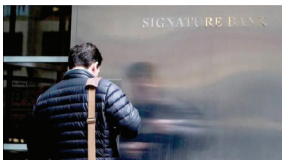




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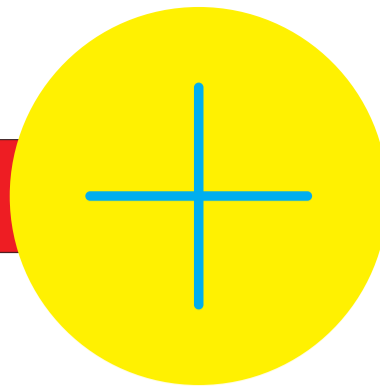
US Bank becomes next casualty of banking turmoil after SVB



State regulators closed New York-based Signature Bank on Sunday, the third largest failure in U.S. banking history, two days after authorities shuttered Silicon Valley Bank in a collapse that stranded billions in deposits.

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Norouz symbolizes fertility and rejuvenation



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The Persian New Year, Norouz, has been observed for over 3,000 years as the victory of light over darkness.

For the Northern Hemisphere, March 21 is the first day of spring. But for 300 million people around the world, it's the beginning of a new year, too. Nowruz—which means “new day”—is a holiday marking the arrival of spring and the first day of the year in Iran, whose solar calendar begins with the vernal equinox, the National Geographic reported.

Norouz has been celebrated in Iran for more than 3,000 years. Its roots are as a feast day in Zoroastrianism, a religion practiced in ancient Per-

sia that viewed the arrival of spring as a victory over darkness. It spread across the globe through the diaspora of Persian people throughout history.

What is Norouz?

Traditionally celebrated on the vernal equinox, many begin preparations for Norouz weeks in advance. In the leadup to the holiday, people perform various rituals and fill vessels in their home with water, which is associated with health, in an attempt to banish bad luck.

On the night before the last Wednesday of the year, many celebrate Charshanbe Suri, a night in which they jump over fire or go to doors bang-

ing spoons to scare away bad luck. People also visit cemeteries and bring offerings for the dead, whom some believe visit before the spring rite begins.

The spring festival's focus is fertility and new life, so it's appropriate that many revelers celebrate with seeds and eggs. Households set up tables covered with seven symbolic items they call haft-seen. Haft means “seven” and “seen” is the letter “s” in Farsi, and all of the items start with this letter. These include seed sprouts (usually wheat, oats and other seeds, which symbolize rebirth), senjed (also known as silverberry or Persian olive, which is thought to spark love), garlic (pro-

tection), apple (fertility), sumac (love), vinegar, and samanu, a pudding made of sprouted wheat (affluence). The table usually includes a Holy Qur'an, eggs, a mirror, and collection of Hafez's poetry. Although Norouz is an ancient tradition, the haft-seen table tradition isn't. As A. Shapur Shahbazi notes in Encyclopedia Iranica, it only came into effect in the last century.

Who celebrates Norouz?

Norouz has proven resilient in the modern era. It is also an official holiday in Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraqi Kurdistan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia's Bayan-Olgii Prov-

ince, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and it's widely celebrated in places like Turkey, India and other places with Persian enclaves.

In 2009, UNESCO, the cultural arm of the United Nations, listed the holiday on its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, noting that it “promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families as well as reconciliation and neighborliness.”

March 21 is officially recognized as the International Norouz Day, though the holiday itself is celebrated between March 19 and 22, depending on calendars and vernal equinox calculations.



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Caught red-handed: Samsung's moon fraud

ghacks.ne - Controversy on Samsung's “fake” Space Zoom feature is brought to light once again after a user's post on Reddit.

Samsung has launched the Space Zoom technology with the S20 model. It lets you take impressive and precise photos of the moon with a camera sensor that supports up to 100x zoom. However, the controversies about it never ended. Some users and articles from the past claimed Samsung's Space Zoom technology doesn't really take explicit photos of the moon, but it artificially enhances the image to take realistic photos.



The Reddit user posted a detailed examination on Space Zoom, giving examples and proof of why they think Samsung is “tricking” people with false advertising. The user mentioned that they always doubted Space Zoom's authenticity as it appears too perfect. “While these images are not necessarily outright fabrications, neither are they entirely genuine,” they added.

AI post-apocalypse exhibit in San Francisco

Advances in artificial intelligence are coming so hard and fast that a museum in San Francisco, the beating heart of the tech revolution, has imagined a memorial to the demise of humanity. “Sorry for killing most of humanity person with smile cap and mustache,” says a monitor welcoming a visitor to the “Misalignment Museum”, a new exhibit on the controversial technology, AFP reported. The pieces in this temporary show mix the disturbing with the comic, and this first display has AI disburse pithy observations to the visitors that cross into its line of vision. “The concept of the museum is that we are in a post-apocalyptic world where artificial

general intelligence has already destroyed most of humanity,” said Audrey Kim, the show's curator.

“But then the AI realizes that was bad and creates a type of memorial to the human, so our show's tagline is ‘sorry for killing most of humanity,’” she said.

Artificial General Intelligence is a concept that is even more nebulous than the simple AI that is cascading into everyday life, as seen in the fast emergence of apps such as ChatGPT or Bing's chatbot and all the hype surrounding them.

AGI is “artificial intelligence that is able to do anything that a human would be able to do”, integrating human



cognitive capacities into machines.

All around San Francisco, and down the peninsula in Silicon Valley, startups are hot on the trail of the AGI holy grail. Sam Altman, the founder of ChatGPT creator OpenAI, has said AGI, done right, can “elevate humanity” and change the “limits of possibilities.” But Kim wants to trigger a reflection on the dangers of going too far, too quickly. “There have been lots of con-

versations about the safety of AI in pretty niche intellectual tech circles on Twitter and I think that's very important,” she said.

But those conversations are not as easily accessible to the general public as concepts that you can see or feel, she added.

Kim is particularly fond of a sculpture called “Paperclip Embrace”: two busts of humans holding each other, made entirely of paperclips.