

People & Places



Mohammed El Garbough, a horse carriage owner, waits for customers in the landmark Jamma El Fnaa in Marrakech, Morocco on July 22, 2020. Morocco's restrictions to counter the coronavirus pandemic have taken a toll on the carriage horses in the tourist hub of Marrakech. (AP)

Technology

'Can add visual effects'

Facebook 'launches' its new TikTok clone, Reels

Facebook's Instagram is officially launching its answer to the hit short video app TikTok — Instagram Reels.

The new Instagram feature will let users record and edit 15-second videos with audio, and will let users add visual effects. Users will be able to share Reels with followers in Instagram in a dedicated section called Reels in Explore, or in the Story feature where posts disappear after 24 hours.

The Reels option will be available in the Instagram app. The company has been testing Reels in Brazil since November and in France, Germany and India since earlier this summer.



Zuckerberg

Facebook CEO **Mark Zuckerberg** faced tough questioning about the company's habit of copying rivals before a congressional hearing on July 29.

Facebook earlier launched a TikTok knockoff called Lasso in 2018, but closed that down in July. It also tried services similar to Snapchat called Slingshot and Poke before Instagram Stories caught on. But those were separate apps — it might have more success with a feature built into Instagram.

In fact, copying Snapchat's features was successful for Instagram in part because Snapchat was difficult to figure out for new users. They were already comfortable with Instagram. But TikTok is very easy to use — easier than Instagram — and part of its appeal is that you're able to sit back and scroll endlessly with just swipes, without the need to follow anyone or post anything.

Even with the success of Stories, Snapchat remains popular with younger people, though the Instagram feature has likely limited its growth. Snapchat has more daily users than Twitter.

For Reels to succeed, Facebook will have to lure video creators away from TikTok. This might be easier to do with Reels since many creators are already on Instagram. In response to published reports that Instagram is paying TikTok influencers to join Reels, Instagram said in a statement that the company "have a long history of reaching out to emerging creators and working to break new stars on Instagram."

Experience

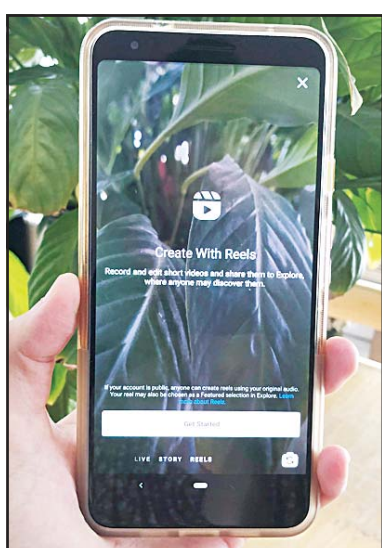
"As with previous products, we remain committed to investing in both our creators and their overall experience, and in certain cases, we may help cover production costs for their creative ideas," the company said.

TikTok, in turn, launched a \$200 million "creator fund" in July that it says will grow to over \$1 billion in the US in the next three years and more than double that globally, to pay video creators for their material.

TikTok, however, is under fire, possibly opening an opportunity for Facebook.

Microsoft is in talks to buy part of TikTok in what would be a forced sale, following threats from President Donald Trump to ban the Chinese-owned video app, which claims 100 million US users and hundreds of millions globally.

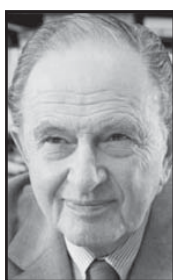
Experts think Facebook has an opportunity to lure in young users with Reels, but its success is not guaranteed. (AP)



Instagram Reels is displayed on a mobile phone on Aug 5 in New York. Facebook's Instagram is officially launching its answer to the hit short video app TikTok — Instagram Reels. (AP)



Morgan



Bailyn

Variety

NEW YORK: Bernard Bailyn, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and educator of lasting influence whose "The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution" transformed how many thought about the country's formation, has died at 97.

Bailyn's wife, **Lotte**, told The Associated Press that the author died early Friday at their home in **Belmont, Massachusetts**. He had been in failing health, she said.

Bernard Bailyn had an enduring and prolific career even though he was never as widely known as Gordon Wood and other historians of the early US. A longtime professor at Harvard who mentored numerous young historians, Bailyn probed everything from education to immigration in early American life and was widely credited with setting more rigorous standards of research. He documented the effects of British and European culture on Americans, the role of pamphlets in revolutionary thinking and the rise of merchant and planter classes.

His most prominent legacy was in forming a new narrative of the revolution itself. Along with Yale University historian **Edmund S. Morgan** and other contemporaries, he challenged the theory of **Charles A. Beard** that the founders were wealthy opportunists less interested in ideas than in power, using revolutionary rhetoric to arrange a society that primarily benefited themselves. Through a close reading of political pamphlets, Bailyn believed that the founders held sincere and reasoned ideas about democracy and profoundly objected to British claims of ultimate power to enact laws for the colonies.

Lifestyle

'Only tourism can save us'

Morocco carriage horses face starvation

MARRAKECH, Morocco, Aug 9, (AP) — Abdenabi Nouidi sold his favorite horse for \$150 to help feed the others on the team that pulls tourists in carriages through the bustling streets of Marrakech. The prospect of starvation looms for carriage horses and other animals normally used in Morocco's tourist hub. Visitors have vanished during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad, or SPANA, says hundreds of Morocco's carriage horses and donkeys are threatened amid the collapsing tourism industry. They are among the estimated 200 million horses, donkeys, camels and elephants worldwide providing various livelihoods for over a half-billion people.

The North African kingdom closed its doors to outsiders after the first virus case was confirmed March 2. It recently issued a ban on domestic travel to eight cities, including Marrakech.

Thousands of people depend on the carriage horses for their livelihood. A single horse carriage in Marrakech supports four to five families, including owners, drivers and stable boys, carriage driver Abdeljalil Belghaoute said.

He spoke from his carriage, waiting in a line near the famed Jamma El Fnaa square, hoping that someone would want a ride.

"If you have a shop, you can close it. If you sell goods, you store them. But imagine having ... horses who need to eat, drink and get medical care," said Abdeljalil Nouidi.

For two decades, the four Nouidi brothers have taken tourists on sightseeing jaunts in horse-drawn carriages. Now they have empty pockets and mouths to feed, both at home and at the rundown complex outside Marrakech where drivers stable their horses.

The brothers were forced to sell seven of their horses in July. Abdenabi Nouidi's favorite, Cocotte, was among them.

"This is not something I can easily forgive myself for," he said, recalling a promise he made to Cocotte 15 years ago to keep him forever.

Disrupted

The Nouidi brothers suspect that their horses, visibly nervous, know an abrupt change in their lives may be coming. With no carriage work, the horses' routine has been disrupted, feed is running low and mates are leaving for good.

SPANA helped carriage owners provide the basics for their horses when the COVID-19 pandemic reached Morocco. It delivered three months' worth of feed to almost 600 horses in the city and the neighboring town of Ait Ourir during the country's lockdown.

"It became very clear to us when the lockdown was first imposed that many of Marrakech's working animals would need our help or face a dire outcome," said the head veterinarian at SPANA's Marrakech center, Hassan Lamrini.

The center, in a working-class

neighborhood, is a mecca for the city's thousands of working animals. Since 1988, the team of vets and technicians have cared for donkeys, mules and horses free of charge.

Lamrini said the center has treated an increasing number of cases of colic, an abdominal pain that causes complications in the digestive system, often due to malnutrition. Colic can be fatal.

"There is not much in the world that matters to me more than caring for these animals. They are my entire life," said Boujamaa Ninich, who has dedicated 50 years to working with SPANA. He spends weeks on end sleeping in a little room at the center to ensure the animals are cared for after dark.

"They give so much to their owners. There is so little that we can give back," he said.

Marrakech was nearly at a standstill on a recent visit. The Jamma El Fnaa square, a vast area with hawkers, food vendors and snake-dancers, was nearly deserted.

"Only tourism can save us from this catastrophe we're facing," said Belghaoute, the carriage driver hoping for a fare.

The Moroccan government earlier this year launched a social media campaign to encourage citizens to explore their country, but spiking numbers of COVID-19 cases led to the travel ban for eight of the country's top tourist cities.

Authorities counted 28,500 infections and 435 deaths as of Thursday.

He also downplayed the influence of Enlightenment philosophy, writing that the founders drew upon theories of liberty and government well developed by British opponents of monarchy.

This "logic of rebellion" led the founders not only to defy their colonial rulers, but to envision "America's destiny in the

context of world history," Bailyn wrote.

An acknowledged landmark in scholarship, "The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution" won the Pulitzer Prize and Bancroft Prize in 1968. Morgan, who died in 2013, once praised "Ideological Origins" as the "book that has done the most to shape

modern understanding of the causes of the Revolution."

Bailyn received another Pulitzer, in 1987, for "Voyagers to the West," a breakthrough study that was among the first scholarly analyses of colonial era immigration from **England** to the New World, a subject of enduring interest to Bailyn. His other books included "The Origins of American Politics" and "To Begin the World Anew," which included a widely discussed essay about the Federalist papers. (AP)



The first rain since June 28, 2020 broke a 39-day dry spell in Eugene, Ore., and that meant that 13-year-old Nana had to don her protective gear for a walk with her person Marti Black, along 5th Avenue on Aug 6. (AP)

GREENWOOD, Del: The owner of a pizza shop used his available resources to fend off a robbery attempt by a man with a machete outside his store in Delaware, police said.

He threw a pizza at him. It happened as the owner of Stargate Pizza in Greenwood was closing down his shop for the night, Delaware State Police said in a news release. The owner told troopers that a man with a machete approached him demanding money. He said he told him he didn't have any, and threw a pizza at him, causing the machete-wielding man to flee in a car.

Troopers say the shop owner was not injured. They're asking anyone with information to contact state police. The news release doesn't say how the pizza was disposed of. (AP)