

IN BRIEF



Hackers win Tesla car for exposing system error

VANCOUVER
Electric-car maker Tesla gave away one of their Model 3 cars and \$35,000 prize money to a group of hackers after they managed to crack its system during a hacking event. Amat Cama and Richard Zhu of team Fluoracetate exposed a vulnerability in the vehicle during the Pwn2Own 2019 hacking competition. **IANS**



Smart speakers could assist doctors: study

LOS ANGELES
Smart speakers, such as the Amazon Echo and Google Home, can be programmed to assist physicians in hospital operating rooms, scientists say. The devices offer a conversational voice interface that allows interventional radiology (IR) physicians to get information needed for treating their patients without breaking sterile scrub. **PTI**



36-year-old Kenyan wins \$1 mn best teacher prize

DUBAI
A maths and physics teacher from a secondary school in a remote village in Kenya has won the \$1 million Global Teacher Prize for 2019. Peter Tabichi, 36, who gives away 80% of his monthly income to the poor, received the prize at a ceremony in Dubai. **AFF**

A Messi drawing comes 'alive'

Bangladeshi man's picture of the footballer six years ago matches recent pose

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

A young Bangladeshi architect has earned fame after his digital drawing of footballer Lionel Messi was matched in real life six years later.

Suhas Nahian's 2013 artwork shows Messi dribbling past a group of players in green and white, leaning his head forward as one of the defenders grabs his red-and-blue Barcelona jersey.

Photos of Messi shot during a recent match against Real Betis show him in an almost identical pose, complete with one defender on the ground as the Argentinian charges through.

"I painted something 6 years ago, and football gods made the image come true," Suhas, 29, said on Instagram. He said that he watched the La Liga match, which saw Messi score a hat-trick as Barcelona won 4-1, but noticed nothing exceptional until a friend phoned him and excitedly pointed out the striking similarities.

"I looked back and found those are actually very simi-



Hand of god: Messi artwork by Suhas Nahian compared with a photo of a recent game. **AFF**

lar" he said. "It was fascinating. I was surprised."

Mr. Suhas, who now owns an architecture firm, said the digital painting he drew as a student in 2013 was shared by a football fan page called Plaantik at that time.

"I am glad my only painting brought me so much fame, as it has been published in many Spanish, Argentine and Indian media," he said. Mr. Suhas said he

did not choose Betis's white and green jersey for his artwork consciously.

Choice of colours

"Barcelona's jersey is very vibrant with blue and red, so from the point of colour I wanted to paint the rest of the painting in green so that Messi stays in focus," he said.

"So I chose this green and white jersey, not specifically thinking of Betis but from

the sense of colour." Mr. Suhas said his artwork was part of a football-themed series that he wanted to do including Messi's dribbling, Cristiano Ronaldo's header and Xavi's turn.

"I am a Barcelona fan but I admire all great players. This is why I wanted to draw this football series. But after the painting on Messi's dribbling, I could not complete the rest," he said.

Cassettes make a niche comeback

Top musicians, including Ariana Grande and Justin Bieber, release their music on tape

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

The humble cassette – that tiny little plastic rectangle containing the homemade mixtapes of yesteryear – is back, joining vinyl as a darling of audiophiles who miss side A and side B.

But as top musicians, including Ariana Grande and Justin Bieber, release their music on tape and demand continues to climb, the niche revival has faced a global shortage of music-quality



Two firms – one in the U.S. and the other in France – are making analog tapes. **AFF**

magnetic tape needed for production.

Now, two facilities – one

in the American Midwest and the other in western France – have stepped in to meet the need.

"It's a good place to be – there's plenty of business for both of us," said Steve Stepp, who founded the National Audio Company in Missouri with his father 50 years ago.

He said that around 2000 the "imperial hegemony of the CD" cut his business, which stayed alive as a major manufacturer of books on tape that remained popular.

But despite the astronomical rise of streaming, Mr. Stepp said rock bands like Pearl Jam and The Smashing Pumpkins began seeking to manufacture anniversary tapes in the mid-2000s, launching a cassette comeback tour. "That convinced record labels that there was still life in the cassette as a music form," he said.

Since November, Mulann – a French company – has rebooted production, the country's first manufactur-

ing of music-grade tape in two decades.

The Mulann group acquired a plant to produce analog audio tapes under the trademark Recording The Masters.

For Jean-Luc Renou, Mulann's CEO, there's still a place for analog sound in today's music world.

Cassette tape album sales in the U.S. grew by 23% in 2018, jumping from 1,78,000 copies the year prior to 2,19,000.

Human contact: 'a luxury good'

For the elites, going offscreen is the new status symbol

NELLIE BOWLES
SAN FRANCISCO

Bill Langlois has a new best friend. She is a cat named Sox. She lives on a tablet, and she makes him so happy that when he talks about her arrival in his life, he begins to cry.

All day long, Sox and Mr. Langlois chat. Mr. Langlois worked in machine operations, but now he is retired. With his wife out of the house most of the time, he has grown lonely.

Mr. Langlois, 68, knows that Sox is artifice. He knows she is operated by workers who are typing out her responses, which sound slow and robotic. But her consistent voice in his life has returned him to his faith.

"I found something so reliable and someone so caring, and it's allowed me to go into my deep soul and remember how caring the Lord was," Mr. Langlois said. "She's brought my life back."

Mr. Langlois is on a fixed income. To qualify for Element Care, a nonprofit health care programme for older adults that brought



him Sox, a patient's countable assets must not be greater than \$2,000. Such programmes are proliferating. And not just for the elderly.

Life for anyone but the very rich – the physical experience of learning, living and dying – is increasingly mediated by screens. Not only are screens themselves cheap to make, but they also make things cheaper.

The rich do not live like this. The rich have grown afraid of screens. They want their children to play with blocks, and tech-free private schools are booming. Humans are more expensive, and rich people are willing and able to pay for them. Conspicuous human interac-

tion – living without a phone for a day, quitting social networks and not answering email – has become a status symbol. All of this has led to a curious new reality: Human contact is becoming a luxury good.

Milton Pedraza, chief executive of the Luxury Institute, advises companies on how the wealthiest want to live and spend. "What we are seeing now is the luxurification of human engagement," Mr. Pedraza said.

This is a swift change. Since the 1980s personal computer boom, having technology at home and on your person had been a sign of wealth and power.

Tech companies worked hard to get public schools to buy into programmes that required schools to have one laptop per student, arguing that it would better prepare children for their screen-based future. But this is not how the people who build the screen-based future raise their own children. In Silicon Valley, time on screens is increasingly seen as unhealthy. **NY TIMES**

Woman sues Harvard over images of 'slave ancestor'

The subjects were 'forced to pose naked'



A photograph of Renty Tamara Lanier, right, who filed a lawsuit against Harvard University. **AFF**



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

A U.S. woman who says she is descended from slaves who were photographed in 1850 by a racist Harvard University professor sued the university last week over the "exploitation" of the images of her ancestors.

Tamara Lanier filed suit in the northeastern state of Massachusetts over the photographs taken in South Carolina of a slave and his daughter, known only by their first names: Renty – the patriarch of her family – and Delia.

The images, thought to be the earliest known photographs of American slaves, are currently in a museum at the university near Boston.

They were commissioned by Swiss-American Harvard scientist Louis Agassiz, a white supremacist theorist who also worked on glaciers.

Renty and Delia were forced to pose naked, "without consent, dignity or compensation" as the professor sought to "prove" black people's inherent biological in-

feriority," Ms. Lanier, of Connecticut, said in the suit.

While several U.S. universities have recognised in recent years their ties to slavery, Ms. Lanier accuses Harvard of having "never reckoned with that grotesque chapter in its history, let alone atoned for it."

She also accused the university of working to "sanitise the history of the images and exploit them for prestige and profit," and denounced the use of Renty's image on a cover of a \$40 anthropology book it published in 2017.

In rejecting Ms. Lanier's claim of lineage and her attempt to recover the photographs, the suit claims Harvard is "perpetuating the systematic subversion of black property rights" and "capitalising on the intentional damage done to black Americans' genealogy" through policies such as forced family separation, the erasure of slaves' family names, withholding records and criminalising literacy.

Harvard refused to comment on the suit.

German cycling safety ad sparks sexism outcry

Model sports a helmet and innerwear

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

An advertising campaign by Germany's Transport Ministry to persuade cyclists to wear helmets has sparked accusations of sexism, as it features a model wearing just a helmet and underwear.

With the slogan "Looks like shit. But saves my life", the advert features a profile-shot of a competitor in the gameshow Germany's Next Topmodel sporting a violet coloured helmet and a lacy bra.

But the advert, which is due to be plastered on billboards from Tuesday, ran smack into criticism, with the women's wing of junior coalition partners SPD demanding it be halted. "It is embarrassing, stupid and sexist for the Transport Minister to be selling his poli-

cies using naked skin," Maria Noichl, chairwoman of the SPD's women's wing, told Bild am Sonntag.

Family Minister Franziska Giffey also hit out at Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer of the conservative CSU party.

Posting a photo of herself dressed in a business attire with her bicycle on Facebook, she wrote: "Dear Andreas Scheuer: fully dressed also goes well with a helmet!"

Defending the advert, a Transport Ministry spokesman, said: "A successful road safety campaign should jolt people and can be polarising."

Meanwhile, the campaign has stoked mockery on social media, with one user saying it is Germany's bicycle infrastructure that "#lookslikeshit".

Furry friend



A handler entering a ring with her alpaca for judging at the British Alpaca Society National Show held in Telford, central England. **AFF**

Silvana Imam raps and Sweden listens

The rapper from a refugee family has become the symbol of counterreaction to right-wing populism

THOMAS ROGERS
STOCKHOLM

On a recent Friday night, Swedish rapper Silvana Imam appeared on stage at Annexet, a concert venue in the south side of Stockholm, dressed like a comic-book villain. Her face hidden by a black mask studded with spikes, she dragged a metal baseball bat across the stage to the loud cheers of her mostly female audience.

The menacing display was a theatrical embodiment of the gleefully confrontational role Ms. Imam, the lesbian daughter of refugees, has come to play in Swedish pop culture. Ms. Imam, whose mother is Lithuanian and father Syrian, is one of the country's best-known hip-hop artists and a symbol of the counterreaction to the



Collective voice: Swedish rapper Silvana Imam performing at Annexet, a concert venue in Stockholm. **NYT**

rise of right-wing populism in Scandinavia's most-populous country.

When the mask came off, Ms. Imam, 32, launched into *I Min Zon* (In My Zone), a languid, withering song from her first EP, in which she rails against racism and sexism in the country. "Fifteen

million people in the world are named Mohamed," she rapped in Swedish, "but whose name do they want to see on the résumé?"

Mattias Naxe, 30, a lighting designer in the audience, said he was drawn to Ms. Imam's music primarily because she was a "very good

rapper," but added that her success was also a reflection of Sweden's polarised political climate. In last fall's national election, the right-wing populist Sweden Democrats won 18% of the vote, making them the country's third-largest party. "She came at the right time," he said, adding that she "very much" represents this particular moment.

Although Sweden is known for being one of the world's premier suppliers of dance-pop, it also has one of Europe's most vibrant hip-hop scenes. Ms. Imam is one of its biggest female stars. In 2014, her breakout single *Imam*, a political song in which she refers to herself as a "176 centimeter Pussy Riot," reached No. 1 in the Swedish charts.

Since then, she has won numerous awards, including a Swedish Grammi, the country's equivalent to a Grammy Award, for artist of the year.

Social concerns

Her most recent album, *Hellig Moder* ("Holy Mother"), released in February, has been widely praised in the Swedish news media, and she was recently announced as the opening act for the main stage of the renowned Roskilde Music Festival in Denmark.

Although Sweden is often seen internationally as a paragon of social liberalism, many of Ms. Imam's songs have highlighted the racism, misogyny and homophobia she believes permeate society here. **NY TIMES**

German family vows \$11 mn in charity after admitting Nazi past

Reimann family says its elders supported Hitler's regime

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

More than 70 years after the end of Second World War, one of Germany's richest families has admitted to its dark links with Adolf Hitler's regime.

Spokesman of the Reimann family, Peter Harf, told *Bild am Sonntag* of plans to give €10 million (\$11.3 million) to charity after learning of their elders' support for the Nazis and their company's use of forced labour during the war.

"Reimann senior and Reimann junior were guilty. The two entrepreneurs have both passed away, they belonged actually in prison,"



Peter Harf

said Mr. Harf.

Albert Reimann senior died in 1954 and his son in 1984. The company they left behind, JAB Holding, is today a behemoth.

With wealth estimated at €33 billion, the Reimann family is believed to be Germany's second richest.

Mr. Harf said the family began digging into their dark

past in the 2000s, and in 2014 decided to commission a historian to produce a thorough study into their ancestors' ties to Nazism.

The family plans to make public a full account when the book by the historian, Paul Erker, is finished, said Mr. Harf.

Quoting letters and archival documents, the newspaper reported that Reimann senior was a willing donor to Hitler's SS as early as 1931. His firm was in 1941 deemed a "crucial" firm in the war. In 1943, the company was using 175 forced labourers, and employed a foreman who was known for his cruel treatment of the workers.