



Around the world



France National anthem to be taught

From this autumn, French primary school pupils will have to learn their national anthem and learn how and why the European Union (EU) was formed. The changes to the curriculum aim to teach students about the values of their own country as well as those of their EU neighbours. Jean-Michel Blanquer, the education minister, said the changes would teach students about French laws, gender equality and human rights.



US Mountain of cheese is a big problem

The US has the largest stockpile of cheese in 100 years – since records began. It weighs a combined total of 630 million kilograms, which is more than two kilograms for each American citizen. The reason for the stockpile is that milk production is at an all-time high, but people are drinking less milk than they used to and many are switching to non-dairy products such as soya milk and almond milk. It is easier to store milk in the form of cheese as it lasts longer.



Mexico New president aims to make history

Andrés Manuel López Obrador has won Mexico's presidential election with 53% of the vote. Obrador is part of the Juntos Haremos Historia political party. The party's name means "together we will make history" in Spanish. He hopes to crack down on corruption (corruption is dishonest conduct by people in power). He addressed the crowd saying, "I will not fail you. I will not disappoint you. I won't betray the people."



Estella, Spain Church sculpture fails to impress

A restoration of a 16th century carving of Saint George, in a church in northern Spain, has not gone to plan. The figure now looks like "a Walt Disney character", according to some people on social media. The work was carried out by an arts and crafts teacher for the Church of St Michael in Estella. The town's mayor, Koldo Leoz, is not happy with the work.

Nigeria Snakebite antidote too expensive to produce

Nigeria is running seriously low on snakebite antidote (a medicine used to treat people who have been bitten by deadly snakes). It is estimated that more than 10,000 people are bitten by snakes every year in the country. In a three-week period last year, around 250 people reportedly died in the central regions of Gombe and Plateau after being bitten. However, many companies have stopped making the antidote because they say it costs more to make it than they can sell it for, which has resulted in a global shortage.



Trondheim, Norway Driverless ferry trips begin

Norway has designed the world's first driverless ferry, and it is already transporting people across the waterways of Trondheim in central Norway. The ferry is able to navigate itself using sensors and onboard satellite technology, which is cheaper than paying a crew. If it proves to be a success, it could avoid the need to build bridges across the waterways, which are said to cost more than running the ferry.



Majorca, Spain Great white shark spotted

A five-metre long great white shark has been spotted off the coast of Majorca – a Spanish Mediterranean island – for the first time in 40 years. There have been plenty of rumoured sightings of great white sharks in Spanish waters, but this is the first time there has been a confirmed sighting since 1976. A Spanish wildlife conservation group spotted the shark and tracked it for over an hour. It called the sighting "historic" and described the animal as "beautiful".

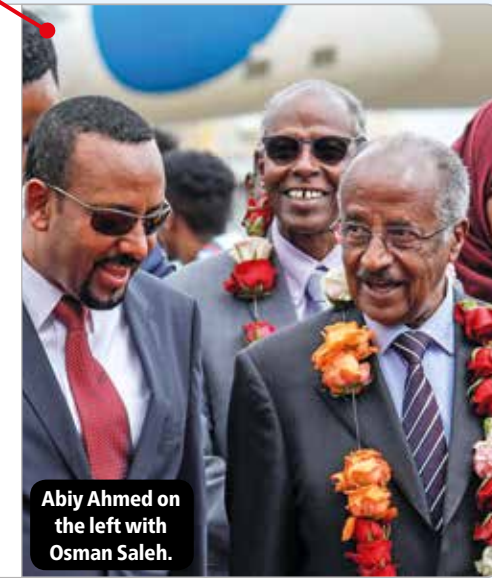


Heroshah, Pakistan "Green gold" in the hills

The hills of Heroshah, in north-western Pakistan, have been transformed from dry land to lush forest. In 2015 and 2016, 900,000 fast-growing eucalyptus trees were planted. Not only do the trees look beautiful, they also guard against floods as they absorb rainwater. This means that the area can be used to grow crops that residents can sell. Forest manager, Pervaiz Manan, described the trees as "green gold".

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Ethiopia and Eritrea hold historic peace talks

Politicians from Eritrea have visited Ethiopia to hold peace talks for the first time in 20 years. The two East African neighbours have not had contact since a war broke out over their shared border in 1998. The talks come after Ethiopian prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, said his country would give back land that Eritrea claims it owns. Ahmed said, "Let this dispute conclude with this generation. Let the era of love and reconciliation commence." Osman Saleh, Eritrea's foreign minister, said, "We have opened the door of peace."



Abiy Ahmed on the left with Osman Saleh.



Australia Anger over plastic bag ban

Shops in four out of six Australian states have introduced a ban on single-use plastic bags, and customers must now buy reusable ones. Not everyone's happy about it, though; there have been reports of customers stealing plastic bags and getting angry in shops. It is estimated that around five trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year.

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