

IN BRIEF



Dinosaur fossils unearthed in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES
A site containing the 220-million-year-old fossilised remains of a dozen dinosaurs has been discovered in western Argentina, researchers said. There are at least seven individuals of *dicynodonts*, the ancestors of mammals. **AFP**



Screen issues reported in Galaxy Fold phones

SEOUL
Samsung said on Thursday that it will inspect units of its highly anticipated folding smartphone after some reviewers reported screen damage. A handful of U.S.-based reviewers reported screen issues within days of using the Galaxy Fold phones, priced at \$1,980. **AFP**

Out of a drawer comes a vicious ancient beast

Simbakubwa kutokaafrika roamed Africa 22 mn years ago

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

When Ohio University integrative biologist Nancy Stevens peered into a drawer in the wooden cabinets on the top floor of a Nairobi museum in 2010, she saw a chunk of rock containing massive teeth and knew she had come across something important.

The overlooked fossils stored at the National Museums of Kenya belonged to one of the largest meat-eating mammals ever to walk the Earth, a beast called *Simbakubwa kutokaafrika* that stalked Africa 22 million years ago, according to research by Ms. Stevens and co-author Matthew Borths published on Thursday.

Bigger than any carnivorous land mammal alive today – even a polar bear – *Simbakubwa*'s skull was the size of a rhino's, its eight-inch (20 cm) canine teeth as large as bananas. It weighed



Extra large: *Simbakubwa kutokaafrika* was bigger than any carnivorous land mammal alive today. **REUTERS**

about a tonne and was 8 feet long (2-1/2 metres) snout to rump.

According to the research published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, the fossils were excavated around 1980 in western Kenya.

"Most of the specimens that I study are quite small, so you can imagine my surprise when I opened a drawer that I hadn't examined yet, and saw the enormous teeth glinting up at me. The

specimen had been collected decades before, and the team that discovered this fossil was more focussed on other parts of the fauna, particularly primates," Ms. Stevens said.

Simbakubwa was a member of a group called hyaenodonts that appeared 62 million years ago, 4 million years after the extinction of the dinosaurs paved the way for mammalian dominance, and went extinct 9 million years ago.

Zombie film to compete for Cannes prize

The festival will open with Jim Jarmusch's comedy *The Dead Don't Die*

NAMRATA JOSHI
MUMBAI

Romance and politics are the major themes uniting the films in the official selection of the 72nd Cannes Film Festival that takes place from May 14-25 this year. The Delegate General of the festival, Thierry Fremaux, took it back to 1939 when the festival was originally supposed to have been launched but could not because of the Second World War. He called it the time of love and revolt – “two omens of optimism for the future” that will be visible eight decades later, in the 2019 selection as well.

According to Mr. Fremaux, zombies, migrants and money, women, first-time filmmakers and genre cinema are going to be the other highlights of this year's festival that fittingly kicks off with Jim Jarmusch's zombie comedy *The Dead Don't Die*. It will also be competing for the Palme D'Or.

In the running

Then there are the usual big names – masters like Pedro



Spanish film director Pedro Almodovar, right, and actress Penelope Cruz in Madrid. **AFP**

Almodovar, who, after having chaired the Palme D'Or jury in 2017, competes for the big prize this year with *Pain and Glory*. Ken Loach, whose *I, Daniel Blake* begged the Palme D'Or in 2016 returns with *Sorry We Missed You*. Terrence Malick comes back with *A Hidden Life*, eight years after having won the Palme D'Or in 2011 for *The Tree of Life*. Bong Joon-Ho whose *Okja* kicked off the streaming giant Netflix's short-lived romance with Cannes in 2017 competes this year with *Parasite*.

Werner Herzog gets his new documentary *Family Romance LLC* to the French Riviera in Special Sessions section and the Dardennes Bros' new work *The Young Ahmed* is in the competition.

Celebrating Agnes Varde

Asif Kapadia's documentary on footballer Diego Maradona and Dexter Fletcher's Elton John biopic *Rocketman* are the titles to look out for in the Out of Competition section. Mr. John is expected to attend the festival and, according to Mr. Fremaux, a

piano will be kept ready in the wings in case he would agree to perform impromptu.

Cannes has been notorious when it comes to gender skewness. This year, its poster celebrates the legendary Agnes Varda, “the only woman director of the New Wave”, who passed away in March. The selection committee saw a 50-50 male-female representation this year. There has been a marginal improvement with four women filmmakers competing for the Palme D'Or, including the first ever black woman filmmaker in competition for Palme D'Or – Senegalese Mati Diop with *Atlantiques*. Céline Sciamma's *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, Jessica Hausner's *Little Joe* and Justine Triet's *Sibyl* are the others in competition.

There is a total of 13 women filmmakers in the official selection, including Out Of Competition and Un Certain Regard sections, a number Mr. Fremaux promised will go up further as more films get announced.

Plastic bottles turned into shirts

Company says it will remove at least 170 mn bottles from landfills, oceans by 2025

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Polo launched a version of its iconic polo shirt made entirely of recycled plastic bottles and dyed through a process that uses zero water. It's called Earth Polo.

David Lauren, the youngest son of the company's founder and its chief innovation officer, said that the new shirt is part of a broader strategy of fresh environmental goals throughout the manufacturing process.

The Polo isn't the first of

its kind. Smaller brands around the world are using repurposed and recycled materials.

The company said it will remove at least 170 million bottles from landfills and oceans by 2025. The shirts are manufactured in Taiwan, where the bottles are collected. Each uses an average 12 bottles.

The shirts are produced in partnership with First Mile, which collects the bottles turned into yarn and, ultimately, fabric.



Going green: This combination of photos show shirts made from recycled plastic bottles. **AP**

Top U.K. honour for Indian scientist

Cipla chairman Yusuf Hamied is on this year's list of Royal Society fellows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Scientist and businessman Yusuf Hamied is among a host of Indian-origin experts honoured in the 2019 list of new fellows of the U.K.'s Royal Society.

The 82-year-old chairman of pharmaceutical major Cipla has been made an honorary fellow of the prestigious body, comprising many of the world's most eminent scientists.

The Royal Society is an independent scientific academe-



Yusuf Hamied

my of the U.K. and the Commonwealth, dedicated to promoting excellence in science. His honorary fellowship

of the world's oldest scientific academy came alongside 51 new fellows and 10 new foreign members as part of the 2019 cohort unveiled earlier this week.

For progress

“Over the course of the Royal Society's vast history, it is our Fellowship that has remained a constant thread and the substance from which our purpose has been realised: to use science for the benefit of humanity, said Venki Ramakrishnan, the

Nobel Prize-winning Indian-origin president of the Royal Society.

Among the Indian-origin scientists elected as fellows this year are microbiologist Gurdyal Bestra, mathematicians Manjul Bhargava and Akshay Venkatesh and health experts Gagandeep Kang and Anant Parekh.

The fellows this year come from across the U.K. and Commonwealth, as well as international institutions in Argentina, Israel, and the Netherlands.

Google lets Android users in Europe choose rival browsers

Move aims at addressing concerns and staving off sanctions

REUTERS
BRUSSELS

Users of Android devices will be able to choose their browsers and search engines from five options starting on Thursday, a senior Google executive said, in a move aimed at addressing EU anti-trust concerns and staving off fresh sanctions.

Hit with a record €4.34 billion fine last year for using the market power of its mobile software to block rivals in areas such as internet browsing, Alphabet unit Google was also ordered to come up with a proposal to give its rivals a fair chance.

The European Commission said Google had an unfair advantage by pre-installing its Chrome browser and Google search app on Android smartphones and notebooks.



Users will be able to choose from five options. **AP**

Android users in Europe who open Google Play will now see new screens with an option to download different search apps and browsers, Paul Gennai, its product management director, said in a blog.

“Two screens will surface: one for search apps and another for browsers, each containing a total of five

apps, including any that are already installed,” he said.

The five apps are chosen based on their popularity, which is determined based on industry data and the number of downloads in each country. They will then be listed in a random order.

The options will appear on both existing and new Android phones in Europe.

YouTube apps to be available on Fire TV

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Amazon and Google announced on Thursday that they had agreed to allow each other's streaming media applications to work on their platforms, ending a spat over video between the tech giants.

The companies said that the YouTube apps will be available on Amazon's Fire TV in the coming months, allowing users of the Amazon platform to access the music videos, movies, shows and other content from the Google-owned service.

The agreement also enables Amazon Prime members streaming to Chromecast or using Android TV devices to access Amazon's video content.

Chromecast users will, meanwhile, have similar access to the Prime Video catalog.

HIV used to fix ‘bubble boy’ disease

Without treatment, toddlers die of infection within a year or two of birth

ASSOCIATED PRESS

They were born without a working germ-fighting system, every infection a threat to their lives. Now eight babies with “bubble boy disease” have had it fixed by a gene therapy made from one of the immune system's worst enemies HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

A study out on Wednesday details how scientists turned this enemy virus into a saviour, altering it so it couldn't cause disease and then using it to deliver a gene the boys lacked.

“This therapy has cured the patients,” although it will take more time to see if it is a permanent fix, said Dr. Ewelina Mamcarz, a lead doctor at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.



Gael Jesus Pino Alva, who was treated for ‘bubble boy disease’, with his mother Giannina Alva, in Memphis. **AP**

Omarion Jordan, who turns one later this month, had the therapy in December to treat severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome, or SCID.

“For a long time, we didn't know what was wrong with him. He just kept getting these infections,” said

his mother, Kristin Simpson. Learning that he had SCID “was just heartbreaking ... I didn't know what was going to happen to him.”

Omarion now has a normal immune system. “He's like a normal, healthy baby,” Ms. Simpson said.

Study results were pu-

lished by the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The treatment was pioneered by a St. Jude doctor who recently died, Brian Sorrentino.

SCID is caused by a genetic flaw that keeps the bone marrow from making effective versions of blood cells that comprise the immune system. It affects 1 in 2,00,000 newborns, almost exclusively males. Without treatment, it often kills in the first year or two of life.

“A simple infection like the common cold could be fatal,” Dr. Mamcarz said.

The nickname “bubble boy disease” comes from a famous case in the 1970s a Texas boy who lived for 12 years in a protective plastic bubble to isolate him from germs.