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Elizabeth Manley-Theobald picks up torch against ovarian cancer **ARTS & LIFE, B6**



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Our Stories in Stone **NEWS, A5**

'It's instinct. I just took the baby out,' rescuer says

Woman felt she had to act to remove infant from her car

BY DAVID GONCZOL

The woman who rescued a four-month-old baby from the back seat of a stalling car in Rockland said the infant was alone for at least five minutes with all the windows closed.

Annie Landreville said Tuesday that about five minutes had passed from the time she first heard the muffled sounds of a crying infant in the Jean Coulu parking lot on Laurier Street on Monday, when she finally decided to go into the vehicle and rescue the sweat-drenched child. "The baby was just drenched, sweating profusely, she was all red and just wailing away, so I thought, 'Oh my

goodness, they say dogs can die within minutes on a hot day' and the windows were up on the car," she said. Moments after retrieving the red-faced baby, she was confronted by the mother, who demanded to know why she was making off with her child. Landreville handed the distressed baby to the mother, who promptly drove off.

See **RESCUE** on PAGE A2



Rockland's Annie Landreville says a four-month-old baby was alone in an unlocked, sweltering car for at least five minutes.

INSIDE

Stupidity is not a crime

It is important to know the full story before judging mother, Kelly Egan says, **C1**

ONLINE

Kelly Egan

WATCH a video of an interview with Annie Landreville

HAVE YOUR SAY What do you think of this case?

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A LIFE-SAVING RHYTHM



MIKE CARROCCETTO, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Saif Ahmad, who has a PhD in computer science, has found a faster way to detect sepsis, a life-threatening blood infection, by analysing data about the human body — specifically, the rhythm of a patient's heartbeat.

Market savvy meets medicine

A computer science PhD who once analysed patterns in financial markets has helped find a better way to detect a potentially lethal blood infection, **TOM SPEARS** writes.

Saif Ahmad earned his PhD in computer science by analysing patterns in financial markets, looking for signals that would help investors make millions. Then his career took a sudden turn. He still analyses signals coming from huge amounts of data, but now they come from another unpredictable source — the human body. If you ever need a bone marrow transplant, you may have cause to be

grateful he didn't stick with the markets. Ahmad and thoracic surgeon Dr. Andrew Seely of The Ottawa Hospital have found that ordinary heart monitors can reveal the onset of sepsis, a blood infection that can be lethal. Though their work is still preliminary, the method can often detect the onset of sepsis earlier than the usual method of checking a patient's

temperature. Their study is published online this week in a journal of the Public Library of Science, called *PLoS One*. A healthy heart doesn't beat at a steady rate, Ahmad explains. You have one heartbeat, then another a second later, the next one $\frac{8}{10}$ of a second after that, then maybe $\frac{6}{10}$, and so on. A musician would call it a syncopated beat. That may sound unstable, but it's not unhealthy. "Variability is good," Ahmad notes.

See **SAVVY** on PAGE A6

Afghanistan wants ban on reporting of poll violence

Fears images will keep voters away as attacks surge

BY **MATTHEW FISHER** AND **MIKE BLANCHFIELD**

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan Taliban attacks rocked Afghanistan Tuesday, claiming at least 21 lives in the tense and violent runup to an election that will shape the future of the war-torn country.

Faced with escalating violence, and incessant allegations of fraud, the Afghan government made an unusual request of local and international journalists: Refrain from reporting violent incidents on election day Thursday.

The request came amid renewed Taliban threats to sabotage the election in which 17 million Afghans are eligible to vote, amid heightened fears they could star away. But the NATO-led coalition said despite a spike in insurgent strikes, less than one per cent of polling stations are at

risk of being attacked. "All domestic and international media agencies are requested to refrain from broadcasting any incidence of violence during the election process from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Aug. 20," the government said in a statement. If people see dead and wounded people on television, one spokesman reasoned, it could "weaken their confidence" and keep them from voting. A version of the same decree in the Dari language went much further, reportedly saying such reports were "strictly forbidden."

A big voter turnout is key to lending legitimacy to western efforts to build democracy in Afghanistan, but stepped-up attacks by the Taliban and al-Qaeda — including Tuesday's car-bomb attack on a NATO convoy in Kabul — and renewed allegations of fraud and abuse of power by incumbent President Hamid Karzai, present massive challenges.

See **TURNOUT** on PAGE A6

Denied: Britain refuses entry to soldier's Canadian family, **A4**

INSIDE: Fraud financed lavish lifestyle

A former Canada Border Service Agency employee who stole a quarter-million dollars from the government

used it to fund a lifestyle that included a Mercedes Benz, a downpayment on a condo and a trip to Florida, **A3**



LUCAS JACKSON, REUTERS

Seinfeld: 'Not that there's anything wrong with that.'



PETER SIMPSON, THE BIG BEAR

Popular comic brings his show to the NAC

The catchphrase is often the most enduring part of a television show, the punchline that we all know is coming but still find satisfying, time after time, even years later. Nobody would remember the sitcom *Good Times* without Jimmy Walker's "dy-no-mite!" You probably know "Here's Johnny!" is from *The Tonight Show* (and wickedly satirized by Jack Nicholson in *The Shining*). You don't need an explanation for

"What's up doc?" or "De plane, boss, de plane" or "Book 'em, Danno!" There's even a current TV show, *Extras*, with Ricky Gervais as the star of a fictional sitcom built entirely around a catchphrase: Is he "having a laugh?"

See **ONE-LINERS** on PAGE A2



Shakespeare: 'Naked truth' and 'the be-all and end-all.'

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NEWS

Savvy: Method signals danger about 35 hours sooner

Continued from PAGE A1

But when sepsis sets in, these long and short intervals begin to even out into a heartbeat that ticks like a clock, steady and regular.

On average, their study of 17 patients found this signals the start of sepsis 35 hours — almost a day and a half — earlier than traditional methods, though it varied from patient to patient.

Sepsis "is life-threatening. The earlier you detect it and get aggressive antibiotic therapy, that's the only way to deal with it at the moment," Ahmad said.

The earlier you detect (sepsis) and get aggressive antibiotic therapy, that's the only way to deal with it at the moment.'

SAIF AHMAD,
PhD, computer sciences

(The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says sepsis is the 10th most common cause of death in the U.S., and the second-highest cause of death in intensive care units.)

It was Seely who picked sepsis as a research topic. It's a constant threat among surgical patients, and the two men decided to focus on patients receiving bone-marrow transplants as cancer therapy.

"That puts their whole physiological system at a compromise," Ahmad says. "The white blood cell count goes pretty low," which reduces their ability to fight infection.

The patients are sent home and told to watch their temperatures. If they start to rise, that's taken as a sign of possible sepsis.

But in this study, they were also given Holter monitors —

a heart monitor for outpatients that clips on a belt, with wires taped to the patient's torso. It records 24 or 48 hours of heart activity at a time.

Ahmad went to work on these records, monitoring each patient for an average of 12 days, "looking for patterns using sophisticated techniques from complex systems science and statistical physics and computer science."

"The challenge is that this data doesn't follow any well-known principles," he said. "It has certain patterns which are irregular, so the technique has to be robust to pick up the subtle changes from the data."

His analysis worked. He found that before other signs of sepsis appeared, the heart rates stopped jumping around "and became very monotonous and featureless."

"We can get the data, analyse it, and show meaningful drops" in the heartbeat variations, he said. "It's a promising technique. We have shown that it works and we're hoping to bring it into practice someday."

A bonus is that all this works with ordinary heart monitors that hospitals have used for years.

Seely says studies show the risk of death from sepsis increases by about seven per cent for each hour that the start of treatment is delayed. And he said current methods of detecting sepsis are "incredibly crude," since they don't work until the temperature of the patient's entire body is rising.

While the new method isn't meant to be the only tool for diagnosing sepsis, "we feel it may raise the alarm earlier," he said.

Seely has founded a spinoff company, Therapeutic Monitoring Systems, to commercialize the process.

Ahmad now studies blood pressure monitoring at the University of Ottawa's School of Information Technology and Engineering.



SAHIB KHANJANI, REUTERS

Afghan women walk past election posters in Herat in western Afghanistan on Tuesday. The Afghan government has asked internal and international journalists not to report on election-day violence Thursday for fear it would keep voters home.

Turnout: NATO ready to defend stations

Continued from PAGE A1

Though there would be no penalty for reporting violence, a spokesman for the government said there was a "journalistic responsibility to avoid creating public fear."

The unusual plea came as pre-election violence in Kabul left 10 dead and more than 50 wounded when a suicide car-bomber rammed a NATO convoy.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a suicide bomber blew himself up at an Afghan military checkpoint in Urzgan province, killing three soldiers and two civilians, police said.

Attacks also killed a candidate and three electoral workers in the usually peaceful north. And two U.S. military personnel were killed in a roadside blast in Eastern Afghanistan.

Those attacks followed Saturday's car bombing at the front gate of NATO's Kabul headquarters that killed sev-

en people and wounded more than 90.

Violence has increased dramatically in recent days, said Canadian Brig.-Gen. Eric Tremblay, a spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

Seven Afghan civilians were among those killed in Tuesday's attack, he noted, and the victims also included one ISAF soldier and two United Nations civilians.

"This incident, once again, proves that the insurgents have no respect for the Afghan population," Tremblay said. "As you can imagine, conducting elections throughout an insurgency and counter-insurgency makes these elections even more challenging."

Tremblay said insurgents averaged about 22 attacks a day over a recent 10-day period, but that average rose four days ago to 48 attacks per day.

But the general argued that was still not enough to close Thursday's polls.

"Clearly, they do not have the capacity to intimidate and prevent 15 million Afghan voters that have registered for this election, considering that only one per cent of 6,500 potential polling stations is 65, and the maximum number of attacks they've done in one day was 48," said Tremblay.

As the result of a country-wide NATO directive, the 2,800 Canadians serving with Task Force Afghanistan are to suspend all offensive operations on Thursday.

Instead, the coalition forces will support Afghan soldiers and police officers if they come under attack from insurgents while defending voters or polling stations.

In another security measure that has proven successful in Iraq, all civilian vehicular traffic will be banned across Afghanistan on Thursday.

The Taliban has issued a series of "night letters" in Kandahar and elsewhere in Afghanistan, demanding that

voters stay home. One of the leaflets issued by "the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" that was obtained by Canwest News Service said, "Dear citizens, we are warning you not to participate in the election. If you do, you will fall prey to our operations."

Karzai is the favourite to win Thursday, but polls and strong turnouts at rallies by his former foreign minister, Abdullah Abdullah, have caused speculation that Karzai will not get so per cent plus one of the ballots cast.

If he doesn't, he would have to face Abdullah in a second round run-off in October.

A disputed vote would make it harder to build a popularly accepted government that can halt the revival of the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Karzai may have the most to lose if his fellow Pushtun tribesmen are too intimidated to vote.

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