

HSAS COMMON SENSE: CURRENT EVENTS RELEASE

WRITTEN AND REVIEWED BY SYEDA AHMED, SAJA AMRATI, EVANGELINA BENAKIS, MAYA BRENER, DANIEL BRINDLE-KHYM, THEODORE CACY, DAVID CASWELL, ALEXANDER CHRISTIAN, OPHELIA CLARK-WADE, CAMILLE DILLON-EIRICH, ERISA FETAJ, RILEY FOX, JESSE FRASER-GREYTAJ, KAELA GLASER, AVA KARAGANIS, SEBASTIAN KOPP, MOLLIE KURITZKY, TAHSAN LATIF, JOYCE LEE, DAHLIA LIEF, JACK MCCURRY, VERONICA MOLLOD, ZARA RASUL, ADAM RIPP, ARI SCHAER, ELENA SMITH, AMENA STEENHUIS, ELYN TORRES, LATIFA TOURE, AND JESSI ZHENG

American Events: Trump Nominates Kash Patel as FBI Director

Zara Rasul and Evangelina Benakis, Grade 12, Staff Writers

- President-Elect Donald Trump has nominated Kash Patel as the new Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- Patel will replace Christopher Wray, who had been appointed by President Trump in 2017. However, Trump later criticized Wray.
- Patel is a former public defender and federal prosecutor who gained prominence as an aide to Representative Devin Nunes. He played a pivotal role in challenging the FBI's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election.
- Patel intends to restructure the FBI by dismissing senior leaders and prosecuting agents for alleged abuses of their authority. He will aim to reduce their size and influence.
- Patel has expressed intentions of aggressively pursuing government officials who leak information and amending laws to facilitate the prosecution of journalists, whom he had specifically labeled as the "most powerful enemy the US has ever seen."

Global Events: Protests Erupt Through Georgia as Government Suspends EU Accession Discussions until 2028

Jessi Zheng and Joyce Lee, Grade 12, Staff Writers

- Protests first erupted in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital, on the morning of November 29th after its government said it would halt the country's bid to join the European Union until 2028.
- President Salome Zourabichvili has sided with the protesters, condemning political violence and the Georgian Dream Party for siding with Russia rather than Georgia.
- The Georgian Dream Party won the election last month, but after accusations of fraudulent election results, the European Parliament has called for a re-run in 2025.
- EU membership is popular amongst the Georgian public, with polls showing that more than 80% of Georgians favor it.

Miscellaneous Events:

Sebastian Kopp, Grade 10, and Veronica Mollod, Grade 10, Staff Writers

- The Albanian opposition leader Sali Berisha was released from house arrest after intensifying protests against his imprisonment.
- Large protests erupted in Islamabad, Pakistan demanding the release of former Prime Minister Imran Khan from prison, causing roads in the city to temporarily shut down.
- The Missouri Attorney General said he would be enforcing restrictions on abortion access after the state passed a constitutional amendment overturning its almost full ban.
- During the North Indian Ocean cyclone season, 19 people in India and Sri Lanka were killed by Cyclone Fengal
- US national security advisor Jake Sullivan has decided not to return Ukraine's nuclear weapons that were surrendered after the collapse of the Soviet Union
- US President Joe Biden issues an official pardon to his son Hunter Biden for tax and firearm charges

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