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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Accuser says Ghislaine Maxwell watched her have sexual contact with Jeffrey Epstein

NEW YORK, Nov 30 (Reuters) - A woman testified at Ghislaine Maxwell's criminal trial on Tuesday that she had sexual contact with Jeffrey Epstein multiple times when she was 14 years old, sometimes with Maxwell in the room looking on after helping to bring her into the late financier's orbit.

The testimony from the woman, known by the pseudonym Jane, came on the second day of Maxwell's sex abuse trial in Manhattan federal court.

Maxwell, 59, faces sex trafficking and other charges for allegedly recruiting and grooming Jane and three other underage girls for deceased financier Jeffrey Epstein to abuse between 1994 and 2004.

The British socialite has pleaded not guilty, and her lawyers have said she is being scapegoated for Epstein's alleged crimes.

Early 40s, Jane testified for the government that Maxwell and Epstein first approached her and a group of friends when they were eating ice cream at an arts summer camp in Michigan in the summer of 1994.

Jane was a singer, but said her family was struggling financially after her father's death the prior year, and that Epstein and Maxwell told her that they were benefactors of her camp and awarded many student scholarships.

She testified that Maxwell would sometimes take her to the movies or hang out by the pool at Epstein's house, and talk about school, including whether she had a boyfriend.

Jane said she did not, and that Maxwell then told her: "Once you fuck them, you can always fuck them again because they're grandfathered in."

"I giggled because I didn't understand what grandfathered meant first and foremost," Jane testified.

Prosecutors alleged in a 2021 indictment against Maxwell that behavior like buying girls gifts and discussing sexual topics with them amounted to "grooming" them for abuse.

After camp ended, Epstein invited her and her mother over for tea, Jane said, adding that she was later invited by Maxwell and other Epstein employees to come on her own.

On one of those occasions, Jane testified



that Epstein offered to help with her singing career before ending the conversation abruptly.

"He just took my hand and said, 'Follow me,'" before taking her to his pool house and pulling down his pants, Jane said.

"He pulled me on top of himself and proceeded to masturbate on me and then he got up and went into the bathroom and cleaned himself up," Jane said. "I was terrified and felt gross and I felt ashamed."

On other occasions, also at age 14, Jane said Maxwell and Epstein would take her to a massage table in his Palm Beach house and demonstrate how Epstein liked to be massaged.

Jane described Maxwell's demeanor as "very casual" during these interactions.

In her opening statement on Monday, a lawyer for Maxwell described Jane as a talented singer who received financial help from Epstein and never accused Maxwell of wrongdoing before his death.

The lawyer asked the jury to listen for "internal inconsistencies" in Jane's testimony.

Maxwell's lawyers will get a chance to cross-examine Jane.

Epstein died by suicide in a Manhattan jail cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex-abuse charges.

Moderna CEO says vaccines likely less effective against Omicron

SYDNEY, Nov 30 (Reuters) - The head of drugmaker Moderna (MRNA.O) said COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to be as effective against the Omicron variant of the coronavirus as they have been previously, sparking fresh worry in financial markets about the trajectory of the pandemic.

"There is no world, I think, where (the effectiveness) is the same level... we had with Delta," Moderna Chief Executive Stéphane Bancel told the Financial Times in an interview.

"I think it's going to be a material drop. I just don't know how much because we need to wait for the data. But all the scientists I've talked to... are like 'this is not going to be good.'"

Vaccine resistance could lead to more sickness and hospitalisations and prolong the pandemic, and his comments triggered selling in growth-exposed assets like oil, stocks and the Australian dollar.

Bancel added that the high number of mutations on the protein spike the virus uses to infect human cells meant it was likely the current crop of vaccines would need to be modified.

He had earlier said on CNBC that it could take months to begin shipping a vaccine that does work against Omicron. [read more](#)

Fear of the new variant, despite a lack of information about its severity, has already triggered delays to some economic reopening plans and the reimposition of some travel and movement restrictions.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

11/30/2021

Omicron May Pose A Threat To The Economy



economy picked up steam while the job market rebounded and the unemployment rate fell to 4.6 %, the lowest rate since may 2020. Today our greatest

concern is that if the virus reduces people's willingness to work in person, then that would slow progress in the labor market and also add to supply chain disruptions. Another virus is now threatening the world. We are still expecting the scientists and

medical experts to come to our rescue with another vaccine to fight off this evil.

All of us live here on the same planet. No country can be isolated. We all need to work together to fight for our common future.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said that the new Omicron variant will threaten America's economic recovery.

Even if it remains unknown and yet still prolongs the pandemic, it could keep prices rising, hurt job growth and cause supply chain problems.

Powell delivered his

testimony in a Senate committee on Banking Housing And Urban Affairs. He noted that when the Delta variant spread across the globe this past summer many people were afraid to travel, shop and eat at restaurants or even return to work. That was what held back the U.S. economy. But when the infections fell off, throughout the fall the



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



A house is photographed in Tajuya next to the lava of the Cumbre Vieja volcano that continues to erupt, on the Canary Island of La Palma, Spain. REUTERS/Borja Suarez



A medical worker walks past a screen monitoring coronavirus patients at the intensive care unit (ICU) of Bagae Hospital in Pyeongtaek, South Korea. REUTERS/Kim Hong-Ji



Sarah Ransome departs the court on the first day of the Ghislaine Maxwell trial in the Manhattan borough of New York City. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri



A White House Military Social Aide stands in the Center Hall during a press tour of White House Christmas decorations ahead of holiday receptions by U.S. President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden in Washington. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst



A sign on the door warning customers not to wear a face mask reads "We Buy Guns on Masked Visitors" at the 619DW Guns and Ammo store amid the coronavirus pandemic in Merrimack, New Hampshire. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



People take a selfie in front of the Grogu "Baby Yoda" balloon as it is inflated the day before the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Manhattan, New York, November 24. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri

BUSINESS

WMO Chief Prof Petteri Taalas: “We Are Way Off Track.”

World Greenhouse Gas Levels Hit Record; Countries Struggle To Curb Damage



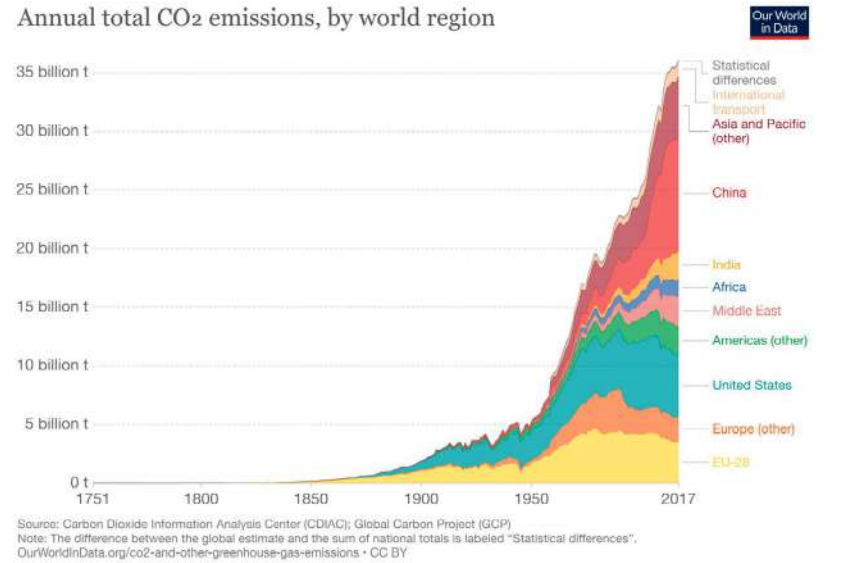
The concentration of carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, is now 50% higher than before the Industrial Revolution. (Photo: sturti/Getty Images)

KEY POINTS
UN seeks ‘dramatic increase’ in climate commitments Summit will seek to avert menacing levels of warming UK’s Johnson says COP26 outcome is ‘touch and go’

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

GENEVA/GLASGOW, Oct 25 (Reuters) - Greenhouse gas concentrations hit a record last year and the world is “way off track” on capping rising temperatures, the United Nations said on Monday, showing the task facing climate talks in Glasgow aimed at averting dangerous levels of warming. A report by the U.N. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) showed carbon dioxide levels surged to 413.2 parts per million in 2020, rising more than the average rate over the last decade despite a temporary dip in emissions during COVID-19 lockdowns. WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said the current rate of increase in heat-trapping gases would result in temperature rises “far in excess” of the 2015 Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average this century. “We are way off track,” he said. “We need to revisit our industrial, energy

and transport systems and whole way of life,” he added, calling for a “dramatic increase” in commitments at the COP26 conference beginning on Sunday. The Scottish city of Glasgow was putting on the final touches before hosting the climate talks, which may be the world’s last best chance to cap global warming at the 1.5-2 degrees Celsius upper limit set out in the Paris Agreement. “It is going to be very, very tough this summit,” British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said during a news conference with children. “I am very worried because it might go wrong and we might not get the agreements that we need and it is touch and go, it is very, very difficult, but I think it can be done,” he said. The German government announced Chancellor Angela Merkel will travel to Glasgow to take part.



STAKES ARE HUGE
The stakes for the planet are huge - among them the impact on economic livelihoods the world over and the future stability of the global financial system. Saudi Arabia’s crown prince said on Saturday that the world’s top oil exporter aims to reach “net zero” emissions of greenhouse gases, mostly produced by burning fossil fuels, by 2060 - 10 years later than the United States. He also said it would double the emissions cuts it plans to achieve by 2030. An official plan unveiled in Ottawa showed developed nations were confident they can reach their goal of handing over \$100 billion a year to poorer countries to tackle climate change by 2023, three years late. The plan on how to reach the goal, prepared by Canada and Germany, said developed countries still needed to do more and complained private finance had not lived up to expectations. A Reuters poll of economists found that hitting the Paris goal of net-zero carbon emissions will require investments in a green transition worth 2%-3% of world output each year until 2050, far less than the economic cost of inaction. By contrast governments since January 2020 have spent a total of \$10.8 trillion - or 10.2% of global output - in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **‘WE DON’T HAVE TIME’** A “business-as-usual” trajectory leading to temperature rises of 1.6C, 2.4C and 4.4C by 2030, 2050 and 2100 respectively would result in 2.4% lost output by 2030, 10% by 2050 and 18%

by 2100, according to the median replies to the survey. Australia’s cabinet was expected to formally adopt a target for net zero emissions by 2050 when it meets on Monday to review a deal reached between parties in Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s coalition government, official sources told Reuters. The ruling coalition has been divided over how to tackle climate change, with the government maintaining that harder targets would damage the A\$2-trillion (\$1.5-trillion) economy.



Smoke and steam billow from Belchatow Power Station, Europe’s largest coal-fired power plant, near Belchatow, Poland. Picture taken November 28, 2018. REUTERS/Kacper Pempel/File Photo In London, climate activists restarted their campaign of blockading major roads by disrupting traffic in the city’s financial district, while in Madrid a few dozen people staged a sit-in protest, briefly blocking the Gran Via shopping street. “Greenhouse gas emissions are provoking climate catastrophes all over the planet. We don’t have time. It’s already late and if we don’t join the

action against what’s happening, we won’t have time to save what is still left,” said Alberto, 27, a sociologist who took part in the protest. (Courtesy <https://www.reuters.com/>)

Related
Climate Crisis: Despite Lockdowns Greenhouse Gas Levels Hit New Record, Per UN Report

The data send a ‘stark’ message to the nations tasked with increasing action at the Cop26 climate summit, UN meteorology chief says
Levels of climate-heating gases in the atmosphere hit record levels in 2020, despite coronavirus-related lockdowns, the UN’s World Meteorological Organization has announced. The concentration of carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, is now 50% higher than before the Industrial Revolution sparked the mass burning of fossil fuels. Methane levels have more than doubled since 1750. All key greenhouse gases (GHG) rose faster in 2020 than the average for the previous decade and this trend has continued in 2021, the WMO report found. The data shows the climate crisis continues to worsen and send a “stark” message to the nations meeting at the Cop26 climate summit in Glasgow in a week’s time, according to WMO chief Prof Petteri Taalas: “We are way off track.”



The negotiators at the summit must deliver action to keep alive the goal of ending GHG emissions by 2050 and avoiding the worst climate impacts. Only stopping emissions will stabilise the levels of the gases and halt the temperature rises that drive the increasing damage from heatwaves, floods and droughts. “At the current rate of increase in GHG concentrations, we will see a temperature increase by the end of this century far in excess of the Paris Agreement targets of 1.5C to 2C,” said Taalas. “[Rising levels of GHGs] have major negative repercussions for our daily lives and wellbeing, and for the future of our children and grandchildren.” (Courtesy theguardian.com)

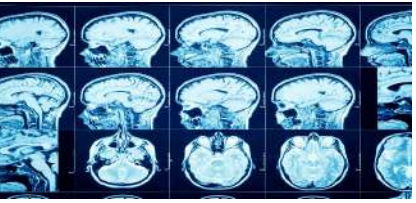
COMMUNITY

COVID-19: Research Points To Long-Term Neurological Effects



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

A recent paper examining existing evidence argues that SARS-CoV-2 infection might increase the risk of long-term neurological problems, including cognitive decline and dementia. Nearly 1 year after the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, was identified, global cases have surpassed 88 million. Although a number of vaccines have been approved, the rollout will take time. In the meantime, researchers continue studying COVID-19 in an attempt to slow the spread and reduce severe symptoms. A recent perspective article, which appears in *Alzheimer’s & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association*, reviews research into past viral illnesses, including the flu pandemic from a century earlier. The authors believe the research indicates COVID-19 could cause a lasting effect on the brain.



Other scientists are trying to piece together a picture of what life may look like in the long run for someone who has

had COVID-19.
Neurotropic viruses
Scientists consider the SARS-CoV-2 virus a “neurotropic” virus, because it can enter nerve cells. Neurotropic viruses include the mumps, rabies, and Epstein-Barr viruses. While some neurotropic viruses cause milder symptoms, others can cause swelling in the brain, paralysis, and death. Some flu-like viruses are neurotropic and similar in structure to the novel coronavirus. As such, researchers looked at these viruses to try to gain insight into what type of long-term effects to expect in people who have recovered from COVID-19. Dr. de Erausquin, who is a neurology professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, explains: “Those respiratory viruses included H1N1 and SARS-CoV. The SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19, is also known to impact the brain and nervous system.”



“Since the flu pandemic of 1917 and

1918, many of the flu-like diseases have been associated with brain disorders,” says lead author Dr. Gabriel A. de Erausquin. According to the scientists, an elevated risk of Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and mental health problems could potentially be connected to these flu-like illnesses. **Importance of neurological symptoms** Some people with COVID-19 do not experience any symptoms, while others have symptoms ranging from mild to severe. Some of the hallmark symptoms include: dry cough, fever, and difficulty breathing. Additionally, an estimated 15–25% of people with the viral illness may have neurological symptoms, including: loss of sense of taste and smell, altered mental state and headache. To enter cells, SARS-CoV-2 binds to ACE2 receptors on cell membranes. The olfactory bulb, which is the part of the brain receiving sensations of smell, harbors a high concentration of these receptors. The olfactory bulb also has strong connections to the hippocampus — the area responsible for memory.



While losing the sense of smell may not seem serious at first, it is still important, since it is tied directly to brain function. According to Dr. de Erausquin, “The trail of the virus, when it invades the brain, leads almost straight to the hippocampus.” “That is believed to be one of the sources of the cognitive impairment observed in COVID-19 patients. We suspect it may also be part of the reason why there will be an accelerated cognitive decline over time in susceptible individuals,” he adds. Among severe neurological issues during SARS-CoV-2 infection, patients may develop fluid on the brain, inflam-

mation in the brain, and seizures. **Lasting impact of COVID-19** COVID-19 can cause severe damage to the lungs, and that damage can be irreversible. However, according to the authors’ research, it appears that the possible fallout from COVID-19 may extend far beyond lung damage. **The authors write that “respiratory problems due to SARS-CoV-2 are thought to be due in part to brain stem dysregulation, as are possibly some of the gastrointestinal symptoms.”** Based on the idea that COVID-19 can cause damage to the brain, it is possible that people who have had the novel coronavirus but were either asymptomatic or experienced mild symptoms may face problems down the road. However, because COVID-19 is a new disease, scientists will need to carry out longer-term studies to confirm these theories. “As the *Alzheimer’s & Dementia* article points out, the under-recognized medical history of these viruses over the last century suggests a strong link to brain diseases that affect memory and behavior,” comments Dr. Maria C. Carrillo,



Alzheimer’s Association chief science officer and paper co-author. “In this difficult time, we can create a ‘silver lining’ by capitalizing on the Alzheimer’s Association’s global reach and reputation to bring the research community together to illuminate COVID-19’s long-term impact on the brain,” says Dr. Carrillo. (Courtesy medicalnewstoday.com)

Related
Stanford Researchers Develop Single-Dose Nanoparticle Covid-19 Vaccine That Doesn’t Need Cold Storage
Researchers have successfully tested a nanoparticle Covid-19 vaccine which, as yet, doesn’t appear to have any of the

side effects or distribution issues plaguing the current generation of vaccines in use. The scientists at the lab of Stanford University biochemist Peter S. Kim were already working on vaccines for the likes of Ebola, HIV and pandemic influenza when the coronavirus pandemic hit, and they quickly channeled all of their efforts into fighting the new scourge. The team has already produced and tested a promising new vaccine which could provide the solution to many of the issues frustrating global vaccination efforts. Nanoparticle vaccines are often just as effective as their virus-based counterparts, while encountering fewer of the drawbacks. For example, nanoparticle vaccines can be produced faster, don’t require the extensive cold storage supply chain for delivery to immunization centers, are less likely to produce side effects, and can be produced at a lower cost, if all goes to plan. Early results from vaccine tests on mice indicate that Stanford’s nanoparticle inoculation may grant immunity after just one dose. (Courtesy rt.com)

