luxury neighbourhood.

"We shouldn't pretend that just because it's a villa, it's fine", the executive director of Human Rights Watch, Ken Roth, says.

"This woman is imprisoned. It's basically solitary confinement except for her jailers. Solitary confinement of that sort is broadly considered to be a form of torture, as it becomes prolonged in the way this has right now."

The fear is palpable in Latifa's videos. There is a constant urgency and a desperation in her voice.

"Every day I am worried about my safety and my life. I don't really know if I'm going to survive this situation. The police threatened me that I'll be in prison my whole life and I'll never see the sun again. So I'm not safe here."

But despite the risk that she would be caught with the secret phone, she began to calmly and methodically document her extraordinary story.

"For me it's simple, it's like, am I free or am I not free? So ok, the world is going to know that I'm not free. Anybody who cares is going to know that I'm not free, and I'm not going to go along with their propaganda. That's just how I am."

The sheikh has said that he considers Latifa's return to Dubai a rescue mission.

In December 2018, after Latifa had been missing for nine months, the UAE was facing pressure. The United Nations had requested proof of life - or it would go public with concerns that the princess might have died.

Latifa received a visit from her stepmother Princess Haya.

Haya asked her to lunch.

"She said to me it would be like a test, to see how you will react around people after being in prison for so long," says Latifa in one video. "And if you act well, you react well, you're going to be out in a few days."

Unbeknown to Latifa, Princess Haya had been spun an elaborate lie, that Latifa had bipolar disorder and was vulnerable to exploitation. To help prove to the UN that all was well with Latifa, Haya called a friend, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson.

On 15 December 2018, Mary Robinson flew to Dubai where she says Haya and her officials briefed her about Latifa's supposed "medical condition". She agreed to help contact the UN.

Latifa, meanwhile, was kept in the dark. Over the lunch they discussed the environment, skydiving, and Mary Robinson's upcoming book.

"We never discussed me. We never discussed my case," Latifa says. She had no idea that Robinson was a former UN Human Rights Commissioner.

Mary Robinson told us that she did not question Latifa about the video or her escape, or ask to meet with her one-on-one.

"I didn't know how to address somebody who was bipolar. I really didn't actually want to talk to her and increase the trauma over a nice lunch."

But Robinson did allow photographs to be taken of Latifa which she agreed to send on to the UN. Robinson says she believed these were private photographs and that she was stunned when the UAE released them to the world nine days later.

After the lunch Latifa was taken back to her prison villa. "It was all a set up. It was like they tricked me," Latifa says. Nothing changed for the missing princess.

But for her stepmother Princess Haya, there was an extraordinary development.

"Relatively shortly afterwards," recalls Robinson, "I got a call from Haya, saying 'Mary, I am in London. I have just come to London with my two children. I have come in the clothes we were in because I am so fearful. We were wrong. I have found out a lot.'"

Haya later said that the sheikh did not welcome her interest in Latifa and that he became progressively more hostile to her. By April 2019, she says that she believed her position in Dubai was unsafe. On 15 April, she fled to the UK.

Now confronted with the escape of one of his wives as well as two more children, the Sheikh began a High Court battle to have the children returned to Dubai. But he got more than he bargained for.

In March 2020, a High Court judgement revealed further details about his treatment of his adult daughters. Eighteen years earlier, a second daughter, Shamsa, had been abducted in the UK and returned to Dubai, where she has been captive ever since. The judgement laid out the full story, for the first time, of how the sheikh's agents had tracked her down in Cambridge, and flown her back.

The judge also found that Haya had been intimidated and Latifa had been abducted and imprisoned - and that the sheikh had not been honest and open with the court.

For Tiina, this was a breakthrough. "I thought that would have been something that could have quickly led to her release."

But once again, little changed for Latifa in her prison in Dubai.

"It's almost like, what do we need to get her free? It's sad. It's very very sad," says Tiina.

Alone in her villa in Dubai, Latifa followed the case and maintained daily contact with her friend, along with her UK-based maternal cousin Marcus and Free Latifa co-founder David Haigh. What had begun as concise, factual video recordings evidencing her situation had turned into lengthy text chats.

"The phone meant a lot, it was a lifeline," says Marcus.

Latifa was now in her third year of imprisonment and solitary confinement.

"Every day was a struggle for her, and you could hear that in her voice. I know she was tired, I know her health was not the best," says Marcus.

But then one day, the contact stopped just as dramatically as it had begun.

Now, many months later, Tiina, David and Marcus have taken the decision to release some of Latifa's videos in the hope they will help pressure the sheikh to release her.

"We haven't taken this decision lightly, there's been some sleepless nights thinking about this", Tiina says.

"But it's time to do something. I feel that she would want us to fight for her, and not give up.

The governments of Dubai and the UAE have said that Latifa is safe in the loving care of her family.

Tiina is consumed by fear for her friend.

"Initially, I thought maybe she had problems with her phone. I was hoping she would reappear. I didn't want to believe it," says Tiina.

But then it dawned on her that Latifa was not coming back.

"We are extremely worried about her well-being," she says. "If we assume that she was caught with the phone, her conditions now are probably a lot worse."

Source: 16-02-2021, *BBC News* (<https://bbc.com>)

Appendix 4. Articles of 'hard' news in the target language (Lithuanian)

1) Ukrainos rytuose žuvo dar du ukrainiečių kariai

Rytų Ukrainoje per susirėmimus su prorusiškais separatistais žuvo du ukrainiečių kariai, pirmadienį pranešė kariuomenė, Kijevui dar kartą apkaltinus Maskvą dešimčių tūkstančių karių telkimu pasienyje.

Rytinėje Ukrainos dalyje pastarosiomis savaitėmis reguliariai kylantys susirėmimai kelia grėsmę pernai pasiektam paliaubų susitarimui, suteikusiam vilčių užbaigti nuo 2014 metų rusenantį konfliktą, prasidėjusį po Rusijos įvykdytos Krymo pusiasalio aneksijos.

Ukrainos kariuomenė pranešė, kad vienas karys žuvo šeštadienį, separatistų kovotojams panaudojus lengvuosius šaunamuosius ginklus, o kitas karys žuvo pirmadienį, „patyręs mirtiną sužeidimą kulka“.

Naujausi susirėmimai vyksta Rusijai telkiant daugiatūkstantines pajėgas prie savo sienos su Ukraina. Baltieji rūmai praėjusią savaitę pareiškė, kad prie sienos sutelktas Rusijos karių skaičius yra didžiausias per visą laikotarpį nuo 2014 metų.

Ukrainos prezidento Volodymyro Zelenskio atstovė pirmadienį naujienų agentūrai AFP sakė, Ukrainos rytiniame pasienyje yra 41 tūkst. Rusijos karių ir dar 42 tūkst. – Krymo pusiasalyje.

Pasak Julijos Mendel, kovo pabaigoje V. Zelenskis kreipėsi į Kremlį, prašydamas derybų su Rusijos prezidentu Vladimiru Putinu dėl konflikto paaštrėjimo, tačiau atsakymo dar negavo.

„Mes tikimės, kad prezidentas Vladimiras Putinas neatsisakys dialogo“, – pareiškė J. Mendel.

Tačiau Kremliaus atstovas Dmitrijus Peskovas neigė, kad Maskva sulaukė tokio prašymo.

„Nežinau apie tokį užklausimą pastarosiomis dienomis“, – sakė jis pirmadienį.

Kariuomenės telkimo neneigiantis Kremlius sekmadienį pareiškė, kad nejuda link karo su Ukraina, tačiau „neliks abejingas“ rusakalbių gyventojų likimui konflikto apimtame Ukrainos rytiniame regione.

Per konfliktą Rytų Ukrainoje jau žuvo daugiau nei 13 tūkst. žmonių. Nuo metų pradžios konfliktas nusinešė 28 Ukrainos karių gyvybes, tuo metu per visus 2020 metus jų žuvo 50.

Kijevas ir jo sąjungininkės Vakaruose kaltina Maskvą remiant separatistus kariais ir ginklais, tačiau Rusija šiuos kaltinimus neigia.

Šaltinis: 2021-04-12, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

2) Jungtinės Karalystės policija: išpuolis Redinge buvo teroro aktas

Britų policija sekmadienį paskelbė, kad šeštadienio išpuolį pietinio Redingo miesto parke, kai peiliu ginkluotas užpuolikas nužudė tris ir sužeidė dar tris žmones, yra tiriamas kaip teroristinis incidentas.

„Kovos su terorizmu policija dabar gali patvirtinti, kad praėjusio vakaro... incidentas Redinge paskelbtas teroristiniu incidentu“, – sakoma policijos pareiškimе.

JK policijos kovos su terorizmu koordinatorius Dinas Heidonas sakė, kad išpuolio tyrimą perima kontrterorizmo padalinio pareigūnai.

Trys žmonės žuvo, o dar trys buvo sunkiai sužeisti peiliu ginkluotam užpuolikui šeštadienį vakare siautėjant Redingo miesto parke, kur tuo metu laiką leido daug žmonių. Įvykio vietoje buvo areštuotas 25 metų vyras. Žiniasklaidos pranešimuose buvo sakoma, kad jis yra iš Libijos.

„Nėra žvalgybinių duomenų, kad vis dar būtų koks nors pavojus visuomenei“, – sakė policijos detektyvas Ianas Hunteris (Ijanas Hanteris).

Ministras pirmininkas Borisas Džonsonas pasmerkė šį „pasibaisėtiną incidentą“, o kiti politikai reiškė užuojautą žmonėms, nukentėjusiems per išpuolį Forberio parke istoriniame 220 tūkst. gyventojų turinčio miesto centre.

Anksčiau šiame parke vyko protestas „Black Lives Matter“ („Juodųjų gyvybės svarbios“), bet policija sakė, jog nėra jokių požymių, kad abu incidentai yra susiję.

Sekmadienį į parką vedančios gatvės buvo blokuotos, prie užtvarų patruliavo policininkai. Netoli išpuolio vietos buvo pastatyta mėlynos ir baltos spalvos palapinių.

Praėjusią naktį gerai ginkluoti pareigūnai įsiveržė į vieną butą maždaug už pusantro kilometro, ten tuo metu pasigirdo garsus trenksmas.

„Subadyti į kaklą“

Liudininkai pranešė matę, kaip į parką šeštadienio vakarą skubėjo du greitosios pagalbos sraigtasparniai ir keli policijos automobiliai.

Pasak vieno liudininko, užpuolikas ėjo per parką, kuriame daug žmonių ilsėjosi ant žolės, ir nesirinkdamas juos puldinėjo.

„Parkas buvo gan sausakimšas. Daug žmonių sėdėjo ir gėrė draugų kompanijomis, – JK žiniasklaidos kompanijai PA sakė Lorenas Vortas. – Per [parką] ėjo vienas žmogus, staiga jis sušuko kažkokius nesuprantamus žodžius ir puolė didelę, maždaug 10 žmonių grupę, bandydamas juos subadyti.“

Pasak L. Worto, jis matė, kaip žmonės buvo badomi į „kaklą ir pažastis“. Tuomet užpuolikas puolęs kitą grupę ir smogė vienam žmogui „į sprandą“.

„Kai suprato, kad visi pradeda bėgti, jis išbėgo iš parko“, – pridūrė L. Wortas.

Pasak pareigūnų, du sužeistieji gydomi 64 km į vakarus nuo Londono esančio Redingo ligoninėje.

Per vienus pastaruosius metus Didžiojoje Britanijoje buvo įvykdyti du su terorizmu susiję išpuoliai.

Lapkritį Londono centre už teroristinius nusikaltimus nuteistas ir pirma laiko paleistas džihadistas subadė penkis žmones, kurių du mirė. Policija užpuoliką nušovė.

Vasarį Londone policininkai nukovė kitą užpuoliką, kuris peiliu sužeidė tris žmones.

Didžioji dauguma rimtų nusikaltimų Britanijoje įvykdoma panaudojant peilius ir kitus šaltuosius ginklus, nes įstatymai dėl šaunamųjų ginklų įsigijimo yra labai griežti.

Gruodį laimėjusi rinkimus, B. Johnsono konservatorių vyriausybė pažadėjo griežtinti bausmes už nusikaltimus, susijusius su terorizmu.

Šaltinis: 2020-06-21, „DELFI žinios“ (<https://delfi.lt>)

3) Visas pasaulis gedi Kobe Bryanto: su legenda atsisveikino ir Lietuvos krepšininkai

Sekmadienio vakarą pasaulį sukrėtė netikėta žinia – Kalifornijoje tragiškai žuvo vienas geriausių visų laikų krepšininkų Kobe Bryantas ir jo trylikametė dukra Gianna. Šios tragiškos naujienos įžiebė reakcijas sporto pasaulyje ir socialinėse medijose.

Žemutinio Meriono mokyklos rajono bendruomenės atstovė CNN prieš kameras neslėpė liūdesio sužinojusi, kad staiga žuvo vienas garsiausių absolventų K. Bryantas.

„Žinoma, šiandien yra labai sunki diena mums ir visai mokyklos bendruomenei. Kalbėjau su treneriu, jis dar nėra pasiruošęs kalbėti su žiniasklaida ir tikisi, kad jūs visi gerbsite jo privatumą. Detalesnės informacijos apie nelaimę neturime, ją suteiks pareigūnai. Tačiau visos mokyklos vardu norėčiau pasakyti, kad mes visi labai gedime Kobe Bryanto“, – pasakojo ji.

K. Bryanto ryšys su mokykla, kurioje jis žaidė krepšinį prieš įstodamas į NBA, anot jos, padidino vidurinės mokyklos ir gyvenvietės įvaizdį visame pasaulyje.

„Mūsų mokyklos bendruomenė visada bus dėkinga už nuolatinį dosnumą savo alma mater, įskaitant atsidavimą mūsų K. Bryant gimnazijai ir paramą mūsų berniukų, ir mergaičių krepšinio komandoms“, – sakoma pranešime.

Liūdesį reiškė sportininkai

Visų sporto šakų atletai susivienijo ir vienas po kito ėmė rašyti užuojautos žinutes socialiniame tinkle „Twitter“.

„Šiuo metu tai nėra realu“, – teigė buvusi Bostono „Celtics“ žvaigždė Paulas Pierce`as.

Kaip pasklido žinia apie K. Bryanto mirtį, visos NBA lygos komandos šiandien per savo žaidynes pagerbė NBA legendą. Toronto „Raptors“ ir „Spurs“ žaidėjai pagerbė K. Bryantą 24 sekundes tuksendami kamuolį.

Užuojautą reiškė ir Lietuvos krepšinio legendos. Kauno „Žalgirio“ treneris Šarūnas Jasikevičius „Instagram“ rašė nenorintis patikėti tokiomis naujienomis.

Taip pat buvęs krepšininkas Rimantas Kaukėnas, Vilniaus „Ryto“ treneris Dainius Adomaitis, Lietuvos rinktinės aukštaūgis Artūras Gudaitis.

Pasisakė ir įžymybės

Sporto komentatorius Skipas Baylessas: „RIP Kobe Bryant. Negaliu patikėti, kad tiesiog parašiau šiuos žodžius. Tiesiog neįmanoma suprasti. Antroje karjeroje jis tapo toks pat galingas, kaip ir aikštelėje. Tegul Dievas palaimina žmoną ir vaikus.

Pasisakė ir žinoma TV laidų vedėja ir komikė Ellen DeGeneres: „Kaip ir visi, mane pribloškė ir nuliūdino žinios apie Kobe Bryantą. Man suduota širdis dėl jo žmonos ir šeimos.“

Užuojautą reiškę politikai

Izraelio ministras pirmininkas Benjaminas Netanyahu paskelbė užuojautą:

„Man buvo liūdna girdėti apie tragediją JAV, liūdna diena visiems pasaulio sporto mėgėjams. Kobe Bryantas, vienas geriausių atletų krepšinio istorijoje, šiandien mirė per sraigtasparnio katastrofą Kalabasašo mieste, Kalifornijoje. Šią tragediją išgyvena žmona, keturi vaikai ir milijonai krepšinio gerbėjų visame pasaulyje. Jis nebus pamirštas. Ilsėkis ramybėje“, – sakė B. Netanyahu.

Prezidentas Donaldas Trumpas tviteryje pavadino K. Bryanto mirtį „baisiomis naujienomis“.

Buvęs JAV prezidentas Barackas Obama „Twitter“ pasidalijo mintimis ir užuojauta dėl K. Bryanto mirties, sakydamas, kad legendinė NBA žvaigždė „tik pradėjo dirbti tai, kas būtų buvę lygiai taip pat prasminga“.

Los Andželo tarptautinis oro uostas nušvito „Lakers“ komandos spalvomis. Šioje komandoje krepšininkas praleido 20 savo karjeros metų.

Šaltinis: 2020-01-27, „LRT“ (<https://lrt.lt>)

4) Nuo vilko prie meškos: sunkią kovą prieš El Chapo laimėjusi Meksika stebi naujojo narkotikų barono iškilimą

Kartais kūnai randami prišti prie tiltų ir be kai kurių galūnių, kartais jie tiesiog išmaitojami ir išmetami vidury miesto gatvės, bet dažniausiai visos aukos turi vieną bendrą vizitinę kortelę – „CJNG“.

Kartelis „Jalisco Nueva Generación“ (CJNG) mėgsta siųsti aiškias žinutes visuomenei.

Pastaruosius kelerius metus Meksikos narkotikų karams atsinaujinus, šio kartelio iškilimas kelia ypač didelį nerimą – jie yra tiek įžūlūs, tiek negailestingi. Kovos su narkotikais biuro duomenimis, ši nusikaltėlių grupuotė atsakinga už tonomis kiekvieną mėnesį gabenamą metamfetaminą į JAV teritoriją.

„CJNG šiuo metu yra mūsų prioritetas nr. 1“, – tvirtino Billas Bodneris, specialusis agentas, atsakingas už kovą su narkotikais Los Andžele padalinį, kuris ir vadovauja agentų grupei, siekiančiai susekti žiauriojo kartelio lyderį.

Tas žmogus – Nemesio Rubénas Oseguera Cervantesas, žinomas kaip El Mencho, iki šiol sėkmingai išvengęs JAV federalinės valdžios rankos.

Ne vienas apklaustas JAV ir Meksikos teisėsaugos pareigūnas tikino, jog CJNG lyderis užėmė prieš tai karaliavusio „Sinaloa“ vado El Chapo vietą, kuris buvo sučiuptas 2016 m.

„Zetų („Sinaloa“ kartelio narių – red.) labai bijojo“, – sakė B.Bodneris. – Bet atsirado jų vertas varžovas.“

Vaiduoklio medžioklė

DEA paskelbė 10 milijonų dolerių atlygį už informaciją, kuri padėsianti areštuoti El Mencho, tačiau šių pinigų iki šiol niekas negavo.

CJNG gyvuoja tik apie dešimtmetį, tačiau į valdžią jis pakilo daug greičiau nei jų varžovai „Sinaloa“ kartelis. Dabar kartelio įtaka siekia šešis žemynus ir 28 iš 32 Meksikos valstijų.

Grupotės gabenami narkotikai pasiekia visus pagrindinius JAV miestus, įskaitant Los Andželą, Čikagą, Hiustoną, Atlantą ir Niujorką, praneša pareigūnai.

El Mencho jau buvo JAV federaliniame teisme nuteistas dėl prekybos narkotikais, korupcijos ir žmogžudysčių, tačiau nusikaltėlis iki šiol laisvėje.

Meksikiečio susekimas šiuo metu yra svarbiausia kovos su narkotikais biuro užduotis, tačiau kol kas visos paieškos buvo bevaisės. Kai kurie iš pareigūnų kartelio vadą vadina „vaiduokliu.“

Kartelio lyderis gimė mažame Meksikos miestelyje Naranjo de Chila 1966 m., vėliau kurį laiką gyveno Kalifornijoje, tačiau jau aštuntajame dešimtmetyje jis buvo areštuotas dėl narkotikų pardavimo.

Galų gale jis grįžo į Gvadalacharą ir pradėjo dirbti „Milenio“ kartelyje, kuris buvo priklausomas „Sinaloa“. Jis greit iškilo jų gretose kaip vienas lyderių, o 2010m. atsiskyrė nuo šios grupotės ir sukūrė savą, smurtu ir žiaurumu pasižymėjusį kartelį.

Didžiausias CJNG smurto proveržis – 2016 m., kai buvo sučiuptas legendinis El Chapo ir Meksikos narkotikų rinkoje atsirado laisvų, niekam nepriklausančių teritorijų, kurias kartelis užėmė savo griežta disciplina ir negailestingu susidorojimu.

„Atrodo, kad El Mencho yra daug drausmingesnis nei Chapo, – naują Meksikos narkotikų karalių apibūdino B.Bodneris. – El Chapo mėgo gyventi prašmatnų gyvenimo būdą – automobiliai, moterys, gražūs restoranai, alkoholis. El Mencho laikosi atokiau nuo tokių dalykų, sportuoja, valgo teisingai, nenori būti pastebėtas.“

Vienas iš nedaugelio žinomų jo pomėgių – meilė gaidžių peštynėms, kuri jam suteikė dar vieną slapyvardį – „Gaidžių valdovas“.

„Mes esame kare“

Tamsoje paslėptu veidu vyras prisimena paskutinį kartą, kai kalbėjo su sūnumi.

Tai įvyko daugiau nei prieš metus. Praėjo beveik 400 dienų kančios – skausmo, žinant jog tavo sūnus buvo žiauriai nužudytas, tačiau dar nerandant kūno.

„Aš netikėjau, kad žmonės gali tai padaryti“, – sakė jis interviu. – Mes esame kare.“

Saugumo sumetimais jis paprašė nerodyti jo veido ir nenaudoti jo vardo. Tai yra įprastas prašymas Meksikoje, kur vyriausybė ką tik paskelbė, kad vykstančio narkotikų karo metu dingo daugiau nei 61 000 žmonių – o žmogžudysčių skaičius viršijo 31 000 vien 2019 m.

Jis dėvėjo kepurę su snapeliu, buvo su ūsais ir pavargusia šypsena. Jis dirbo paprastu mediku, tačiau jo šeimai priklausė ranča atokiame Meksikos kaime, kurią buvo paveldima karta iš kartos. Kol, pasak jo, dešimtys kartelio narių nusprendė pasinaudoti ja narkotikų gamybai.

„Vyriausybė nesusitvarko su jais“, – niūrai kalbėjo tėvas.

Naudojasi socialiniais tinklais

Visuose socialiniuose tinkluose CJNG viešina egzekucijų nuotraukas, kraupius vaizdo įrašus, norėdami parodyti savo galią šalyje.

Kartelis taip pat naudojasi socialinėmis medijomis ieškant naujų narių per propagandinius įrašus.

Tačiau kaip pasakojo vienas buvęs Meksikos žvalgybos pareigūnas, kartelis jaunuolius rengia nuo labai mažų dienų – ankstyvoje paauglystėje – lengvai suviliodamas narkotikais, žadėdamas pinigų ir darbo.

Kai kuriuose rajonuose kartelio nariai taiko „Robino Hudo“ taktiką, skirstydami maistą ir kitas atsargas neturtingoms bendruomenėms. Tačiau vos privilioti jauni vyrai yra nedelsiant kankinami ir priverčiami tapti žudikais ar smogikais.

Dėl išpuolių negailestingumo CJNG dažnai lyginami su „Islamo valstybe“.

„Kalbant apie smurtą, taip, – nurodė specialusis agentas B.Bodneris. – Jie galbūt neturi religinės ideologijos, bet smurtas yra tas pats.“

„Kraujo dėmė“

JAV Kovos su narkotikais biuras pasakojo NBC, jog didžioji dalis metamfetamino kertiančio JAV sienas priklauso CJNG.

Priešingai nei marihuanos ar heroino, šiam narkotikui nereikia derlingo žemės ploto ar gerų oro sąlygų. Jis gaminamas laboratorijose, kurios statomos izoliuotose vietovėse, tad sintetinių narkotikų prekyba yra ženkliai pelningesnė.

Biurui ištyrus kartelio gaminamo metamfetamino sudėtį paaiškėjo, jog dabar parduodami narkotikai yra „grynesni“ nei bet kada anksčiau.

Meksikos Guanachuato valstijos saugumo komisarė Sophia Huett interviu sakė, kad amerikiečių priklausomybė nuo narkotikų sukuria milžinišką paklausą – o tai savo ruožtu skatina kartelius ir jų smurtą.

„Deja, su kiekviena suvartota doze atsiranda kraujo dėmė“, – samprotavo saugumo komisarė. – Ir to negalime sustabdyti.

Šaltinis: 2021-03-13, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrtytas.lt>)

5) Po skaudžios žinios apie princo Philipo mirtį – G. Nausėdos žinutė karališkajai šeimai

„Tegul jo siela ilsisi ramybėje“, – tokiais žodžiais skaudžią žinią apie Didžiosios Britanijos princo Philipo mirtį sutiko Lietuvos prezidentas Gitanas Nausėda.

G.Nausėdos užuojautos žinutė nuaidėjo šalia kitų pasaulio valstybių vadovų, kurie reiškė užuojautą visiems britams ir karalienei Elizabeth II.

„Reiškiu nuoširdžiausią užuojautą karalienei Elizabeth II. Šią netekties valandą mano mintys ir maldos – su jumis ir Jungtinės Karalystės žmonėmis“, – BBC cituoja G.Nausėdos žinutę.

Penktadienį popiet karališkoji šeima pranešė, kad eidamas 99-uosius metus užgeso princo Philipo gyvybė.

Birželį princas Philipas būtų šventęs 100 metų jubiliejų.

Šalies vadovas savo užuojautoje prisiminė karalienės Elizabeth II ir Edinburgo hercogo vizitą į Lietuvą 2006 metais ir pažymėjo, kad šis vizitas sustiprino Lietuvos ir Jungtinės Karalystės politinius, ekonominius ir kultūrinius ryšius.

Seimo pirmininkė V. Čmilytė-Nielsen savo užuojautoje rašo, kad „princas Filipas buvo vienas moderniosios, vakarietiškosios monarchijos kūrėju, įprasminęs šias pareigas XX ir XXI amžiuje“.

Šaltinis: 2021-04-09, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrtytas.lt>)

6) Šiurpinanti kelionė po Kataloniją – važiuo prieš eismą su lavonu pašonėje

Katalonijos policija sulaikė vairuotoją, kuris 30 km važiuo greitkelio prieš eismą į keleivio sėdynę pasisodinęs negyvėlį.

Incidentas įvyko ketvirtadienį pavakare Viduržemio greitkelyje (AP-7), kuris tęsiasi netoli pajūrio nuo Prancūzijos sienos iki Barselonos, Valensijos ir Alikantės. Vietinė spauda pranešė, kad sulaikytasis – 66 metų amžiaus Rusijos pilietis, nuolatinais gyvenantis Ispanijoje. Kituose šaltiniuose minima, kad vyras turi ir Šveicarijos pilietybę.

Jis sugebėjo nuvažiuoti daugiau, nei 30 km nuo Prancūzijos sienos ir tik tada buvo pastebėtas policijos.

Vyras ignoravo pareigūnų reikalavimus sustoti, išsuko iš greitkelio ir tęsė kelionę link Žironos, kur papuolė į avariją.

Katalonijos policija pranešė, kad keleivio sėdynėje šalia vairuotojo buvo rastas 88-erių vyriškio lavonas. Tyrėjai spėja, kad žmogus mirė prieš tris savaites. Smurto ženklų nerasta. Jau pradėjęs irti kūnas buvo užklotas antlode ir prisegtas saugos diržu.

Vairuotojas teigė, kad norėjo mirusįjį parvežti namo į Šveicariją.

Įvykis toliau tiriamas.

Šaltinis: 2021-04-10, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrtytas.lt>)

7) Noras sutramdyti gaujas sukėlė pragarą miesto gatvėse

Searos valstija Brazilijoje regi neregėtą smurto proveržį. Po to, kai naujasis prezidentas Jairo Bolsonaro įsakė panaikinti kalėjimų tvarką, kai skirtingų gaujų nariai laikomi atskirti, gatvėse užvirė pragaras.

„Tokį laukinį elgesį iki šiol buvome matę tik Rio de Žaneire. Ir tai – kai rodė reportažus per televiziją. Čia niekada nevyko nieko panašaus“, – sakė Fortalezoje gyvenantis Carlosas Roberio.

Šiame mieste jau savaitę vyksta neramumai – siautėjantys nusikaltėliai padeginėja miesto autobusus, pašto sunkvežimius, žmonių automobilius.

„Įtarėme, kad galime to sulaukti, – prieš kelias dienas jie sudegino vieną mūsų automobilį, o dabar supleškino kooperatyvo autobusiuką ir prekybos kioskus.

Juk tai mūsų nuosavybė, mūsų pajamų šaltinis“, – už galvos susiėmė brazilas.

Searos valdžia sunkiai tvarkosi su prieš savaitę prasiveržusiu smurtu, kuris jau spėjo įgauti teroro formų.

„Molotovo kokteiliai“ ir savadarbės bombos mėtomos į policijos komisariatų, miesto valdžios pastatus ir bankus.

Savaitgalį nusikaltėliai dvylika miestų paliko be mobiliojo ryšio, kai susprogdino perdavimo stotį.

Taip pat buvo susprogdintas vienas tiltas ir viadukas per autostradą.

Tiesiogiai kenčia vietos gyventojai, tačiau taip nusikaltėlių grupuotės bando pasiųsti žinutę naujajam šalies prezidentui J.Bolsonaro.

Trys konkuruojančios narkotikų grupuotės susivienijo, kad surengtų daugiau negu 150 atakų. Taip jie protestuoja prieš naujojo šalies lyderio kovos su nusikalstamumu politiką.

Nutarta pakeisti tvarką Brazilijos kalėjimuose. Dabar tos pačios gaujos nariai kalinami greta, atskiriami nuo konkuruojančių nusikaltėlių gaujų nuteistųjų. Galėdami būti šalia vienas kito nusikaltėliai iš tos pačios gaujos ir toliau planuoja ir vykdo savo veiklą kalėjimuose.

Jau įtariamai 20 kalinių, kurie davė tiesioginius nurodymus gaujų nariams pradėti dabar vykstančias atakas gatvėse.

„Tvyro absoliuti sumaištis. O aš jaučiuosi tarytum plūduriuočiau atvirame vandenyne be gelbėjimo plausto“, – skundėsi C.Roberio.

Kol kas mirčių nebuvo. Tačiau Fortaleza tartum įšalo: didelėje dalyje miesto teko sustabdyti visuomeninį transportą, nebevažinėja taksi, jau daug dienų neveikia dauguma parduotuvių, o išsigandę gyventojai vengia išeiti iš namų.

Šiaurės rytų regionuose, ypač Searoje, pastaraisiais metais aktyviai siekė įsitvirtinti nusikalstamos gaujos. Tai strategiškai patogus regionas narkotikų prekybai dėl čia veikiančių uostų.

Fortaleza – lyg strateginis prizas, nes yra arčiausiai Afrikos ir Europos esantis Brazilijos uostas.

„J.Bolsonaro su karine retorika tik dar labiau kursto liepsnas. Atsakydami į smurtą dar didesniu smurtu šalies bėdų neišspręsimė“, – teigė Brazilijos viešojo saugumo forumo vadovas Renato Sergio de Lima.

Brazilijos saugumo pajėgos per savo operaciją 2017-aisiais nužudė 5 tūkst. žmonių, vidutiniškai 14 per dieną.

J.Bolsonaro mano, kad iki šiol su nusikaltėliais ir narkotikų gaujomis buvo elgtasi pernelyg švelniai.

Šaltinis: 2019-01-13, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrtytas.lt>)

8) Neonacių grupuotė, kuriai priklausė lietuvis: 13-metis lyderis ir kraupūs grasinimai internete

Penktadienį pranešta, kad pernai Lietuvoje planuota įvykdyti teroro aktą. Nusikaltimu įtariamas 1999 metais gimęs lietuvis, kuris priskiria save ultradešiniųjų pažiūrų ekstremistų „Feuerkrieg Division“ (FKD) grupuotei.

Kaip įtariama, jis teroristiniais tikslais gamino ir laikė didelės sprogstamosios galios sprogmenis, sprogstamąsias medžiagas.

Remiantis Niujorke įsikūrusios žydų tarptautinės nevyriausybinės organizacijos „Kovos su šmeižtu lyga“ (ADL) oficialiu pranešimu, FKD savo ideologiją remia beveik visomis baltaodžių ekstremistų kraštutinėmis pažiūromis. Grupė siejama ir su planais užpulti sinagogą Las Vegase bei automobilių sprogdinimu.

„Grupė šlovina teiginius, dėstomus knygoje „Apgultis“, kurią parašė iš JAV kilęs neonacis Jamesas Masonas“, – rašė ADL.

Pranešime taip pat teigiama, kad neonacių grupuotė buvo įkurta 2018 metų spalio mėnesį Baltijos jūros regione, labiausiai tikėtina, jog Estijoje.

„Laikui bėgant grupė išsiplėtė ir prie jos prisijungė žmonių iš Belgijos, Jungtinės Karalystės, Nyderlandų, Norvegijos, Latvijos, Vokietijos ir Rusijos. 2019 m. grupuotė ir toliau stengėsi plėsti pajėgas Europoje ir Šiaurės Amerikoje, ypač Kanadoje ir JAV“, – priduriama „Kovos su šmeižtu lygos“ pranešime.

Tapatybes nustatyti – sunku

Teigiama, jog FKD grupei daug įtakos darė „Atomwaffen Division“ – neonacių grupė, kaip įtariama, susijusi su 5 žmogžudystėmis JAV.

„FKD yra už panašius įsitikinimus ir rasistinę propagandą. Nors didžioji veiklos dalis vykdoma internete, noriai ėmė platinti smurtinę, rasistinę ir antisemitinę propagandą ir realiame gyvenime“, – teigė ADL.

Grupės nariai tarpusavyje dalijosi informacija, kaip gauti ginklų ir pasigaminti sprogmenų. Dalis jų internete dalijosi nuotraukomis, kuriose pozuoja su ginklais.

Tiesa, tikrąją grupuotės narių tapatybę nustatyti sunku, nes jų veidus dengia kaukole papuoštos kaukės.

Tačiau dar bent vieno nario vardas – žinomas. Diskusijose Berto Valterio slapyvardžiu dalyvavęs prisipažino Estijos konservatyviajai liaudies partijai priklausantis neonacis parlamentaras Ruubenas Kaalepas.

Nenori pripažinti savo įtakos

Tuo metu jaunųjų nacių įkvėpėjas J.Masonas, kalbėjęs apie karą prieš sistemą, šiuo metu yra jos išlaikomas.

67 metų vyras šiuo metu gyvena valstybės išlaikomame bute Denveryje ir pietauja benamių senjorų valgyklose.

Jis pats prieštaros tarp jo elgesio ir skleidžiamų tiesų nematoma – tai J.Masonas vadina partizaniniu karu.

„Šiandienos priešas yra JAV vyriausybė – ji yra pats blogiausias dalykas, kada nors egzistavęs šioje žemėje“, – rašė J.Masonas 1980-aisiais. Pastaruosius du dešimtmečius jis buvo dingęs, tačiau jo tekstai ir toliau įkvepia kraštutinių pažiūrų jaunuolius.

J.Masono butas tarpo tikru magnetu šiems žmonėms, kurie plūsta fotografuoti su savo įkvėpėju. Internetu – daugybė nuotraukų, kuriose J.Masonas pozuoja drauge su vaikinais, apsirengusiais nacistinėmis uniformomis.

Jis pats nenori sieti savęs su „Atomwaffen Division“ ir pripažinti, kad jo tekstai įkvepia jaunas žmones griebtis ginklo, visgi neneigia, kad smurtauti – galima.

„Jei jie remtųsi mano žodžiais, jie nedarytų tų dalykų, kuriuos daro, – kalbėjo J.Masonas. – Tačiau jei jie privalo tai daryti, man atrodo logiška, kad jie tai turi padaryti atitinkamai“.

Vadovavo trylikametis

Šių metų balandžio mėnesį skelbta, kad FDK vadovavimu buvo apkaltintas trylikametis berniukas iš Estijos. Visa tai jis darė iš savo miegamojo, internete prisistatydamas kaip Vadas.

Pranešama, kad neįprastai jaunas įtariamasis ryšius su grupe nutraukė tik tada, kai šių metų pradžioje su juo susisiektė Estijos valdžios pareigūnai. Paauglys, kaip pranešama, buvo atsakingas už naujų narių įtraukimą.

Estijos saugumo tarnybos atstovas sakė, jog policija į grupuotės veiksmus įsitraukė šių metų sausį ėmusi „įtarti pavojų“.

„Kadangi byloje dirbama su vaiku iki 14 metų, šis asmuo negali būti traukiamas baudžiamojon atsakomybėn, tad norint pašalinti riziką turi būti taikomi kiti teisiniai metodai. Kai kurių valdžios institucijų ir tėvų bendradarbiavimas yra ypač svarbus norint atitraukti vaiką nuo smurtinio ekstremizmo“, – teigė saugumo tarnybų atstovas.

Manoma, kad Vadas iš Estijos buvo įkvėptas tekstų, parašytų neonacio J.Masono. Jis šiuos tekstus perskaitė viename forume, įkurtame uzbeko Alishero Mukhitdinovo. Teigiama, kad „Atomwaffen Division“ taip pat buvo įkvėpti šio forumo.

Interneto forume – kraupūs tekstai

Tuo metu pačių FKD forume netrūko šurpių tekstų ir komentarų.

„Hitleriot vardu prievartaukite krikščionių vienuoles“, – rašė Vadas iš Estijos.

Jis taip pat pasidalijo teroro išpuolius įvykdžiusių baltaodžių ekstremistų Anderso Breiviko ir Brentono Tarranto kalėjimų adresais ir ragino forumo narius siųsti jiems Kalėdų ir gimtadienių atvirukus.

Forume daugiausia kalbėta apie „sistemą“, kuri, FKD narių požiūriu, reiškia „Vakarų gyvenimo būdą, valdomą žydų“. Remiantis paauglio žinutėmis internete, atrodo, jog beveik kiekvienas yra šios grupuotės priešas – policininkai, politikai, žydai, konservatoriai, liberalai, juodaodžiai, homoseksualai ir kitos visuomenės grupės.

Šaltinis: 2020-06-07, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrtytas.lt>)

9) Venesueloje – demokratijos laidotuvės: N. Maduro dar labiau sustiprino savo galią

Sekmadienį Venesueloje vyko parlamento rinkimai. Pergalę juose iškovojo diktatoriumi vadinamo Nicolaso Maduro partija. Tikėtina, kad JAV remiamo opozicionieriaus Juano Guaido pozicijas tai tik susilpnins.

Uždarius rinkimų apylinkes po kelių valandų Venesuelos vyriausioji rinkimų komisija paskelbė, kad 58 metų N.Maduro valdoma Venesuelos jungtinė socialistų partija ir jos šalininkai rinkimuose laimėjo 67 proc. balsų.

Opozicijos jėgos boikotavo rinkimus, o juose dalyvavusios opozicijos partijos surinko 18 procentų balsų.

Rinkimų komisijos pirmininkė Indira Alfonzo paskelbė, kad savo balsą atidavė tik 31 proc. iš 20 mln. registruotų rinkėjų.

Europos Sąjunga, Jungtinės Valstijos ir kelios kitos šalys iš karto pareiškė, kad rinkimų rezultatai suklastoti.

Bet dabar N.Maduro rankose bus ir Nacionalinis Susirinkimas, kurį anksčiau kontroliavo opozicionieriai. Jau iš anksčiau jam lojalūs buvo teismai, kariuomenė ir kitos svarbiausios šalies institucijos.

„Mes atgavome Nacionalinį Susirinkimą sulaukę daugumos venesueliečių balsų. Tai mūsų demokratijai yra didelė pergalė“, – tvirtino N.Maduro.

N.Maduro rinkimų kampanijos metu agitavo žmones balsuoti už jo sūnų ir žmoną.

Diktatorius žadėjo nutildyti „dešiniąją opoziciją“, kurią jis kaltina protestų organizavimu ir raginimu, kad JAV paskelbtų dar didesnes sankcijas.

Šalies ekonomika pastaraisiais metais yra itin silpna – infliacija pasiekė 4 tūkst. proc.

Tačiau 37-erių J.Guaido atkreipė dėmesį į mažą rinkimų aktyvumą.

„Tiesa negali būti paslėpta. Didžioji Venesuelos dalis atsuko nugarą sukčiavimui, kuris prasidėjo jau prieš kelis mėnesius“, – paviešintame vaizdo įrašė kalbėjo J.Guaido.

Tikėtina, kad dabar visas svarbiausias institucijas kontroliuojantis N.Maduro dar labiau užspaus opozicijos veiklą šalyje.

Opozicionieriai pirmadienį pradėjo savaitės plebiscitą, kuriame žmonių klausia, ar jie nori užbaigti N.Maduro valdymą ir suorganizuoti naujus prezidento rinkimus, bet šis balsavimas nebus teisiškai įpareigojantis ir tvirtai į valdžią įsikibusio diktatoriaus iš sosto neišvers.

Pats J.Guaido boikotavo rinkimus ir juose nedalyvavo, tad ateityje nebebus Nacionalinio Susirinkimo prezidentas, o užsienio valstybėms bus dar sunkiau pripažinti jo pretenzijas į Venesuelos prezidento postą.

Šaltinis: 2020-12-08, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrtytas.lt>)

10) Teisingumo noras paguodos gali neatnešti: po „Charlie Hedbo“ išpuolio artimuosius vis dar kankina košmarai

„Je suis Charlie“ („Aš esu Charlie“) – tokiais žodžiais solidarumą su Prancūzija po teroro išpuolio 2015-ųjų pradžioje reiškė visas pasaulis. Tik šią savaitę prasidėjo įtariamų atakos bendrininkų teismo procesas.

Praėjo kiek daugiau nei penkeri metai, tačiau nei Prancūzija, nei visas pasaulis šios kraupios dienos įvykių nepamiršo.

Į satyrinio savaitraščio „Charlie Hedbo“ redakciją 2015 m. sausio 7-ąją įsiveržė kaukes dėvintys broliai Saidas ir Cherifas Kouachi. Automatais jie sušaudė dvylika žmonių, tarp kurių buvo garsiausi Prancūzijos karikatūristai, dar 11 buvo sužeista.

Įtariamieji pagrobė automobilį ir paspruko iš įvykio vietos, tačiau čia jų veikla nesibaigė.

Teroristas Amedy Coulibaly sausio 9-ąją įsiveržė į košerinio maisto parduotuvę „Hyper Cacher“, kur įkaitais paėmė ten buvusius žmones ir 4 jų nužudė.

Tuo metu broliai Kouachi užėmė vieną spaustuvę netoli Prancūzijos sostinės.

„Al Qaeda“ vardu veikę broliai Kouachi ir „Islamo valstybei“ priklausęs A.Coulibaly žuvo tą patį vakarą per policijos surengtus reidus.

Tyrėjai greitai atskleidė visus žmones, kurie buvo susiję su visais trimis užpuolikais.

Kaltinimai pareikšti 14 asmenų, tik 11 jų dalyvaus teismo posėdžiuose.

Teigiama, kad tik likę trys kaltinamieji tiesiogiai prisidėjo prie nužudymų, bet jiems pavyko pasprukti į „Islamo valstybės“ kalifatą Irako ir Sirijos teritorijoje. Manoma, kad jie nebėra gyvi.

Likę 11 kaltinamųjų tvirtina, kad prie teroro atakų prisidėjo to nesuvokdami, bet šis teismo procesas Prancūzijoje bus itin svarbus. Tai pirmoji tokia byla Prancūzijoje. 10 savaičių trukiantis teismo procesas bus transliuojamas tiesiogiai, o visi parodymai kruopščiai dokumentuojami.

Nors teismas tik parodomasis, prancūzai jo seniai laukia. Tai puiki proga pažvelgti 5 metus ir 8 mėnesius atgal ir paklausti, ar kas nors Prancūzijoje per šį laiką pasikeitė?

Žmonės nereiškę neapykantos

Išpuoliai „Charlie Hedbo“ ir „Hyper Cacher“, kuriuos sekė dar kruvinesnės atakos „Bataclan“ koncertų salėje ir kitose Paryžiaus vietose, buvo praminti Prancūzijos rugsėjo 11-ąja.

Žmonės kalbėjo, kad Prancūzija daugiau nebebus tokia pat – skirsis gyvenimas prieš 2015-ųjų sausio 7-ąją ir gyvenimas po šios datos.

Praėjus keturioms dienoms po atakų daugiau kaip 3,7 mln. žmonių išėjo į taikias eitynes Paryžiaus ir kitų Prancūzijos miestų gatvėse.

Šie žmonės nereiškę neapykantos musulmonams ar radikalojo islamo atstovams.

Žmonės skelbėsi esantys baltaodžiai ir juodaodžiai, kairieji ir dešinieji, musulmonai, katalikai ar žydai ir tvirtino, kad juos vienija parama Prancūzijoje išsisknijusioms pamatinėms tolerancijos ir solidarumo vertybėms. Jie visi skelbė frazę „Je suis Charlie“.

Daliai eitynių dalyvių šis šūkis reiškė laisvo žodžio ir „Charlie Hebdo“ teisės skelbti pranašo Mohameto karikatūras palaikymą.

Kitiems, kurie niekuomet nebuvo atsivertę satyrinio leidinio, tai buvo išpuolis prieš prancūzišką ir vakarietišką gyvenimo būdą. Jiems tai buvo išpuolis ne tik prieš žodžio laisvę, bet ir prieš prancūzišką norą pasišaipyti, maištauti.

Vėl išspausdino karikatūras

Tad kas praėjus 5 metams liko iš šūkio „Je suis Charlie“?

Pirmiausia žodžio laisvės klausimas išlieka itin aktualus.

Satyrinis žurnalas šią savaitę vėl publikavo pranašo Mahometo karikatūras, kurios nekart piktino musulmonus ir išprovokavo kruviną ataką 2015 metais.

Leidinio redaktorius Laurent'as Sourisseau tvirtino, kad taip pasielgė ne iš noro įkasti radikaliojo islamo atstovams, o raudodamas dėl Prancūzijoje ir Vakaruose sumažėjusios žodžio laisvės.

Pasak jo, šios savaitės viršelio pavadinimas „Tout ça pour ça“ („Visa tai už tai“) yra nukreiptas prieš tironiškas organizacijas ir niekam nepritariančias mažumas, kurios į Prancūziją atnešė žodžio laisvės suvaržymus.

„Mes matėme, kaip dėl to atšaukiamos konferencijos universitetuose, skelbiami protestai, bandoma užkirsti kelią skirtingoms nuomonėms socialiniuose tinkluose. Mane stebina, kokia galinga tapo cenzūra“, – tvirtino L.Sourisseau.

Kylančios populistinės partijos Prancūzijoje stengiasi suvaržyti žodžio laisvę, o šalyje didėja nepasitikėjimas tradicine spauda.

Dienraščio „La Croix“ atlikta apklausa parodė, jog 41 proc. prancūzų neberūpi tradicinėje žiniasklaidoje pateikiama informacija.

Tolerancija gyvuoja toliau

Pažvelgus iš kitos pusės, Prancūzijos tolerantiškumo ir solidarumo vertybės sėkmingai gyvuoja toliau.

Atrodo, kad 2015-ųjų išpuoliai Paryžiuje nebuvo Prancūzijos rugsėjo 11-oji. Šalis nepasikeitė taip drastiškai kaip Jungtinės Valstijos po bokštų dvynių griūties.

Po atakų Niujorke amerikiečiai ėmėsi rimtų veiksmų, kad kovotų su terorizmu. Prancūzijoje socialistą François Hollande'ą pakeitė centristas Emmanuelis Macronas.

Šalis nenusisuko nuo tolerancijos ir demokratiškumo – prieš Prancūzijoje gyvenančius 5 mln. musulmonų nepadaugėjo išpuolių ar provokacijų.

Parama Marine Le Pen vadovaujam kraštutinės dešinės „Nacionaliniam sambūriui“ išlieka stipri – ji palaiko maždaug 23 proc. prancūzų.

Tačiau kraštutinių dešiniųjų reitingai nėra aukštesni nei 2014 metais, prieš įvykstant kruvinoms atakoms.

„Je suis Charlie“ protestų dvasia Prancūzijoje greitai išblėso, šalis grįžo prie įprasto gyvenimo ritmo.

F.Hollande'o reitingai po atakų prieš „Charlie Hebdo“ redakciją padvigubėjo, bet taip greitai susitraukė, kad jis nutarė 2017 metais nesiekti antrosios kadencijos.

Prancūzija prabėgus 5 metams po atakų išlieka tokia pat Prancūzija.

Lydi kraupūs prisiminimai

Teismo procesas atakos aukoms ramybės gali ir nesuteikti.

Georges'as Wolinski yra vis dar gyvas žmonos Maryse mintyse. Ant sienų ir lentynų tebestovi poros nuotraukos, kurias puošia užrašai „Labanakt, mano meile“.

Net ir praėjus 5 metams po išpuolio Maryse persekioja kraupūs prisiminimai.

„Mano gyvenimas buvo apverstas aukštyn kojomis.

Nebeliko žmogaus, kuris mane lydėjo 47 metus. Iš sielvarto susirgau vėžiu, nuolat sapnuoju košmarus. Kai kuriuose jų pati atsiduriu savo vyro vietoje ir išgyvenu paskutines jo gyvenimo akimirkas, kai į jį buvo nukreiptas automatas „Kalašnikov“, – tvirtina moteris.

Ji tikisi, kad teismo posėdžiai suteiks jai atsakymus į rūpimus klausimus.

„Aš turiu suprasti, kas dėjosi jo žudiko Ch.Kouachi mintyse.

Bet kokia informacija man gali padėti suprasti, ką išgyveno mano vyras prieš nužudymą“, – tvirtino Maryse.

Tačiau vargu ar lemtingų šūvių nepaleidusių asmenų teismas padės moteriai ir kitų aukų artimiesiems susitaikyti su netektimi.

Brėžti ribų negalima

Tuo metu dabartinė „Charlie Hebdo“ redakcija ir toliau ruošiasi kovoti už laisvą žodį ir saviraiškos teisę.

Satyrinis leidinys musulmonų nemalonę buvo užsitraukęs dar 2011 m., kai išleido pranašo Mahometo, kaip „redaktorius svečio teisėmis“, parengtą numerį, kuris išėjo pavadinimu „Sharia Hebdo“. Po šio numerio į leidinio redakciją buvo mesta padegamoji bomba.

2015 metais per ataką nužudytas tuometis „Charlie Hebdo“ redaktorius Stephane'as Charbonnier „Lietuvos rytui“ po incidento 2011 metais tvirtino, kad brėžti ribų karikatūristų kūryboje negalima.

„Vakarų šalių žiniasklaidoje įprastos karikatūros vienus juokina, kitus siutina, skatina protestuoti ar net griebtis smurto, bet abejingų nepalieka. Tik ar išties būtina brėžti ribą, ką galima pašiepti, o ko – ne?“ – kalbėjo S.Charbonnier.

Šis klausimas buvo aktualus 2011 metais ir 2015 metais, Prancūzijoje ir visoje Europoje jis išlieka aktualus ir dabar.

Po pandemijos teismai sugrįžta ir į kitas šalis

Pasauliui susigyvenus su koronaviruso pandemija tęsiamas ir kitų su žodžio laisvės klausimu susijusių bylų nagrinėjimas. Rugsėjo 3-iają buvo išteisintas slovaku verslininkas Marianas Kočneris ir jo bendrininkė Alena Zsuzsova, kurie buvo kaltinami užsakę žurnalisto Jano Kuciako nužudymą. M.Kočneriui buvo paskirta tik 5 tūkst. eurų bauda už nelegalių ginklų laikymą.

25 metų laisvės atėmimo bausmė buvo paskirta tik žmogžudystę įvykdžiusiam Tomui Szabo. Taip pat žmogžudystę įvykdęs Miroslavas Marčekas buvo nuteistas šių metų balandį. Jam paskirta 23 metų laisvės atėmimo bausmė.

Tiriamąją žurnalistiką užsiėmęs J.Kuciakas su sužadėtine buvo nušauti 2018 m. vasario 21-ąją. Jis ruošėsi atskleisti korupcijos schemą, į kurią buvo įsipainioję šalies politinis elitas, verslininkai ir Italijos mafija. Žmogžudystė Slovakijoje sukėlė didžiausius protestus nuo Aksominės revoliucijos laikų ir nuvertė premjerą Robertą Fico.

Aukų šeimos teismo salę paliko su ašaromis akyse ir tvirtino, kad kreipsis į Aukščiausiąjį teismą. Šis teismo sprendimas gali dar labiau padidinti slovakų nepasitikėjimą šalies teismų sistema.

Rugsėjo 7-ąją Jungtinėje Karalystėje prasidės ir „WikiLeaks“ įkūrėjo Juliano Assange'o teismas dėl ekstradicijos į Jungtines Valstijas. Amerikiečiai J.Assange'ui yra pareiškę kaltinimus dėl dalyvavimo įsilaužiant į slaptųjų tarnybų kompiuterius ir slaptų dokumentų pavišimo. Jam gali būti pareikšti ir kaltinimai šnipinėjimu.

49-erių J.Assange'ui byla anksčiau buvo iškelta ir Švedijoje – čia jam buvo pareikšti įtarimai išžaginus vieną moterį ir priekabiavus prie kitos. 2019-ųjų lapkritį tyrimas dėl išžaginimo Švedijoje buvo nutrauktas.

Šaltinis: 2020-09-07, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrtytas.lt>)

11) Laisvė buvusiam Prancūzijos prezidentui slysta iš po kojų: gresia 10 metų nelaisvės

Anksčiau prašmatniu gyvenimu garsėjusį buvusį Prancūzijos lyderį Nicolas Sarkozy pasivijo praeties negandos. Dabar 65-erių politikas susidūrė su rūsčia bedvasės teismo salės realybe.

N.Sarkozy kaltinamas korupcija ir prekyba poveikiu, nes siūlė kyši mainais už informaciją apie jo partijos finansavimo tyrimus.

2007–2012 m. šalį valdęs politikas šiuolaikinės Prancūzijos istorijoje tapo pirmuoju prezidentu, atsidūrusiu teisiamųjų suole dėl įtariamos korupcijos.

Anksčiau Prancūziją valdžiusiam Jacques'ui Chiracui 2011 m. buvo paskirta 2 metų lygtinė laisvės atėmimo bausmė už netinkamą valstybės lėšų panaudojimą ir piktnaudžiavimą visuomenės pasitikėjimu. Tačiau J.Chiracas dėl prastos sveikatos teisiamųjų suole nepasirodė ir neigė savo kaltę.

Nešvarus finansavimas

Prancūzijos teismo tyrėjai daugelį metų aiškinosi įtarimus dėl korupcinių N.Sarkozy veiksmų, kurie buvo atlikti rinkimų kampanijų metu ir einant pareigas. Pastaruosius 6 metus N.Sarkozy aršiai kovojo, kad byla nebebūtų nagrinėjama. Jis tvirtino, kad šis skandalas paskęs istorijos vingiuose.

„Aš nesu sukčius“, – šį mėnesį Prancūzijos televizijai BFM TV tikino N.Sarkozy.

Prokurorai tvirtina, jog N.Sarkozy žadėjo vienam teisėjui darbą Monake mainais į viešai neatskleistą informaciją apie bylą, kurioje buvo tiriami teiginiai, kad politikas 2007 metų rinkimų kampanijos metu priėmė neteisėtas „L'Oreal“ kompanijos įkūrėjo dukters Liliane Bettencourt aukas.

Ši byla grindžiama slapto telefono pokalbių tarp N.Sarkozy ir ilgamečio jo advokato Thierry Herzogo pasiklausymu.

Teisėjai leido klausytis N.Sarkozy telefono pokalbių tirdami įtariamą tuometinio Libijos režimo finansavimą 2007 m. N.Sarkozy rinkimų kampanijai.

Tyrimas dėl iš Libijos režimo gautų lėšų tebevyksta, bet šį mėnesį N.Sarkozy pavyko lengviau atsikvėpti, nes pagrindinis jo kaltintojas, Prancūzijos ir Libano verslininkas Ziadas Takieddine'as, atsiėmė savo liudijimą, kad pristatė būsimam prezidentui milijonus iš Libijos diktatoriaus Muammaro al-Gaddafi.

Užteko tik pažadėti

N.Sarkozy ir Th.Herzogas tvirtina, kad pokalbių klausymasis pažeidė privataus ryšio tarp kaltinamojo ir jo advokato išlaikymo teisę, tačiau 2016 m. Prancūzijos teismai nusprendė, jog šie pokalbiai gali būti naudojami kaip įrodymas korupcijos byloje.

Prekybos poveikiu bylą nagrinėję tyrėjai tvirtina, kad N.Sarkozy mėgino bendrauti su savo advokatu nusipirkęs privatų telefoną, o skambindamas prisistatydavo Paulu Bismuthu.

Dešimties pokalbių metu N.Sarkozy ir jo advokatas kalbėjo apie tai, kad reikia susisiekti su kasacinio teismo generaliniu patarėju Gilbert'u Azibert'u, kuris mainais į pareigas Monake turėjo suteikti buvusiam prezidentui informaciją apie jam iškeltą bylą.

„G.Azibert'as negavo jokių pareigų Monake“, – BFM TV kalbėjo N.Sarkozy, tačiau, pagal Prancūzijos įstatymus, ir pažado užtenka, kad būtų pareikšti kaltinimai korupcija.

Gresia laisvės atėmimas

Teisės mokslus baigęs N.Sarkozy tvirtina, kad Prancūzijos teismai kerštauja jam dėl mėginimų savo valdymo metu sumažinti teisėjų galias.

„Aš esu kovingas ir neketinu būti apkaltintas tuo, ko nepadariau. Aš nesu korumpuotas. Greitai išaiškės tiesa“, – kalbėjo N.Sarkozy.

Jeigu bus pripažintas kaltu, buvusiam prezidentui N.Sarkozy gresia laisvės atėmimas iki 10 metų ir milijoną eurų galinti siekti bauda. Byla turėtų būti baigta nagrinėti gruodžio 10 dieną.

Tačiau tai nėra vienintelis tyrimas, kuriame figūruoja buvusio prezidento pavardė. Tiriamas ir lėšų panaudojimas 2012 m. rinkimų kampanijos metu.

Manoma, kad politiko komanda klastojo sąskaitas faktūras ir rinkimų kampanijos metu išleido beveik 43 mln. eurų – beveik dvigubai daugiau, nei leidžia įstatymai.

Šaltinis: 2020-11-28, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrtytas.lt>)

12) Teroro išpuolį Vienoje išgyvenę žmonės: „Jis bėgo link žmonių su ginklu rankoje“

Pirmadienį Austrijos sostinę Vieną sukrėtė teroristinė ataka. Pranešama, kad žuvo 5 žmonės, o 16 sužeistųjų gydoma ligoninėse. Kai kurių nukentėjusiųjų būklė yra sunki.

Užpuolikas, kurį nušovė policija, buvo ginkluotas automatiniu šaunamuoju ginklu, pistoletu ir mačete. Policija dar nepatvirtino jo tapatybės.

Šaudynės surengtos netoli centrinės Vienos sinagogos, bet kol kas neaišku, ar ji buvo išpuolio taikinis. Žydų bendruomenės vadovas Oskaras Deuschas tviteryje rašė, kad atakos metu sinagoga buvo uždaryta.

Remiantis BBC pranešimais, smarkiai ginkluoti vyrai pirmadienį apie 20.00 val. vietos laiku pradėjo šaudyti šešiose skirtingose vietose Vienos centre. Ginkluoti užpuolikai pradėjo šaudyti į žmones kavinėse ir restoranuose.

Nežinoma, kiek užpuolikų iš viso dalyvavo šaudynėse. Kaip praneša Austrijos žiniasklaida, sulaikytas vienas asmuo.

Pasak Austrijos kanclerio Sebastiano Kurzo, užpuolikai buvo „labai profesionaliai pasiruošę“ išpuoliui ir buvo gerai ginkluoti. S. Kurzas teigia, kad ataka neabejotinai yra teroristinio pobūdžio, bet motyvas kol kas neaiškus.

Išpuolį stebėjo iš savo namų

Rabinas Schlomo Hofmeisteris portalui CNN pasakojo, kad savo akimis matė teroristą, bėgantį į barus ir šaudantį.

„Jis bėgo link žmonių su ginklu rankoje“, – sakė jis. S.Hofmeisteris pasakojo, kad šaudynės įvyko netoli jo namų, iš kurių jis ir stebėjo ataką.

„Jis bėgiojo pirmyn ir atgal, o tuomet įbėgo į barus ir aš išgirdau, kaip juose yra šaudoma, – teigė rabinas. – Po 15 ar 20 minučių išgirdau šūvius kitoje vietoje, kažkur toliau.“

Pirmadienio vakaras Vienoje buvo šiltas, todėl daugelis žmonių išėjo į miestą pasimėgauti paskutinėmis valandomis prieš visuotinį karantiną, kuris įsigaliojo tą naktį.

S.Hofmeisteris sakė, kad užpuolikas atrodė kaip treniruotas profesionalas.

„Jis neatrodė išsiblaškęs, jis nešaudė visur ir bet kur – jis žinojo savo taikinius ir buvo koordinuotas, lyg kovotojas“, – pasakojo jis.

Rabinas teigia, kad kol kas negalima atmesti versijos, kad pagrindinis taikinis buvo netoliese esanti sinagoga, tačiau tuo paros metu maldos namuose nieko nevyko – pastatas buvo uždarytas ir saugomas signalizacijos.

„Sinagoga yra populiariame naktinio gyvenimo rajone, – kalbėjo S.Hofmeisteris. – Žmonės, kurie buvo šioje vietoje, buvo barų ir užėigų lankytojai.“

Mieste būriavosi šimtai žmonių

Tuo metu 42-erį Jimmy Eroglu, kuris pirmadienio vakarą savo kavinėje aptarnavo stalelius, buvo šokiruotas išvydęs žmones, netikėtai pradėjusius bėgti į vidų.

„Mano svečiai buvo lauke ir netikėtai ėmė brautis į vidų, todėl išėjau pažiūrėti kas vyksta ir ėmiau apie tai klausinėti žmonių. Jie man pasakė, kad kažkas šaudė“, – pasakojo vyras.

J.Eroglu teigia, kad jis iškišo galvą per duris ir išgirdo mažiausiai 15 šūvių.

„Aš vis dar negaliu tuo patikėti, – kalbėjo vyras. – Mes visi buvome išsigandę dėl savo gyvybių.“

Kavinės savininkas pasakojo, kad užrakino duris ir liepė visiems likti viduje. Po maždaug 3 minučių atvyko policija.

„Tai yra dalykai, kuriuos regime JAV, Irake ar Afganistane, tačiau tikrai ne Austrijoje“, – sakė J.Eroglu.

Prasidėjus atakai, Vienos gyventoja Julia Hiermann ir jos draugai restorane mėgavosi gėrimais. Moteris pasakojo, kad prieš įsigaliojant karantinui, jie norėjo pasinaudoti paskutine naktimi.

Tačiau jų vakaras gana greit buvo sugadintas. Prasidėjus šaudynėms, restorano darbuotojai liepė visiems pasislėpti rūsyje.

„Visi nubėgome į apačią ir tik tada supratome, kas vyksta“, – kalbėjo J.Hiermann. Ji teigė, kad nubėgus į rūšį jiems buvo pranešta, kad lauke šaudoma, tačiau ji pati nematė ir negirdėjo užpuoliko.

„Kiek vėliau į vidų atėjo policija ir pranešė, kad turime dar šiek tiek palaukti, – pasakojo moteris. – Tai atrodo nesuvokiama. Kai mums pasakė apie šaudynes, negalėjau patikėti, kad visa tai išties vyksta.“

Ginklų įstatymai – ne tokie griežti

Daugeliui vaizdai, kuriuose vyrai Europos sostinės gatvėmis vaikšto rankose laikydami pusiau automatinius ginklus, gali sukelti daug klausimų apie tai, kaip jiems pavyko šiuos ginklus įsigyti.

Tačiau remiantis stebėjimo grupės GunPolicy.org duomenimis, Austrijoje galioja vieni iš lengviausių ginklų įstatymų Europoje.

Privatiems asmenims ginklus įsigyti leidžiama dėl įvairių priežasčių, įskaitant saviginą. Žmonės, turintys licenciją, gali turėti net ir tam tikrų tipų pusiau automatinius ginklus. Kandidatai, norintys įsigyti ginklą, privalo išlaikyti asmens patikrinimą.

Ženevoje įsikūrusios tyrimų grupės „Small Arms Survey“ duomenimis, Austrija yra 12 šalis pasaulyje pagal ginkluotumą. 100-ai žmonių tenka apie 30 ginklų, panašiai kaip ir Libane bei Islandijoje.

Palyginimui, JAV 100-ai gyventojų atitenka 120 ginklų, o labiausiai ginkluotoje Europos šalyje Makedonijoje – 39,1 ginklo.

Šaltinis: 2020-11-04, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrtytas.lt>)

13) Išpuolis Nicoje: peiliu ginkluotas vyras prie bažnyčios nužudė tris žmones

Nicos policijos pareigūnai sulaikė asmenį, ketvirtadienio rytą prie vienos šio pietinio Prancūzijos miesto bažnyčios peiliu užpuolusį žmones, pranešė leidinys „Nice-Matin“ ir pareigūnai.

Per teroro ataką žuvo trys žmonės. Kaip pranešama, vienai iš aukų užpuolikas perrėžė gerklę.

Dar keli žmonės buvo sužeisti, sako pareigūnai.

Įtariamą užpuoliką netrukus, apie 9 val. vietos (10 val. Lietuvos) laiku, sulaikė saugumo pajėgos, sakė šaltinis policijoje.

Prancūzų kovos su terorizmu prokuratūra pradėjo tyrimą dėl šio įvykio, kurį Nicos meras Christianas Estrosi pavadino „islamofašistine ataka“.

„Jis (užpuolikas) kartojo „Allahu Akbar“ (Dievas visų didesnis), net ir po to, kai buvo sužeistas“, – žurnalistams įvykio vietoje pasakojo meras.

Dvi užpuoliko aukos mirė Dievo Motinos bazilikoje, esančioje šio Viduržemio jūros pakrantės miesto širdyje. Trečia auka nuo patirtų sužalojimų mirė šalimais esančiame bare, kur pasislėpė po išpuolio, sakė šaltinis policijoje.

„Dabar padėtis kontroliuojama“, – nurodė policijos atstovė Florence Gavello.

Nuo 2015 metų sausio kruvinos atakos satyrinio savaitraščio „Charlie Hebdo“ redakcijoje Prancūzijoje galioja aukšto laipsnio parengtis dėl galimų teroristinių išpuolių. Šiuo metu Paryžiuje vyksta 2015-ųjų atakos vykdytojo įtariamų bendrininkų teismas.

Nicoje vis dar gyvi skausmingi prisiminimai apie džihadisto ataką, surengtą 2016 metų liepos 14-ąją, šaliai švenčiant Bastilijos paėmimo dieną. Tąsyk užpuolikas, nukreipęs į minią sunkvežimį, nužudė 86 žmones.

Nuo 2015 metų per džihadistų išpuolius Prancūzijos teritorijoje, kuriuos dažnai įvykdo vadinamieji vieniši vilkai, jau žuvo daugiau kaip 250 žmonių.

Po ketvirtadienio atakos parlamentarai tylos minute pagerbė jos aukas, o premjeras Jeanas Castexas ir kiti ministrai išvyko į skubiai surengtą susitikimą su prezidentu Emmanueliu Macronu.

Pranešęs, kad E. Macronas netrukus atvyks į Nica, miesto meras Ch. Estrosi paragino visoje šalyje sustiprinti bažnyčių apsaugą arba uždaryti jas atsargumo sumetimais.

Tvyranti įtampa

Naujausias išpuolis surengtas praėjus kelioms dienoms po to, kai tūkstančiai žmonių visoje Prancūzijoje išėjo į gatves pagerbti mokytojo, kuris buvo brutaliai nužudytas už tai, kad per pamoką parodė savo mokiniams pranašą Muhammadą vaizduojančių karikatūrų.

Spalio 16 dieną Paryžiaus priemiestyje Konflan Sent Honorine jaunas čečėnas Abdullakh Anzorovas nupjovė galvą istorijos, geografijos ir pilietinio ugdymo mokytojui Samueliui Paty.

Kelios dienos iki nužudymo S. Paty savo mokiniams kaip saviraiškos laisvės pavyzdį rodė pranašą Muhammadą vaizduojančias karikatūras. Tai išprovokavo pasipiktinimo bangą tarp vietos islamistų.

Mokytoją nužudęs 18-metis čečėnų kilmės imigrantas iš Rusijos A. Anzorovas netrukus po išpuolio buvo nušautas policijos.

Po S. Paty nužudymo E. Macronas pažadėjo imtis griežtų veiksmų prieš islamo ekstremizmą, įskaitant mečečių uždarymą ir organizacijų, kurstančių islamiškąjį radikalizmą ir smurtą, uždraudimą.

Tačiau griežta prezidento pozicija sukėlė pasipiktinimo bangą tarp musulmonų. Daugelis jų sako, kad E. Macronas neteisingai puola Prancūzijos musulmonų bendruomenę, kuri turi 5–6 mln. narių ir yra didžiausia Europoje.

Keliose musulmoniškose šalyse kilo protestų prieš Prancūziją banga ir pasigirdo raginimų boikotuoti prancūziškas prekes. Prie jų prisijungė ir Turkijos prezidentas Recepas Tayyipas Erdoganas, pareiškęs, kad Prancūzijos lyderiui vertėtų „pasitikrinti psichiką“ dėl jo aštrios retorikos apie radikalų islamą.

Turkija pasmerkė „žiaurų“ išpuolį Prancūzijos Nicos mieste. Spėjama islamistinė ataka Dievo Motinos bazilikoje prieštarauja visoms „religinėms, žmogiškosioms ar moralinėms vertybėms“, pareiškė Turkijos užsienio reikalų ministerija.

Turkijos prezidentas Recepas Tayyipas Erdoganas dar pirmadienį ragino boikotuoti prancūziškas prekes ir apkaltino prezidentą Emmanuelį Macroną vykdant „neapykantos kampaniją“ prieš islamą. R. T. Erdoganas rekomendavo E. Macronui pasitikrinti „savo psichiką“.

Šaltinis: 2020-10-29, „Kauno diena“ (<https://kauno.diena.lt>)

14) Teroristinis išpuolis Prancūzijoje: mokytoją dėl Mahometo karikatūrų galimai nužudė 18-metis

Netoli Paryžiaus penktadienio vakarą rastas žmogaus kūnas be galvos. Paaiškėjo, kad tai buvo istorijos mokytojas, mokiniams rodęs musulmonų pranašo Mahometo karikatūras. Prezidentas Emmanuelis Macronas nužudymą pavadino „islamistiniu teroro išpuoliu“.

Nusikaltimas, kurio aplinkybės išlieka neaiškios, įvykdytas šalia vienos mokyklos ramiame Paryžiaus priemiestyje.

Policija čia atvyko sulaukusi iškviatimo dėl įtartino peiliu ginkluoto vyro. Pasirodžius pareigūnams, šis priešinosi ir buvo nukautas, o netoli įvykio vietos rastas kito žmogaus kūnas.

Prokurorų teigimu, tai buvo 47 metų istorijos ir geografijos mokytojas, kuris galėjo būti nužudytas dėl to, kad savo mokiniams rodė musulmonų pranašo Mahometo karikatūras.

„Teroristas puolė Respublikos vertybes, galimybę mūsų vaikams užaugti laisvais piliečiais“, – penktadienio vakarą apsilankęs nusikaltimo vietoje sakė prezidentas Emmanuelis Macronas.

Pasak LRT Radijo bendradarbės Paryžiuje Godos Klimavičiūtės, nužudytas geografijos ir istorijos mokytojas taip pat dėstė pilietiškumą.

„Jis turėjo pamoką, kurioje vaikams pasakojo apie žodžio laisvę, rodydamas jiems pranašo Mahometo karikatūras“, – sakė LRT Radijo bendradarbė.

Visgi, anot jos, ne visiems mokinių tėvams tai patiko.

„Mokiniai buvo maždaug trylikos metų, o vienoje karikatūroje Mahometas buvo pavaizduotas nuogas“, – LRT Radijui pasakojo G. Klimavičiūtė.

Įtariamasis prancūzų mokytojo nužudymu – čečėnų kilmės 18-metis

Šeštadienio naktį taip pat pranešta, jog Prancūzijos pareigūnai sulaikė keturis asmenis, vienas jų – nepilnametis.

Vyras, įtariamasis nukirtęs galvą prancūzų mokytojui, kuris mokiniams neseniai buvo parodęs pranašo Mohammedo karikatūras, buvo 18-metis, gimęs Maskvoje ir kilęs iš Rusijos Čečėnijos regiono, šeštadienį pranešė naujienų agentūros AFP teisminis šaltinis.

Dėl šio penktadienį Paryžiaus priemiestyje įvykdyto nužudymo buvo suimti dar penki žmonės, įskaitant vieno mokyklos, kurioje dirbo mokytojas, moksleivio tėvus, taigi bendras sulaikytųjų skaičius padidėjo iki devynių, pranešė šaltinis, prašęs nenurodyti jo vardo.

Pasak šaltinio, du suimti tėvai buvo davę suprasti, jog nesutinka su mokytojo sprendimu parodyti karikatūras.

Kiti nauji apklausai sulaikyti asmenys priklauso įtariamąjį socialiniam ratui, bet nėra jo šeimos nariai.

Užpuoliką pašovė policija ir vėliau jis mirė nuo patirtų sužalojimų.

Kad įtariamasis žudikas gimė Maskvoje 2002 metais kiek anksčiau pranešė ir televizija BFMTV, remdamasi savo šaltiniais. Televizijos duomenimis, 18-metis nebuvo patekęs nei į policijos, nei į specialiosios kovos su terorizmu tarnybos akiratį.

Europos Komisijos pirmininkė išreiškė užuojautą

Pasak AFP šaltinio policijoje, pareigūnų apsuptas užpuolikas šaukė „Allahu Akbar“ (Dievas visų didesnis). Šie žodžiai dažnai pasigirsta per džihadistų atakas.

Vienas tyrimui artimas šaltinis sakė, jog anksčiau nepastebėta jokių požymių, kad įtariamasis gali būti radikalių pažiūrų.

Prancūzų kovos su terorizmu prokurorai nurodė, kad nusikaltimą tiria kaip „žmogžudystę, susijusią su teroristine organizacija“.

Policija nurodė tirianti žinutę tviteryje, paskelbtą iš dabar jau uždarytos paskyros, kurioje buvo nužudyto mokytojo galvos nuotrauka.

Kol kas neaišku, ar tą žinutę, kurioje taip pat buvo grasinama Prancūzijos prezidentui E. Macronui, pavadinant jį „netikėlių lyderiu“, paskelbė užpuolikas.

Incidentu vietoje apsilankęs E. Macronas pareiškė, jog mokytojo nužudymui yra būdingi „islamistų teroristinio išpuolio“ bruožai.

Akivaizdžiai sukrėstas prezidentas žurnalistams taip pat pareiškė, jog „visa tauta“ yra pasirengusi ginti mokytojus, ir pridūrė, jog „tamsuoliškumas nenugalės“.

Eliziejaus rūmai šeštadienį paskelbė, kad bus surengtas „nacionalinis“ S. Paty pagerbimas, bet datos nenurodė.

Europos Komisijos pirmininkė Ursula von der Leyen išreiškė užuojautą nužudyto mokytojo šeimai ir Prancūzijos žmonėms.

„Taip pat galvoju apie mokytojus, Prancūzijoje ir visoje Europoje. Be jų nėra piliečių. Be jų nėra demokratijos“, – tviteryje prancūziškai parašė ji.

Prieš parodydamas karikatūras paprašė išeiti iš klasės

Nužudyto mokytojo mokinių tėvai ir mokytojai reiškė pagarbą S. Paty, kuris buvo labai mėgstamas ir pats turėjo vaikų. Teigiama, kad jis ėjo penktą dešimtį metų.

„Kaip sako mano sūnus, jis buvo supergeras, superdraugiškas, supermalonus“, – AFP sakė Nordine'as Chaouadi.

„Šiandien jį [mokytoją] mačiau, jis atėjo į mano klasę pas mūsų mokytoją. Sukrečia, kad daugiau jo nebepamatysiu“, – sakė šeštos klasės mokinys Tiago (Tiagas).

"[Mokytojas] paprasčiausiai pasakė vaikams musulmonams: „Išeikite, nenoriu užgauti jūsų jausmų.“ Štai ką man pasakė sūnus“, – sakė N. Chaouadi.

Pasak šaltinių, tarp sulaikytųjų yra vienas tėvas, socialinėje žiniasklaidoje paskelbęs vaizdo įrašą, kuriame sako, kad jį šokiravo sprendimas jo dukters klasėje parodyti „nuogo“ pranašo karikatūras.

Moksleivių tėvų asociacijos FCPE vadovas Rodrigo Arenas sakė, kad buvo gautas vieno „labai susijaudinusio“ tėvo skundas.

Tačiau R. Arenas pažymėjo, kad mokytojas prieš parodydamas karikatūras paprašė moksleivių musulmonų išeiti iš klasės, jei jie to nori.

Policija į įvykio vietą atvyko gavusi pranešimą apie įtartina asmenį, slampinėjantį šalia mokyklos, pranešė policijos šaltinis.

Ten pareigūnai aptiko negyvą vyrą, o maždaug už 200 metrų pastebėjo įtariamąjį, ginkluotą į peilį panašiu daiktu. Tas asmuo grasino policininkams.

Pareigūnai pradėjo šaudyti ir jį sužeidė, o vėliau jis nuo patirtų sužeidimų mirė.

Nužudymas siejamas su teroristine organizacija

Nusikaltimas įvykdytas tuo metu, kai Prancūzijoje vyksta teismas dėl 2015 metų išpuolio prieš satyrinį žurnalą „Charlie Hebdo“, kuris taip pat yra žinomas dėl Mahometo karikatūrų.

Keliomis savaitėmis anksčiau kitas užpuolikas prie buvusios leidinio redakcijos Paryžiuje sužalojo du žmones, klaidingai manydamas, kad jie ten dirbo.

Gruputė „Al-Qaeda“ yra pagrasinusi surengti naujas žudynes prieš „Charlie Hebdo“.

Komentuodami penktadienio išpuolį, prokurorai patvirtino, kad mokytojo nužudymas siejamas su teroristine organizacija, tačiau kuria tiksliai neatskleidė.

Reaguodamas į susidariusią situaciją, vidaus reikalų ministras Geraldis Darmaninas nedelsdamas nutraukė vizitą Maroke ir grįš į Paryžių.

Šaltinis: 2020-10-16, „LRT“ (<https://lrt.lt>)

15) Neįtikėtina drąsa: ligoninėje siaučiant gaisrui, chirurgams pavyko atlikti širdies operaciją

Tolimuosiuose Rusijos rytuose chirurgai sėkmingai atliko atvirą širdies operaciją nors ligoninėje buvo kilęs milžiniškas gaisras.

Manoma, kad ugnį sukėlė elektros problemos. Regiono pareigūnai teigia, kad gaisras penktadienį kilo Blagovečensko miesto širdies chirurgijos centre.

Maždaug 120 darbuotojų ir pacientų buvo evakuoti, kai liepsnos išplito ant 1600 kv. metrų ploto pastato stogo.

Aštuonių chirurgų komanda, kuri jau buvo pradėjusi operuoti savo pacientą, liko pirmame aukšte esančioje operacinėje ir tęsė operaciją, kuri negalėjo būti nutraukta anksčiau.

„Turėjome išgelbėti šį žmogų ir padarėme viską“, – interviu valstybinei televizijai sakė kardiouchirurgijos skyriaus vadovas Valentinas Filatovas.

Kaip pranešė Nepaprastųjų situacijų ministerijos Amūro srities skyrius, elektra operacinei buvo tiekama atskiru kabeliu, o ugniagesiai užtikrino, kad dūmai neplistų į patalpas.

Operacija baigėsi sėkmingai, o chirurgai ir jų pacientas buvo evakuoti iš pastato. Pacientas tuomet buvo perkeltas į regioninę ligoninę, jo būklė – stabili.

Pranešama, kad gaisras buvo sėkmingai suvaldytas.

Šaltinis: 2021-04-02 „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

16) Nigerijos šiaurės vakaruose ginkluota gauja pagrobė tris pradinės mokyklos mokytojus

Nigerijos šiaurės vakarinėje Kadūnos valstijoje pirmadienį ginkluoti užpuolikai pagrobė tris pradinės mokyklos mokytojus, pranešė vyriausybė.

Šiame regione klesti banditizmas ir dažnai grobiami žmonės.

Šis incidentas yra naujusias iš virtualios panašių išpuolių prieš mokyklas Nigerijoje. Vos prieš penkias dienas iš vienos kolegijos Kadūnos valstijoje užpuolikų gauja pagrobė 39 studentus.

Kadūnos vidaus reikalų komisaras Samuelis Aruwanas išplatintame pranešime nurodė, kad trys mokytojai pirmadienį ryte buvo pagrobti iš Remos pradinės mokyklos Birnin Gvaryje. Incidentas įvyko, kai mokiniai jau buvo susirinkę į klases.

Vyriausybė „gali patvirtinti, kad trys mokytojai – Rabiū Salisu, Umaras Hassanas ir Bala Adamu – buvo pagrobti“, sakė S. Aruwanas.

Anot jo, kai motociklais atvažiavę banditai įsiveržė į mokyklos pastatą, kilo sambrūzdis ir mokiniai puolė bėgti. Vėliau buvo pasigesta dviejų mokinių, tačiau juos pavyko rasti.

„Iš mokyklos nebuvo pagrobtas nė vienas mokinys. Be minėtų trijų mokytojų, daugiau darbuotojų ar moksleivių nedingo“, – pridūrė komisaras.

Anksčiau S. Aruwanas buvo pranešęs, kad užpuolikai pagrobė neįvardytą skaičių mokyklos mokinių ir mokytojų.

Kol kas nežinoma, kiek tiksliai mokinių mokosi šioje mokykloje. Nigerijos pradinėse mokyklose paprastai mokosi 6–11 metų amžiaus vaikai.

Šiaurės vakarų ir vidurio Nigerijoje aktyviai veikiančios gerai ginkluotos nusikalstamos gaujos pastaruosiu metu nusitaikė į švietimo įstaigas. Jos grobia studentus ar moksleivius ir reikalauja už juos išpirkos.

Nuo gruodžio mėnesio įvyko mažiausiai keturi tokie pagrobimai.

Praėjusį ketvirtadienį banditai pagrobė 39 studentus iš kolegijos bendrabučių valstijos sostinės Kadūnos priemiestyje.

Pirmadienį valdžia visiškai uždarė šią kolegiją ir namo išsiuntė 180 išsigelbėjusių jos studentų bei mokytojų.

„Vakar su kariuomenės apsauga mes sugražinome studentus į kolegiją, kad jie galėtų pasiimti savo asmeninius daiktus, o po to perdavėme juos jų tėvams“, – sakė Kadūnos valstijos nepaprastųjų situacijų agentūros (SEMA) vadovas Abubakaras Hassanas naujienų agentūrai AFP.

„Tėvai prašė, kad atiduotume studentus jiems. Jie galėjo būti paleisti anksčiau, bet mums reikėjo padėti jiems įveikti patirtą traumą ir sugražinti jiems tam tikrą ramybę“, – pridūrė jis.

Praėjusį savaitgalį saugumo pajėgos išardė nusikalstamą gaują, kurios nariai buvo įsiveržę į vidurinę mokyklą Ikaroje, sekmadienį nurodė S. Aruwanas.

Šaltinis: 2021-03-16, „DELFI žinios“ (<https://delfi.lt>)

17) Žemės drebėjimo Kalifornijoje padariniai: sukrėsti gyventojai naktimis bijo eiti miegoti

Ridžkrestas – miestas Kalifornijos dykumoje, kuriame gyvena apie 28 tūkst. žmonių. Šio miesto gyventojai yra pripratę prie žemės drebėjimų – nedideli žemės drebėjimai jame yra tokie dažni, kad

Ridžkrestas anksčiau vadintas pasaulio žemės drebėjimų sostine. Tačiau penktadienio drebėjimas miestui buvo ypatingas, rašo CNN.

„Nepatyrėme nieko panašaus“

Vietos gyventojas Jasonas Corona, kuriam priklauso meksikietišku patiekalų restoranas mieste, CNN sakė, kad iš pradžių virpesiai neatrodė išskirtiniai palyginti su tais, prie kurių gyventojai pripratę.

„Viskas prasidėjo lengvai. Bet kai prasidėjo staigūs smūgiai, visi pradėjo panikuoti. Buvo kitaip negu per drebėjimus, kuriuos patyrėme anksčiau. Buteliai krito nuo baro, svečiai slėpėsi ant grindų po stalais, o dėl išsilaisčiusių lėkščių grindys pasidarė slidžios ir žmonėms, norėjusiems išbėgti į lauką, tai padaryti buvo sunku“, – pasakojo J. Corona.

Jo teigimu, Ridžkresto gyventojus žemės drebėjimas sukrėtė. „Mes niekada nepatyrėme nieko panašaus. Jau kelias naktis mūsų mieste niekas nemiega“, – pasakojo amerikietis.

„Lauke jaučiausi saugiau“

Žemės drebėjimo epicentras buvo apie 18 km į šiaurės rytus nuo Ridžkresto. Jo metu išsiveržusios energijos kiekis buvo maždaug 11 kartų didesnis negu per ketvirtadienio drebėjimą, sakė CNN meteorologas Brandonas Milleris.

Drebėjimo metu svyravo pastatai, gatvėse atsirado įskilimų, pamatuose taip pat. Todėl daug išsigandusių gyventojų skubėjo išeiti iš namų į gatves.

Ridžkresto gyventoja Jaye Krona pasakojo, kad jausmas žemės drebėjimo metu buvo tarsi „jos supamoji kėdė būtų išprotėjusi“. Jos teigimu, atsistojus išlaikyti pusiausvyros nenugriuvus buvo tiesiog neįmanoma, tad judėti per žemės drebėjimą ji galėjo tik ropodama.

J. Krona ir jos draugė Kelly-Jo Lewis visą naktį praleido lauke prie K.J. Lewis namų.

„Viskas drebėjo, daiktai krito ant žemės, nesijautėme saugiai. Aš saugiau jaučiausi lauke, ir jaučiau, kad aš ir ji esame saugesnės, kol esame kartu“, – sakė K.J. Lewis.

Daug pakartotinių smūgių

Kaip skelbia JAV geologijos tarnybos puslapis, nuo penktadienio regionas, kuriame yra Ridžkrestas, vis dar patiria lengvesnius pakartotinius smūgius – vidutiniškai po vieną per minutę.

Iš viso šis regionas nuo ketvirtadienio patyrė beveik penkis tūkstančius smūgių. Iš jų bent trys tūkstančiai buvo bent jau 1 balo stiprumo.

Po penktadienio 7,1 balo stiprumo žemės drebėjimo per valandą įvyko dar trys smūgiai, kurių stiprumas siekė bent 5 balus.

Dėl dujų nuotėkio Ridžkreste kilo gaisrai, gyventojai pranešė apie trūkusią kanalizaciją, kai kuriuose regionuose dingo elektra, telefono ir interneto ryšys.

Buvo pranešta ir apie kelis sužeistus gyventojus, nors aukų ar sunkiai sužeistų asmenų, esamais duomenimis, nebuvo. Ridžkreste buvo pranešta apie du įsilaužimo į namus atvejus.

Maždaug 130 gyventojų iš Beikersfildo ir Tronos miestelių netoli Ridžkresto buvo apgyvendinti laikinose prieglaudose.

Trona, kurioje gyvena apie 2 tūkstančius žmonių, liko be elektros ir vandens. Penktadienį elektros tinklų darbuotojams pradėjus atkūrinėti elektros tiekimą, nauji smūgiai vėl jį nutraukė.

Kalifornijos gubernatorius Gavinas Newsomas ketvirtadienį paskelbė nepaprastą padėtį Kerno apygardoje, o penktadienį – San Bernardine.

G.Newsomas taip pat paprašė JAV prezidento Donaldą Trumpą, kad šis irgi paskelbtų nepaprastą padėtį ir skirtų pagalbą. Šeštadienį šį prašymą D.Trumpas patenkino.

„Visų Kalifornijos gyventojų vardu siūlau savo nuoširdžią paramą visiems, kuriuos paveikė žemės drebėjimas Ridžkreste“, – šeštadienį sakė G.Newsomas.

Nukentėjo JAV karinė bazė

Netoli Ridžkresto yra įsikūrusi ir JAV karinė bazė, kur vyksta ginkluotės bandymai. Ši bazė savo „Facebook“ puslapyje pranešė, kad jos „infrastruktūra“ drebėjimų metu buvo pažeista.

Karinės bazės „Facebook“ puslapis taip pat pranešė, kad kol kas bazė negali vykdyti savo veiklos, tačiau visos saugumo taisyklės lieka galioti.

Bazė taip pat paskelbė, kad visas būtinųjų funkcijų neatliekantis jos personalas ir pagalbinais darbuotojai gali evakuotis.

Karinė bazė, priklausanti JAV karo laivynui, yra didžiausia žemyninė bazė visose JAV – ji Kerno, San Bernardino ir Inijo apygardose užima beveik 4 500 kvadratinį kilometrų plotą.

Smūgiai jautėsi ir toliau

Los Andžele, kuris įsikūręs maždaug 240 km į pietus nuo Ridžkresto, gyventojai jautė smūgius, tačiau žalos jie nepadarė.

Pasak miesto mero Erico Garcetti, Los Andželo apygardos priešgaisrinės apsaugos departamentas jokios esminės žalos infrastruktūrai, mirčių ar sunkių sužeidimų neužfiksavo, bet kai kuriose vietose nutrūko laidai ir kai kur dingo elektra.

Penktadienio virpesius jausti galima buvo netgi Meksikoje ir Las Vegase. Penktadienį vykusios NBA vasaros lygos rungtynės, kuriose žaidė „New Orleans Pelicans“ ir „New York Knicks“, buvo nutraukta dėl žemės drebėjimo. Šias rungtynes stebėjo 15min žurnalistas, jo įspūdžius skaitykite čia.

Šeštadienį JAV seismologai prognozavo, kad tikimybė, kad artimiausiu metu bus naujų smūgių, kurių stiprumas sieks 7 balus ar daugiau, yra apie 3 proc.

Tačiau tikimybė, kad dar bus smūgių, kurių stiprumas sieks 3 balus ar daugiau, viršija 99 proc. Tad vietiniai gyventojai jaustis ramiai dar negali.

Šaltinis: 2019-07-07, „15min“ (<https://15min.lt>)

18) Skurdžios šalies gyventojai apgaule tapo COVID-19 vakcinoms bandomaisiais triušiais

Į centrinės Indijos miesto Bopalo lūšnynų kvartalą atvyko baltas autobusiukas. Per garsiakalbius buvo skelbiamas pasiūlymas, kurio būtų kvaila atsisakyti: „Ateikite ir būsite paskiepyti nuo koronaviruso ir gausite 750 rupijų (8,44 euro)“.

Vietiniai prisimena, kad kai gruodį išgirdo šią žinią, karštligiškai stengėsi pasinaudoti pasiūlymu. 750 rupijų yra dvigubai didesnė suma, nei šalyje galima uždirbti už dieną sunkaus darbo. Be to, daugybė žmonių negavo jokio darbo per pandemiją.

„Jie mums sakė, kad tai skiepai nuo koronaviruso ir kad turėtume pasiskiepyti, kad nesusirgtume“, – pasakoja namų šeimininkė iš Bopalo Yashoda Bai Yadav. Ji dalyvavo bandymuose kartu su vyru.

Žmonės pasakoja, kad vėliau iš vietinių aktyvistų sužinojo, kad jiems nebuvo suleista patvirtinta vakcina ir kad jie iš tiesų ne savo noru sudalyvavo klinikiniame indiškos „Covaxin“ trečiosios fazės tyrime. Tik pusė dalyvių apskritai gavo vakciną – kitai pusei buvo suleistas placebo.

Placebas yra įprastas dalykas klinikiniuose tyrimuose, tačiau dauguma dalyvių šiame bandyme Bopalo lūšnyne to nežinojo. Viena iš dalyvių, vardu Radha Aherwar apie tai, kad galėjo gauti placebo, sužinojo tik kalbėdamasi su CNN žurnalistais.

„Nežinojau, kad jie gali tau suleisti vandens“, – sakė ji.

Iš Bopalo gyventojų pasakojimų galima nuspėti, kad už tyrimą atsakinga komanda iš Liaudies ligoninės jiems nepaaiškino, kad jie dalyvauja tyrime ir kad ne visi bus iš tikrųjų paskiepyti. Toks elgesys yra draudžiamas Indijos klinikinių bandymų taisyklės, kurios reikalauja informuoto sutikimo iš visų dalyvių.

Tai taip pat verčia kelti klausimus dėl šio tyrimo duomenų kokybės. Ekspertai nerimauja, kad šis įvykis gali paskatinti dvejonas dėl vakcinavimo Indijoje, šalyje, kurią koronaviruso atvejų skaičiumi pasaulyje lenkia tik JAV.

„Covaxin“ trečiosios fazės tyrime, remiamame šios vakcinoms kūrėjos Indijos biotechnologijų kompanijos „Bharat Biotech“ Indijos medicininių tyrimų tarybos (ICMR), dalyvauja beveik 26 tūkst. žmonių iš 26 vietovių. Daugiau, nei 1,7 tūkst. dalyvių buvo rasti Bopale, vietoje, kurioje įvyko viena didžiausių pasaulyje pramonės katastrofų.

Šankar Nagaro lūšnynas, kuriame ir gyvena dauguma tyrimo dalyvių, yra vos už 3.7 km nuo apleisto „Union Carbide“ pesticidų fabriko, kuriame 1984 metais įvyko nelaimė, dėl kurios virš pusės milijonų žmonių nukentėjo nuo nuodingų dujų debesies. Apie 4 tūkst. žmonių mirė beveik iškart, mažiausiai 10 tūkst. mirė vėliau dėl nelaimės sukeltų pasekmių, ir daugiau, nei 100 tūkst. liko visam laikui sužaloti.

Net ir praėjus dešimtmečiams po to katastrofos, daug šios teritorijos gyventojų kenčia nuo jos sukeltų sveikatos problemų. Tai verčia vietines nevyriausybinės organizacijas kelti klausimą, ar šios vietovės gyventojams galima dalyvauti vakcinų bandymuose.

Bent du bioetikos ekspertai, vienas viešojo sektoriaus sveikatos ekspertas ir keturios nevyriausybinių organizacijų iškelė etinius klausimus dėl bandymų Bopale, kuriuos vykdo Liaudies ligoninė ir su ja susijęs Liaudies medicinos mokslų koledžas ir tyrimų centras. Taip pat sausio 14 daugiau, nei 40 organizacijų bei 180 asmenų išreiškė savo nuogąstavimus jungtiniame pareiškime.

Beveik dvi dešimtys Bopalo bandymo dalyvių pripažino CNN, kad jie nežinojo, jog dalyvauja klinikiniam tyrimui. Keturi teigė, jog žinojo, kad tai yra tyrimas, bet nesuprato, kas tai yra.

„Bharat Biotech“, ICMR ir Liaudies ligoninė neigia bet kokius pažeidimus. Jie teigia, kad bandymai atitinka studijų protokolus, reguliacinius nurodymus bei gaires, ir kad jie stengiasi surinkti aukštos kokybės duomenis ir jokių būdu nerizikuotų pacientų sveikata.

Jie tvirtina, kad dalyviai davė informuotą sutikimą ir neigia, kad piniginis atlygis galėjo suveikti kaip paskata dalyvauti.

Indijos vaistų reguliavimo agentūra, sveikatos ministerija ir Bopalo bandymus prižiūrintis komitetas atsisakė komentuoti.

Paskatos stumti į priekį „Covaxin“ yra stipriai susiję su šalyje vyraujančia vizija, kad Indija – kuri jau šiuo metu yra viena iš pasaulio skiepų gamybos lyderių – turėdama savo koronaviruso vakciną galės ne tik pradėti ambicingą vakcinaciją šalies viduje, bet ir naudoti indišką vakciną diplomatijos tikslais.

Sausio 16 Indijos premjeras Narendra Modis pareškė, kad pasaulio pasitikėjimas Indijos mokslininkais ir jų patirtimi kuriant skiepus bus tik sustiprintas, kai bus sukurtos „Pagaminta Indijoje“ ženklų žymimos koronaviruso vakcinos.

Visgi, ekspertai nėra tuo tikri. Indijos medicinos mokslų žurnalo redaktorius Amaras Jesanis, Bopale gyvenantis bioetikos ekspertas dr. Anantas Bhanas bei bei visuomenės sveikatos ekspertas, Žmonių sveikatos judėjimo Indijos padalinio vienas iš vadovų Amulya Nidhis vieningai tvirtina, kad toks savanorių rinkimo procesas, jei bus patvirtinta, jog tai tiesa, būtų Indijos skiepų tyrimų protokolų pažeidimas.

Tai keltų abejonių dėl tyrimo duomenų kokybės ir galimai pakirstų pasitikėjimą indiška koronaviruso vakcina pasaulio akyse.

„Mes manėme, kad tai vakcina“

Šankar Nagaro lūšnynas Bopale yra pilnas mažų spalvotų namelių, kurių stogai sumeistrauti iš aliuminio plokščių bei brezentu gabalų.

Dauguma gyventojų čia yra padieniai darbuotojai. Kiekvieną rytą jie važiuoja pakeleivingomis mašinomis į statybvietais, kur valandų valandas nešioja akmenis ir plytas. Nuo pandemijos pradžios darbo nebuvo daug, todėl daugybei žmonių teko gyventi iš valdžios duodamų maisto davinių. Moterys kartais vaikštinėja po lūšnyną bandydamos parduoti pagalius kūrenimui. Nemažai kas laiką leidžia vartodami alkoholį.

Taigi, kai atvyko minėtasis baltas autobusiukas ir siūlė vakciną, 18 žmonių tai palaikė galimybe greitai gauti pinigų.

„Mano gyvenimas vieną dieną baigsis, – ciniškai kalbėjo trijų vaikų motina Hira Bai. – Aš tenėjau iš gudulio gauti 750 rupijų, mes visi esame pripratę prie mirties... mano gyvenimas yra bevertis.“

Vietiniai mano, kad autobusiukas priklausė Liaudies ligoninei, privačiai institucijai, esančiai prie pat Šankar Nagaro. Ligoninė neretai siunčia autobusiukus atlikti patikrinimų, tai yra įstaigos vykdomos pagalbos bendruomenei dalis.

„Autobusiukas atvyko ir visi aplinkui maneėjo, tai aš irgiėjau“, – prisimena 59 metų amžiaus darbuotojas Kesri Chillaaras, su žmona ir trimis vaikais gyvenantis lūšnyne netoliese.

„Mes manėme, kad tai bus skiepai, tai irėjome, – sakė kitame gretiname lūšnyne gyvenanti namų šeimininkė Y.B.Yadav. – Mes nežinojome, kad čia bandymai.“

27-erių metų Chotu Dar Beragis teigė, kad per garsiakalbį buvo pasakyta, jog jei nepasiskiepins dabar, vėliau už vakciną gali tekti mokėti pinigų.

„Pagalvojau, kad šiuo metu vis tiek negaliu dirbti, todėl pasiskiepsiu ir gausiu pinigų, – teigė jis. – Maniau, kad tai bus gera proga gauti lėšų.“

Atvykus į ligoninę, 12 dalyvių turėjo pasirašyti formas, o du dalyviai dokumentus pasirašė tik gavę antrą vakcinos dozę. Tačiau net 8 iš 14 dalyvių sakė, kad jie nemoka skaityti.

Nors 6 žmonės žinojo, kad dalyvauja bandyme, keturi teigė, kad nesuprato, kas yra bandymai ar tokie dalykai kaip placebo.

Tik 2 iš 21 dalyvio, kalbėjusio su CNN, suprato, kad dalyvauja bandyme ir ką tai reiškia.

Tuo metu ligoninė tikina, kad nežino apie joki autobusiuką ir jo nesiuntė į lūšnyną. Liaudies medicinos mokslų koledžo ir tyrimų centro vadovas Anilas Kumaras Dixitas tikina, kad visiems dalyviams buvo paaiškinta apie bandymus ir kad tik 50% jų gaus tikrą vakciną, o kita dalis – placebo.

Ši ligoninė, vadovavusi vakcinos tyrimams, teigė dalyviams, kad su jais susisieks telefonu ir nuolat stebės jų būklę, tačiau du dalyviai teigė skambučio nesulaukę, o dar du – nežinantys, ar jiems skambino.

Kitas dalyvis tikino, kad jam skambino pirmą savaitę, tačiau antrą savaitę, kai prasidėjo šalutiniai reikiniai, jam skambinama nebebuvo.

Iki šiol Indijoje į vakcinavimą buvo žiūrima teigiamai, o stipraus prieš vakcinas nusiteikusių asmenų judėjimo nėra, tačiau tai gali pasikeisti, jei šalies valdžia nepasistengs sugrąžinti tikėjimo „Covaxin“.

Jeigu ir toliau visuomenėje plis įvairūs klausimai dėl šios vakcinos, o bendras nusistatymas prieš vakcinas ims bujoti, tai gali tapti problema vakcinuojant visuomenę tiek „Covaxin“ vakcina, tiek kitomis.

Medikai teigia, kad nenori, kad žmonės prarastų tikėjimą ir pasitikėjimą vakcinacija, nes praradę pasitikėjimą COVID-19 vakcina, jie nepasitikės ir kitomis.

Šaltinis: 2021-03-03, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

19) Kraupus pareigūno elgesys: įtariamasis nuo tilto nustumė paauglį

Čilėje buvo sulaikytas policijos pareigūnas, kuris įtariamasis mėginimu nužudyti protestuose dalyvavusį paauglį. Manoma, kad pareigūnas vaikina nustumė nuo tilto.

Deja, pareigūnui nepasisekė. Incidentą užfiksavo kameros, o vaizdo įrašas greitai apskriejo visą Čilę. Tai šalyje sukėlė dar didesnį nepasitenkinimą valdžia ir į gatves išėjo dar daugiau žmonių.

Vaizdo įrašė matyti peštynės ant tilto, o po jų žemyn galva krentantis 16-metis vaikinasis.

Prokuratūra tvirtino, kad incidente dalyvavęs pareigūnas paliko auką likimo valiai, o vėliau prokurorams davė melagingus parodymus.

Pareigūno advokatė Nubia Vivanco tvirtino, kad pareigūnas laikėsi protokolo ir teisingai pasielgė su pabėgti bandžiusiu paaugliu.

Santjagos policijos vadovas Enrique Monras teigė, kad berniukas nukrito praradęs lygsvarą, o pareigūnas jam iškart iškvietė pagalbą.

Čilės vyriausybė pranešė, kad bus tiriamas incidentas, o paauglį nustumė pareigūnas nušalintas nuo pareigų.

Čilėje šiuo metu vyksta protestai prieš spalio 25 dieną planuojamą referendumą dėl konstitucijos keitimo. Šalis spės ar pakeisti diktatoriaus Augusto Pinocheto laikų konstituciją.

Šaltinis: 2020-10-11, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

20) Ilgalaikiai COVID-19 padariniai: negalavimai pasireiškia net ir praėjus pusmečiui po pasveikimo

Kinijoje atliktas tyrimas parodė, kad dauguma pacientų, kurie ligoninėje gulėjo dėl COVID-19 sukeltų komplikacijų, net ir praėjus pusmečiui po pasveikimo jaučia ligos padarinius.

1,7 tūkst. žmonių Uhano mieste, kur ir kilo pandemija, tyrimas parodė, kad net 76 proc. ligoninėje gulėjusių žmonių net ir praėjus mėnesiams po pasveikimo pasireiškė tam tikri negalavimai.

Tai parodė, kad daugiau kaip 90 mln. COVID-19 jau sirgusių ar tebesergančių žmonių visame pasaulyje ši liga gali būti tik būsimų sveikatos sutrikimų pradžia, rašo CNN.

Didžiausia iki šiol atlikta tokio tipo studija, kurios rezultatai penktadienį buvo paskelbti medicininiame akademiniam žurnale „The Lancet“ parodė, kad nuovargis ir miego sutrikimai pasireiškė didžiausiai daliai pacientų po susidūrimo su koronavirusu.

Nuovargį po diagnozės praėjus 6 mėnesiams tebejautė 63 proc. žmonių, o miego sutrikimai pasireiškė 26 proc. tirtų asmenų.

Liga taip pat gali turėti įtakos ir ilgalaikiams psichologiniams sutrikimams – nerimas ir depresija pasireiškė 23 proc. asmenų.

Tyrėjai taip pat tvirtina, kad sunkiai liga sirgusių asmenų plaučiuose tebėra matomi pakitimai.

„Kadangi COVID-19 yra nauja liga, mes tik dabar pradėdami suprasti jos ilgalaikius padarinius pacientų sveikatai“, – tvirtino tyrimui vadovavęs dr. Bin Cao.

„Mūsų tyrimas parodė, kad dauguma pacientų net ir pasveikę ir palikę ligoninę susiduria su bent vienu ilgalaikiu šio viruso simptomu, tad jiems yra būtina medicininė priežiūra. Ypatingai tiems, kurie sirgo sunkia ligos forma“, – teigiama tyrimą atlikusių mokslininkų pranešime.

JAV ligų kontrolės ir prevencijos centro duomenimis, nuovargis, oro trūkumas, kosulys, skausmai krūtinės srityje yra dažniausi ilgalaikiai COVID-19 simptomai, kurie gali pasireikšti net ir praėjus mėnesiams po pasveikimo. JAV medikai tarp ilgalaikių ligos simptomų išskiria ir depresiją bei galvos skausmą.

„Net ir žmonės, kurie nebuvo hospitalizuoti ir sirgo lengva COVID-19 forma gali patirti ilgalaikius sveikatos sutrikimus“, – tvirtina JAV ligų kontrolės ir prevencijos centro atstovai.

Šaltinis: 2021-01-13, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

21) Šimtas dienų po „Brexit“: problemų apstu, o kai kam išstojimas iš ES tapo pražūtingu

Kai Jungtinės Karalystės ministras pirmininkas Borisas Johnsonas gruodžio 24 d. paskelbė apie „Brexit“ susitarimą, jis patikino, kad tai padės šalies įmonėms „vystyti dar geresnius santykius su Europos Sąjunga“.

B. Johnsonas pareiškė, kad po išstojimo iš Europos Sąjungos Jungtinė Karalystė bus „klestinti, dinamiška ir patenkinta“, galės laisvai sudaryti prekybos susitarimus visame pasaulyje ir toliau sklandžiai eksportuoti į 450 mln. vartotojų turinčią ES rinką.

Tačiau praėjo daugiau nei 100 dienų nuo Jungtinės Karalystės atsiskyrimo nuo savo vienintelės didžiausios prekybos partnerės, o „Brexit“ pasirodė esąs pražūtingas daugeliui britų eksportuotojų, kurie dabar prašo vyriausybės imtis skubių veiksmų, kad būtų išvengta tolesnių nuostolių.

„Raginame ir Jungtinę Karalystę, ir ES vėl sėsti prie derybų stalo ir parengti sprendimus, kurie sumažintų prekybos kliūtis ir suteiktų eksportuotojams šansą“, – pirmadienį pareiškime sakė viena iš Britanijos prekybos rūmų vykdomųjų direktorių Hannah Essex.

„Sunkumai, su kuriais susiduria eksportuotojai, nėra tik „pradinės problemos“. Tai struktūrinės problemos, kurios, jei ir toliau nebus sprendžiamos, gali lemti ilgalaikį, galimai negrįžtamą Jungtinės Karalystės eksporto sektoriaus silpnumą“, – pridūrė ji.

Sandoris yra nenaudingas prekybai. Tačiau jis taip pat prisidėjo prie pastaruoju metu kilusio smurto ir didėjančio pykčio Šiaurės Airijoje.

Derybose dėl „Brexit“ susitarimo sunkiausiai išsprendžiama buvo prekių judėjimo tarp Europos Sąjungai priklausančios Airijos ir Jungtinei Karalystei priklausančios Šiaurės Airijos problema.

Tam, kad būtų gerbiamas 1998 m. pasirašytas Didžiojo penktadienio susitarimas, kuriuo buvo užbaigtas tris dešimtmečius trukęs smurtas, reikėjo išvengti sienos Airijos saloje grąžinimo.

Vietoj to B. Johnsonas sutiko, kad Šiaurės Airijai ir toliau būtų taikomos ES rinkos taisyklės, o joms kontroliuoti būtų pastatyta prekybos siena prie Airijos jūros, tuo sukeldamas pyktį probritiškiems lojalistams, prieštaraujantiems, kad Šiaurės Airijai būtų taikomos kitokios taisyklės nei likusiai Jungtinės Karalystės daliai.

B. Johnsonas 2019 m. buvo pažadėjęs, kad tarp Didžiosios Britanijos ir Šiaurės Airijos gabenamos prekės nebus tikrinamos.

Šį mėnesį Belfasto gatvėse kilusios riaušės ir smurtas pakurstė nuogąstavimus, kad gali grįžti nerami Šiaurės Airijos praeitis, ir paskatino JAV valstybės departamento atstovą perspėti, kad Didžiojo penktadienio susitarimas neturi „tapti „Brexit“ auka“.

Problemos gali tęstis ilgai

Jungtinės Karalystės vyriausybė neskelbia „Brexit“ ekonominių padarinių vertinimo ir toliau reklamuoja tariamą jo naudą.

Vyriausybės atstovas spaudai CNN sakė, kad „Brexit“ susitarimas „apsaugo aukštos kokybės darbo vietas ir investicijas visoje Jungtinėje Karalystėje ir užtikrina, kad įmonės ir toliau galėtų veiksmingai prekiauti ir parduoti savo klientams Europos Sąjungoje“.

Tačiau vasario pabaigoje audito bendrovės EY ir lobistinės grupės „London First“ atlikta daugiau kaip tūkstančio Jungtinės Karalystės verslo lyderių apklausa parodė, kad trys ketvirtadaliai jų patyrė veiklos modelio sutrikimų pasibaigus „Brexit“ pereinamajam laikotarpiui, o pusė jų mano, kad jie tęsis ilgą laiką.

Didelį smūgį patyrė prekyba su Europa. Nacionalinio statistikos biuro duomenimis, sausio mėn. prekių eksportas į Europos Sąjungą, palyginti su tuo pačiu praėjusių metų mėnesiu, smuko daugiau kaip 41 proc.

Antradienį paskelbtais duomenimis, vasario mėn. eksportas atsigavo, tačiau vis tiek buvo 12,5 proc. mažesnis nei 2020 m., kai Europoje siautė pandemija, ir 22 proc. mažesnis nei 2019 m.

Daugelis bendrovių teigia, kad dėl problemų, kylančių dėl prekybos susitarimo, kyla pavojus jų galimybėms toliau prekiauti su bloku. Įmonės, kurios anksčiau prekes į Europą galėdavo pristatyti per kelias valandas nuo užsakymo pateikimo, dabar dėl naujų muitinės ir maisto saugos patikrinimų susiduria su ilgais vėlavimais ir didesnėmis transportavimo išlaidomis.

Pirmadienį paskelbtoje 2,9 tūkst. Jungtinės Karalystės eksportuotojų apklausoje, kurią atliko Britanijos prekybos rūmai, nustatyta, kad 41 proc. įmonių pranešė apie sumažėjusius eksporto pardavimus pirmąjį ketvirtį dėl „Brexit“ ir koronaviruso pandemijos poveikio.

Pasak Didžiosios Britanijos prekybos rūmų ekonomikos skyriaus vadovo Sureno Thiru, Jungtinės Karalystės eksportuotojams sunkiai sekasi prisitaikyti prie „milžiniško popierizmo kiekio“, su kuriuo jie dabar turi susidoroti.

Be to, trūksta aiškumo dėl pardavimo mokesčių mokėjimo, kyla painiava dėl naujų kilmės taisyklių reikalavimų, o įmonės praneša, kad Jungtinės Karalystės vyriausybė šiais klausimais teikia labai mažai prieinamų patarimų, sakė jis CNN Business.

„Faktas tas, kad su ES prekiaujančioms bendrovėms iki šiol nereikėjo žinoti ar suprasti muitų. O [muitinės] sektoriuje nėra pakankamai pajėgumų, kad būtų galima suteikti reikiamą pagalbą“, – sakė tarptautinės prekybos konsultacijų bendrovės „Trade & Borders“ įkūrėja Anna Jerzewska.

Nors didesnės įmonės gali absorbuoti naujas išlaidas, mažosios įmonės nukentėjo ypač skaudžiai. Kovo mėnesį Smulkiųjų įmonių federacijos atlikta 132 eksportuotojų apklausa parodė, kad 23 proc. jų laikinai nutraukė pardavimus į Europos Sąjungą, o 5 proc. – visam laikui.

„Mažesni prekybininkai susiduria su sunkumais ir svarsto, ar verta daugiau eksportuoti“, – praėjusį mėnesį pareiškė organizacijos nacionalinis pirmininkas Mike'as Cherry.

Bus ieškoma sprendimų

Pirmadienį įstatymų leidėjų, verslo lyderių ir ekonomistų grupė paskelbė apie nepriklausomą komisiją, kuri tikrins Britanijos prekybos susitarimus su Europa ir kitomis pasaulio šalimis.

Jungtinės Karalystės prekybos ir verslo komisija, kurios vienas iš organizatorių yra bendrovės „Virgin“ pirmininkas Peteris Norrisas, teiks rekomendacijas vyriausybei, kaip pagerinti šiuos sandorius.

„Mes išsamiai nagrinėsime šių sandorių poveikį, ypač mažosioms įmonėms, kurioms tenka didžiausia naujų biurokratinių kliūčių prie mūsų sienų našta“, – pareiškime teigė komisijai priklausantis parlamento narys konservatorius Rodžeris Geilas.

„Reikia pamiršti ideologiją ir rasti pragmatišką, įrodymais pagrįstą kelią į priekį“, – pridūrė jis.

Padėtis ypač aktuali maisto gamintojams, kurių eksportas dėl naujosios prekybos tvarkos beveik išnyko.

Nuo sausio 1 d. visiems į Europos Sąjungą įvežamiems augaliniams ir gyvūniniams produktams reikalingas eksporto sveikatos sertifikatas (EHC), kurį turi patvirtinti vyriausybės sertifikuotas veterinarijos gydytojas.

Dėl to „Cheshire Cheese Company“ negalėjo pardavinėti sūrio pirkėjams internetu Europos Sąjungoje, nes sertifikato kaina daug kartų viršija jos vidutinę pardavimo kainą – nuo 25 iki 50 svarų sterlingų (nuo 28 iki 57 eurų) už užsakymą.

Maisto ir gėrimų federacijos duomenimis, sausio mėn. Jungtinės Karalystės maisto ir gėrimų eksportas smuko, nes, palyginti su tuo pačiu praėjusių metų mėnesiu, pardavimai į Europos Sąjungą sumažėjo 76 proc. Lašišų eksportas sumažėjo 98 proc., jautienos – 92 proc. o pašarų – 80 proc. Viskio eksportas sumažėjo 63 proc.

Nacionalinio statistikos biuro duomenimis, vasario mėn. maisto produktų ir gyvų gyvūnų eksportas šiek tiek atsigavo, tačiau išlieka mažesnis nei 2020 m. lygis.

„Sprendimas – nuryti savo išdidumą ir sudaryti veterinarinį susitarimą“, – teigia Sasekso universiteto Jungtinės Karalystės prekybos politikos observatorijos steigėjas ir direktorius L. Alanas Vintersas.

„Jei to nepadarysime, tikimybė, kad gyvulinės kilmės produktai atpigs, bus menka“, – pridūrė jis.

Yra dar keletas sričių, kurioms taip pat reikia skirti dėmesio. Pavyzdžiui, dėl abipusio profesinių kvalifikacijų, pavyzdžiui, gydytojų, buhalterių ir architektų, pripažinimo dar turi būti susitarta kiekviename sektoriuje atskirai.

Nukentės ir šalies sostinė

B. Johnsono „Brexit“ susitarime nenumatyta jokių nuostatų dėl finansinių paslaugų – pramonės šakos, kuri sukuria beveik 11 proc. valstybės mokestinių pajamų ir 1,1 mln. darbo vietų.

Panašu, kad susitarimo, kuriuo Jungtinei Karalystei būtų suteiktos tokios pat teisės patekti į rinką kaip ir kai kurioms kitoms ES nepriklausančioms šalims, perspektyvos yra menkos, o tai gali dar labiau pakenkti Londono, kaip didžiausio Europos finansų miesto, pozicijai.

Remiantis EY duomenimis, nuo referendumo tarptautinės finansinių paslaugų įmonės iš Didžiosios Britanijos į Europos Sąjungą perkėlė beveik 1,3 trilijono svarų sterlingų (1,5 eurų) vertės turtą ir 7 600 darbo vietų. Amsterdamas jau aplenkė Londoną ir tapo didžiausiu Europos prekybos akcijomis centru.

„Atrodo, kad dienos, kai buvo skelbiama apie didelius turto ir darbo vietų perkėlimus, jau praėjo, ir jas greičiausiai pakeis lėtesnis, tačiau nuolatinis žmonių ir turto perkėlimas į Europą“, – praėjusio mėnesio ataskaitoje teigė Omaras Ali, EY finansinių paslaugų vadovaujantysis partneris.

Pasitraukimas iš ES bendrosios rinkos reiškia, kad Jungtinės Karalystės įmonės patirs didesnių išlaidų, net ir tada, kai prisitaikys prie naujo verslo vykdymo būdo.

„Svarbu pripažinti, kad yra tam tikrų pradinių sunkumų, tačiau jų taip pat laukia ir ateityje, nes ilgalaikės prekybos apsunkinimo pasekmės atsilieps visiems“, – sakė V. Wintersas.

Laikui bėgant tai nublokš tiesiogines užsienio investicijas į Jungtinę Karalystę, nes įmonės, norinčios aptarnauti Europos rinką, nebesirinks bazių Didžiojoje Britanijoje, pridūrė jis.

Yra pirmųjų ženklų, kad tai jau vyksta. Anglijoje įsikūrusios drabužių ir aksesuarų didmeninės prekybos įmonės „Something Different“ generalinis direktorius Alfredas Van Peltas pirmadienį teigė, kad „Brexit“ „sunaikino didžiulę verslo augimo galimybę“.

„Mūsų užsienio investuotojas planavo, kad Jungtinės Karalystės padalinys taps Europos platinimo centru. Dabar tai nebeįmanoma, nes vienintelis platinimas, kuris gali būti vykdomas iš Jungtinės Karalystės, ekonomiškai efektyvus, yra platinimas Jungtinės Karalystės pašto kodų adresais“, – pridūrė jis.

Jungtinės Karalystės Biudžeto atsakomybės biuro, kuris vyriausybei rengia ekonomines prognozes, duomenimis, dėl naujų prekybos santykių ilguoju laikotarpiu Didžiojoje Britanijoje sumažės

maždaug 4 proc. gamybos apimčių, palyginti su tuo atveju, jei šalis liktų Europos Sąjungoje. Eksportas ir importas ilguoju laikotarpiu bus maždaug 15 proc. mažesnis.

Šaltinis: 2021-04-14, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

22) Dunojus pasiglemžė turistus: pareigūnai sulaikė laivo kapitoną

Pasirodo, ir ekskursija upe gali baigtis tragiškai. Vengrijos sostinėje tai patyrė turistai iš Pietų Korėjos. Juos plukdęs laivas nuskendo taip greitai, kad iš vandens spąstų išsivadavo tik nedaugelis.

Nelaimė įvyko trečiadienio vakarą prie Margaritos tilto, visai netoli garsiojo neogotikinio stiliaus Vengrijos parlamento pastato.

26 metrų ilgio turistinis laivas „Hableany“, plaukdamas atgal po valandos trukmės vakarinės ekskursijos, netikėtai susidūrė su didesniu kruiziniu laivu „Viking Sigyn“.

Avariją patyrusiu laivu plaukė 30 korėjiečių turistų, trys gidai ir du įgulos nariai vengrai.

Septyni žmonės žuvo, dar tiek pat išsigelbėjo ir buvo paguldyti į ligoninę dėl hipotermijos ir šoko sindromų.

Likusio 21 asmens likimas vakar buvo nežinomas.

Narai visą naktį ieškojo dingusiųjų ir pripažino neturintys vilčių rasti daugiau gyvų žmonių, nes vandens temperatūra tesiekė dešimt laipsnių.

Nelaimė įvyko smarkiai lyjant ir pakilus upės vandeniui, o tai labai sunkino gelbėtojų darbą.

Paieškos operacija buvo išplėsta toli pasroviui – netgi į Serbijos teritoriją, kur Dunojus įteka iš Vengrijos.

Abu laivai plaukė vienas šalia kito ta pačia kryptimi, staiga didesnis pasisuko, kliudė ir apvertė mažesnįjį.

Apvirtęs „Hableany“ nuskendo per septynias sekundes, sakė teisėsaugos pareigūnai, pradėję baudžiamąjį tyrimą dėl nusikalstamo aplaidumo.

Plaukimą organizavo Korėjos turizmo bendrovė „Very Good Tour“. Ji pranešė, jog dauguma turistų grupėje buvo vidutinio amžiaus žmonės, bet tarp jų buvo ir šešiametis vaikas bei aštuntą dešimtį einantis senolis.

Tai buvo ketvirta iš devynių dienų korėjiečių turistinėje kelionėje, per kurią jie turėjo aplankyti Kroatiją, Slovakiją, Čekiją, Vengriją, Austriją ir Vokietiją.

„Tai buvo įprasta diena ir eilinė kelionė. Mes kasdien rengiame tūkstančius turistinių kelionių laivais, ir nebuvo jokių ženklų, kad kas nors panašaus gali įvykti“, – sakė Mihaly Tothas iš bendrovės „Panorama Deck“, kuriai priklausė nuskendęs laivas.

Anot bendrovės atstovo, „Hableany“ plaukiojo Dunojumi nuo 2003 m. ir buvo geros techninės būklės.

Suėmė kapitoną

Vengrijos policija ketvirtadienį sulaikė Budapešto centre Dunojaus upėje į pramoginį laivą įsirežusio laivo kapitoną.

Savo tinklalapyje paskelbtame pranešime policija nurodė, kad 64-erių ukrainietis, įvardijamas kaip Jurijus C., įtariamasis „sukėlęs pavojų vandens eismui, lėmusį kelias žūties“.

Policija paskelbė, kad tas Ukrainos pilietis iš Odesos miesto po apklausos buvo sulaikytas, prašoma jį suimti.

Šaltinis: 2019-05-31, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

23) Vėjaraupiai vienerių metų berniukui vos nekainavo gyvybės: tai buvo tik nelaimių pradžia

Vienerių metų vaikas vos nemirė nuo sepsio, o vos po keleto savaičių jo tėvų laukė dar viena baisi žinia: mažyliui diagnozuota leukemija.

Fletcheris Smithas, gyvenantis Bridžvoteryje, Somerseto grafystėje, Jungtinėje Karalystėje, į ligoninę buvo atvežtas liepos 3 dieną, kai jo kūnas pavojingai sureagavo į vėjaraupius, kuriais vaikas užsikrėtė nuo savo sesių.

Išrašyto iš ligoninės kūdikio kūno temperatūra vėl smarkiai pakilo, o tyrimai parodė, kad jo kraujo ląstelių kiekis buvo nenormaliai sumažėjęs.

Praėjus trimis savaitėms po to, kai susirgo vėjaraupiais ir vos dviem dienoms po jo pirmojo gimtadienio, Fletcheriui buvo diagnozuota ūminė mieloleukemija.

Fletcheris jau gavo savo pirmąją dozę chemoterapijos vaistų ir dabar jo laukia ilgas tolimesnis gydymas. Sekančius septynis mėnesius jis praleis Bristolio karališkojoje vaikų ligoninėje, jo šeimai visą tą laiką spėliojant, ar mažylis išgyvens.

Kalbėdama apie savo sūnaus diagnozę 32 metų Kerry Smith pasakojo: "Kai išgirdome, kad Fletcheriui - vėžys, tiesiog palūžome.

Atrodė, tarsi kažkas būtų suspaudęs mano krūtinę. Buvo baisu. Tai - surrealistinė patirtis".

K.Smith, kuri šiuo metu nedirba, nes augina vaikus, pridūrė: "Mūsų laukia ilgas kelias ir žinome, kad blogiausios dienos dar priešakyje".

Fletcheris vėjaraupiais užsikrėtė nuo abiejų savo vyresniųjų sesių. Po kelių dienų pastebėjusi ištinusią vaiko galvą, mama nuskubėjo su juo į ligoninę.

Čia K.Smith išgirdo, kad jos sūnui išsivystė sepsis. Taip nutinka tada, kai organizmas nenormaliai reaguoja į infekciją, atakuodamas savo paties organus ir audinius.

"Stebėjome, kaip mūsų berniuko veidas ištinco, kaip balionas, - parašė Fletcherio tėvai jam sukurtoje "GoFundMe" puslapio paskyroje. - Jis negalėjo atverti akių ir jautėsi siaubingai dėl įvairių antibiotikų ir priešvirusinių vaistų, kurių gavo".

Po keturių antibiotikų kursų vaikas pagaliau buvo išrašytas. Tačiau po kelių namuose praleistų dienų Fletcherio temperatūra vėl smarkiai sukilo, o vaikas išblyško ir tapo neramus.

Dar kartą atskubėjus į ligoninę kraujo tyrimai vėl parodė, kad vaikui sepsis, kurį Fletcheris ir tąkart įveikė.

Tiesa, daktarai atkreipė dėmesį, kad vaikas yra anemiškas, tad atliko daugiau kraujo tyrimų. Taip pat, laukiant rezultatų, berniukas buvo nusiųstas į Bristolio vaikų ligoninę paimti kaulų čiulpų mėginio. Ten ir paaiškėjo žiauri onkologinės ligos diagnozė.

Vos po šešių valandų vaikui pradėta taikyti chemoterapija, o jo širdelės ritmas smarkiai pagreitėjo. Vaikas labai sunkiai sirgo, jį kamavo dideli pilvo skausmai.

Fletcherio mama ir tėtis, 32 metų elektrikas Jamesas bei seserys, penkerių metų Olivia ir trejų Florence, buvo šalia ir tądien, kai pradėtas antrasis gydymo kursas.

Fletcherio tėtis Jamesas, išgirdęs apie sūnaus diagnozę, laikinai nusprendė nedirbti, kad sunku momentu būtų kartu su šeima.

Kol kas niekas nėra tikras, kuo viskas baigsis.

"Mes net nežinome, ar vėliau turėsime savo mažąjį berniuką. Kai kuriomis dienomis jis būna laimingas, sėdi, žaidžia ir aš netgi pamirštu, kad vis tai vyksta. Tada ateina bloga diena ir tai mane prislegia, kaip plytų siena.

Vėžio poveikis pradeda ryškėti, jo pilvukas ir skruostai ištinco, akytės išsausėjo ir plaukučiai pradėjo slinkti", - pastebėjo vaiko mama.

K.Smith nori ir kitus įspėti apie sūnų užklupusią ligą: "Vėžys yra vienas iš tų dalykų, kurie, atrodo, užklups kitus. Bet jis nediskriminuoja nieko".

Kas yra ūminė mieloleukemija?

Ūminė mieloleukemija yra kraujo vėžio tipas, kuris prasideda kaulų čiulpuose esančiose kraujodaros ląstelėse.

Jungtinėje Karalystėje ši liga kuriuo nors gyvenimo momentu pasitaiko vienam iš 200 vyrų ir vienai iš 255 moterų. Dažniausiai ji diagnozuojama vyresniems žmonėms.

Simptomai:

nuovargis;

karščiavimas;

dažnos infekcijos;

lengvai atsirandančios mėlynės ar kraujavimai, įskaitant kraujavimą iš nosies ar gausesnes menstruacijas moterims;

svorio netekimas;

kaulų ir sąnarių skausmai;

kvėpavimo sunkumai;

išsipūtęs pilvas;

blyški oda.

Kas sukelia ūminę mieloleukemiją nėra tiksliai žinoma, tačiau rizikos veiksniai yra šie:

rūkymas;

antsvoris;

radiacijos poveikis;

ankstesnė chemoterapija;

tam tikros kraujo ligos, tokios kaip mielodisplazijos sindromas;

kai kurie imuniteto sutrikimai, pavyzdžiui, reumatoidinis artritas.

Ūminė mieloleukemija paprastai gydoma taikant chemoterapiją. Gali prireikti ir kaulų čiulpų arba kamieninių ląstelių transplantacijos.

Šaltinis: 2019-08-23, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)

24) Daily Mail: Britanijos policija išpėja tėvus dėl Rusijoje vykstančio „žaidimo“ nusinešusio virš šimto paauglių gyvybių

Britanijos policija išpėjo tėvus apie beprotiško „žaidimo“ (nusikaltimo) socialiniuose tinkluose pavojus, kuris, galimai, tapo daugiau nei šimto savižudybių priežastimi Rusijos paauglių tarpe, praneša Daily Mail.

„Mėlynojo banginio žaidimas“, verčia jo dalyvius, įprastai moksleivius, vykdyti užduotis, kurių esmė savęs žalojimas 50 dienų eigoje. Paskutinę „žaidimo“ dieną jiems ateina įsakymas žengti lemtingą žingsnį, pažymi leidinys.

Šiuo metu Rusijos policija tiria versiją ar susijęs „mėlynasis banginis“ su mirčių epidemija. Dabar ir Britanijos policija patalpino tinkle išpėjimus tėvams apie šį, taip vadinamą „žaidimą-nusikaltimą“, praneša Daily Mail.

Visuomenės palaikymo policininkas Devono ir Cornwall'o grafystėje Kirsty Down parašė Twitter paskyroje: „Tas, kas sugalvojo šį „žaidimą“ – ligonis! Tėveliai, paskaitykite apie šį „žaidimą“ ir pasikalbėkite apie jį su savo vaikais, jeigu jums kažkas (juose -vert) kelia nerimą“.

Panika dėl „mėlynojo banginio“ prasidėjo praėjusį mėnesį po dviejų rusių paauglių mirties, kurios, kaip manoma, dalyvavo „žaidime“, rašo laikraštis.

„Žaidimas“ privedė prie to, kad dvi moksleivės, Julija ir Veronika, nušoko nuo daugiaaukščio namo stogo Ust-Ilimsk mieste, o mergina Jekaterina sunkiai susižalojo, iššokusi iš buto Krasnojarske. Prieš tai, kaip žengti lemtingą žingsnį, merginos pasirašė savo socialinių tinklų paskyrose ir publikavo didelį mėlynąjį banginį, kuris yra simbolizuoja šias „mirties grupes“ simbolį, rašo Daily Mail.

„Mirties grupės“ internete

Rusijos tardymo komitetas iškėlė šių įvykių atžvilgiu baudžiamąsias bylas pagal straipsnį „privedimas prie savižudybės“. Egzistuoja rimti nuogąstavimai, jog taip vadinamo „žaidimo“ organizatoriai gali būti atsakingi mažiausiai už 130 vaikų mirčių visoje Rusijoje, praneša leidinys.

Po įtariamojo nusikaltimo, 21 metų amžiaus Filippo Budeikino arešto, kuriam pareikšti kaltinimai aštuonių tokių grupių organizavimu, periodu nuo 2013 iki 2016 metų, savižudybių pastebimai sumažėjo.

Šaltinis: 2017-03-14, „Žinių portalas infa.lt“ (<https://infa.lt>)

25) Be teismo įkalintos princesės gyvenimas auksiniame narvelyje: tapo savo tėvo įkaite

Princesės Latifos sulaikymo istorijoje paaiškėjo naujų detalių. Iš Jungtinių Arabų Emyratų (JAE) mėginusi pabėgti moteris buvo sugrąžinta namo. Jungtinės Tautos pareiškė pradėsiančios aiškintis situaciją.

Dabar 35 metų Latifa bin Mohammed al-Maktoum, JAE premjero ir Dubajaus vadovo Mohammedo bin Rashido al-Maktoumo duktė, savo gyvenimą prilygino įkalinimui, todėl net 7 metus planavo pabėgimą.

Pasprukti iš Dubajaus princesei Latifai 2018 metų vasarį padėjo draugai – buvęs šnipas iš Prancūzijos Herve Jaubert'as ir kovos menų trenerė suomė Tiina Jauhainen. Jachtą plukdė filipiniečių įgula, kuri tikėjosi padėti moteriai pradėti naują gyvenimą.

Princesė tikėjosi laivais ir lėktuvais pasiekti JAV, kur būtų prašiusi prieglobsčio. Bet misija žlugo, o princesė Latifa buvo sugrąžinta į JAE. Dabar moteris tvirtina, kad yra savo tėvo įkaite.

Slapta padarytuose vaizdo įrašuose, kuriais moteris pasidalijo su BBC, ji teigė, kad baiminasi dėl savo gyvybės.

„Aš negaliu vairuoti. Aš negaliu keliauti. Aš visiškai negaliu palikti Dubajaus“, – prieš pabėgimą padarytame vaizdo įrašė kalbėjo Latifa.

Sugauta princesė neturėjo jokių ryšio priemonių, bet po metų jai buvo duotas telefonas. Juo moteris slapta tualete padarė vaizdo įrašus, kuriuose atskleidė nepavykusios pabėgimo operacijos detales.

„Aš kovojau, tačiau prie manęs priėjo vyras su adata ir kažką sušvirkštė man į ranką“, – pasakojo moteris, kurią tuo metu buvo sučiupę Indijos karinio jūrų laivyno pareigūnai.

Vėliau ji buvo perduota JAE specialiųjų tarnybų atstovams.

„Jis mane pakėlė, aš spardžiausi, bet vyras buvo už mane keliskart didesnis. Aš jam kandau iš visų jėgų į ranką – mane laikantis vyras sušuko“, – teigė Latifa.

Po to jai buvo suleista raminamųjų ir ji nuskraidinta atgal į Dubajų.

„Buvau labai liūdna. Tiek metų dirbau dėl savo laisvės ir to nebeliko. Taip ir gyvenu nuo to laiko – viena. Be medicininės pagalbos, be teismo, be kaltinimų“, – pasakojo moteris.

Vienintelis momentas, kuris įrodė, kad princesė Latifa yra gyva, buvo 2018 m. gruodį, kai buvusiai JT vyriausiajai žmogaus teisių komisarei Mary Robinson buvo leista susitikti su princese. JAE teigė, kad jos buvo paprašyta „padėti išspręsti šeimos dilemą“.

Anot M.Robinson, princesė Latifa susidūrė su rimtomis sveikatos problemomis, jai yra teikiama „psichiatrinė pagalba“. Bet daugiau jokių detalių apie Dubajaus valdytojo dukters būklę ji nepateikė.

Pati princesė Latifa naujuose vaizdo įrašuose tvirtina, kad net nežinojo, jog bendrauja su buvusia JT vyriausiąja žmogaus teisių komisare, – moterys bendravo apie aplinkosaugą, šuolius parašiutais ir M.Robinson rašomą knygą.

„Apie mane nebuvo užsiminta nė žodžiu. Mano atvejo mes net neaptarėme“, – tvirtino Latifa.

Pati M.Robinson dabar taip pat paskelbė, kad apie pabėgimą kalbos nebuvo ir asmeninio susitikimo su princese be pašalinių akių ji organizuoti nebandė.

Dabar JT žmogaus teisių gynėjai žada apklausti JAE valdininkus apie princesės Latifos įkalinimą, tačiau vargu ar tai padės moteriai kada nors išvysti laisvę.

Šaltinis: 2021-02-19, „Lietuvos rytas“ (<https://lrytas.lt>)