

IN BRIEF



A 15,600-year old human footprint

SANTIAGO
A 15,600-year old footprint discovered in southern Chile is believed to be the oldest ever found in the Americas, according to researchers. The footprint was first discovered in 2010 by a student at the Universidad Austral of Chile. **REUTERS**



Harvey Weinstein trial postponed to September

NEW YORK
The sexual assault trial of disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein will take place on September 9, three months later than expected, a New York judge said on Friday. Weinstein has been charged over the alleged assaults of two women and faces life in prison if he is convicted at the trial, which could last for five weeks. **AFP**



China police smash \$30m fake Lego ring

BEIJING
The Chinese police have busted a ring accused of manufacturing some \$30 million worth of counterfeit Lego sold across the country. The toys were copied from Lego blueprints. "Across more than 10 assembly lines, over 90 moulds had been produced... (police seized) some 6,30,000 completed pieces worth more than 200 million yuan (\$30 million)," a statement said. **AFP**

Facebook may turn world's biggest 'graveyard'

Oxford University researchers predict that the dead may outnumber the living on the social networking site within 50 years

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
LONDON

If Facebook continues to expand at current rates, the number of deceased users could reach as high as 4.9 billion before the end of the century, making it the world's biggest graveyard, predict researchers from the University of Oxford.

The dead may outnumber the living on Facebook within 50 years, a trend that will have grave implications for how we treat our digital heritage in the future, said researchers from the Oxford Internet Institute (OII), a part of the university.

The analysis predicts that based on 2018 user levels, at least 1.4 billion members will



Managing data: The study raises questions around how we treat our digital heritage in the future.

die before 2100. In this scenario, the dead could outnumber the living by 2070.

"These statistics give rise to new and difficult ques-

tions around who has the right to all this data, how should it be managed in the best interests of the families and friends of the deceased

and its use by future historians to understand the past," said lead author Carl Ohman, a doctoral candidate at the OII.

Two scenarios

The analysis sets up two potential extreme scenarios, arguing that the future trend will fall somewhere in between.

The first scenario assumes that no new users join as of 2018. Under these conditions, Asia's share of dead users increases rapidly to account for nearly 44% of the total by the end of the century. "Nearly half of those profiles come from India and Indonesia, which together account for just under 279

million Facebook mortalities by 2100," the researchers said.

The second scenario assumes that Facebook continues to grow by its current rate of 13% globally, every year, until each market reaches saturation.

Under these conditions, Africa will make up a growing share of dead users.

"The management of our digital remains will eventually affect everyone who uses social media, since all of us will one day pass away and leave our data behind," said Mr. Ohman.

The predictions are based on data from the United Nations, which provide the expected number of mortality

and total populations for every country in the world distributed by age, and Facebook data scraped from the company's Audience Insights feature.

Finding solutions

Facebook should invite historians, archivists, archaeologists and ethicists to participate in the process of curating the vast volume of accumulated data that we leave behind as we pass away. "This is not just about finding solutions that will be sustainable for the next couple of years, but possibly for many decades ahead," added study co-author David Watson, also a DPhil student at the OII.

Bundles of joy



Cool cats: Tigress Samruddhi with her four cubs at the Aurangabad zoo. The cubs, including two white, were born on Saturday morning. **YOGESH LONDHE**

Ginger Diana? Betting hot up on Britain's royal baby

The name of Prince Harry's mother has captivated punters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Prince Harry and wife Meghan's baby will be a girl called Diana born at home early next month – or so say the odds being offered by British bookmakers.

As royal watchers await the couple's first baby, punters are having a flutter on its gender, whether it will have Prince Harry's ginger hair, when it will be born, and, of course, the name.

It should be an even chance, but betting firms are convinced the baby, who will be seventh in line to the throne, will be a girl.

Bookmakers William Hill priced the odds on a girl as low as 2/5, which means betting £5 to win £2 implying a five in seven chance of it being the correct out-



Prince Harry and Meghan.

come. But punters have still been piling on big money, forcing the chain to suspend taking bets on April 9.

"In a normal market, that means people know," said William Hill spokesman Rupert Adams, adding that the only other possibility was that gamblers were simply following other people's bets, assuming the secret was out. "I would be astonished if it's not a girl," he said. The odds on a red-haired baby are 3/1.

The name of Prince Harry's mother, killed in a 1997 car crash, has captivated punters. "Diana is the red-hot favourite. I don't understand it at all. I wouldn't want to be reminded about it every morning. Sixty percent of all name bets are on Diana," said Mr. Adams.

Bookmakers Paddy Power have Diana at 3/1, Grace 7/1, Alice 10/1, Isabella 12/1, Victoria and Alexandrina at 14/1 and Elizabeth at 20/1. Boys' names start with Arthur at 12/1, Charles 14/1, James and Edward at 16/1, Alexander 20/1 and Jacob and Francis at 25/1.

Mandela's prison drawing goes under the hammer

It is part of a sale of modern and contemporary African art

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

A drawing by late South African leader Nelson Mandela of the door of his prison cell on Robben Island – where he was held for 18 years – will be put up for auction in early May in New York.

Bonhams, which will host the sale on May 2, has put the value of "The Cell Door, Robben Island" – completed in 2002 by the Nobel peace laureate – at \$60,000 to \$90,000. The work will be part of a sale of modern and contemporary African art.

"The word 'iconic' is so overused but to have a drawing of one of the most important men of the 20th century... would be a remarkable thing," said Giles Peppiatt, the auction house's director of modern African art. "It's the first time this work has ever been exhibited in public. It's also the first work by



Behind the bars: A worker holds a sketch by Nelson Mandela – 'The Cell Door, Robben Island' – in New York City. **AFP**

Nelson Mandela ever to be sold in the open market."

The wax pastel crayon drawing shows a few bars of the cell door and a key in the lock, sketched in purple.

The work is one of the few that Mandela – who was jailed for 27 years in total

and inspired the struggle against apartheid – kept until his death in 2013. "It was a very personal, very poignant work for him," Mr. Peppiatt said. Until now, Mandela's daughter Pumla Makaziwe

Mandela had the work in her possession.

Humans make safer user profiles than AI, finds study

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW YORK

People trust human-generated profiles more than artificial intelligence-generated profiles, particularly in online marketplaces, reveals a study in which researchers sought to explore whether users trust algorithmically optimised or generated representations.

The research team conducted three experiments, particularly in online marketplaces, enlisting hundreds of participants on Amazon Mechanical Turk to evaluate real, human-generated Airbnb profiles. When researchers informed them that they were viewing either

all human-generated or all AI-generated profiles, participants didn't seem to trust one more than the other. They rated the human and AI-generated profiles about the same.

That changed when participants were informed they were viewing a mixed set of profiles.

Users then distrusted the ones they believed to be machine-generated.

"Participants were looking for cues that felt mechanical versus language that felt more human and emotional," said Maurice Jakesch, a doctoral student in information science at Cornell Tech in America. "The more par-

ticipants believed a profile was AI-generated, the less they tended to trust the host, even though the profiles they rated were written by the actual hosts."

"We're beginning to see the first instances of artificial intelligence operating as a mediator between humans, but it's a question of: Do people want that?"

The study suggests that there are ways to design AI communication tools that improve trust for human users.

"Design and policy guidelines and norms for using AI-mediated communication is worth exploring now," said Ms. Jakesch.