

## IN BRIEF


**Vicky Kaushal to play role of Sam Manekshaw**

MUMBAI Actor Vicky Kaushal is all set to portray 1971 war hero Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw in an upcoming biographical film *Sam* to be directed by Meghna Gulzar. The actor tweeted the news along with a picture on the 11th death anniversary of the Army veteran on Thursday. **PTI**


**535 'phone walkers' killed by Dhaka trains**

DHAKA A total of 535 people have been killed since 2010 after being hit by trains while wearing headphones on tracks in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, police said on Thursday. Fatalities hit a record high in 2014 when 109 people died. **AFP**


**Spain wildfire rages amid Europe heatwave**

BARCELONA A Spanish forest fire raged out of control on Thursday amid a European heatwave, devouring land as hundreds of fire-fighters battled through the night, local authorities said. The blaze has destroyed over 13,500 acres so far. **AFP**


**Viral video shows lucky catch of falling toddler**

ISTANBUL A viral video has turned a young man into a hero in Istanbul after he was seen catching a toddler as she plummeted from a second-floor window. 17-year-old Fawzi Zabaat stepped in right on time to catch the child as she fell. **AFP**

# Selfies are five times deadlier than shark attacks

Global study finds that the most number of deaths in accidents while clicking photos were in India

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
RIO DE JANEIRO

Selfies, which have become a global sensation in the last decade or so, have remarkably killed five times more people than shark attacks.

And the death toll has crept up incrementally each year as smartphones become more sophisticated and selfie-sticks increase the range at which people can snap themselves, prompting them to take bigger risks for the perfect shot.

Between October 2011 and November 2017, at least 259 people died taking selfies around the globe, according to the *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care*, compared to just 50 people killed by sharks in the same period.

While women take the most selfies, young men, who are more prone to take risks, make up three quarters of the selfie deaths – in drownings, crashes, falls or shooting accidents.



**Tricky spot:** Young women taking a selfie on a Mumbai beach. **AP**

India, with a population of more than 1.3 billion and 800 million cell phones, holds the record for the number of people dying in the act of photographing themselves, with 159 recorded so far.

That is more than half of the global total – and a testament of sorts to the nation's love of group photos and its

youthful population. The situation has become so dire that the country has set up "no selfie" zones – 16 of them in the city of Mumbai alone. The country came in far ahead of Russia (16 deaths), the United States (14) and Pakistan.

In Russia, people have fallen from bridges and high-rise buildings, shot them-

selves or even died while handling a land mine. Police issued a guide to "selfies without danger" in 2015.

In the United States, most of those involved in selfie deaths fatally shot themselves while seeking the perfect pose. A number of people have fallen to their deaths at the Grand Canyon. Rescue services in Croatia

used Twitter to ask tourists to "stop taking stupid and dangerous selfies" after a Canadian miraculously survived a 75-metre fall in the Plitvice lakes region.

In January, Taiwanese social media celebrity Gigi Wu – known as the "Bikini Climber" for taking selfies on top of mountain peaks dressed in a bikini – died when she fell into a ravine.

**Macabre mode**

Even when they are not fatal, selfies can be extremely macabre. In 2014, a Brazilian woman sparked rage online when she took a smiling selfie in front of the coffin of presidential candidate Eduardo Campos at his funeral.

Selfies in places deemed sacred or hallowed – especially when they honour the dead – can also raise questions.

At the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz in Poland, visited by 2.1 million

people every year, museum staff do not hesitate to contact people who post selfies deemed to be inappropriate.

From Brazil to Vietnam and Germany, witnesses to traffic accidents have posted selfies at the scene of the crash.

More and more, selfies – even in tourist havens – are becoming a bit of a nuisance for locals.

Residents of the picturesque Rue Cremieux in Paris were so disturbed by the constant stream of selfie-snapping tourists outside their windows that they started their own Instagram account, clubcremieux, where they publish pictures of the most absurd posers outside their doors, skewering them with barbed captions.

The same thing happened in Hong Kong, where residents of the vast multi-colored Quarry Bay apartment complex put up signs banning photos.



## Oxford honour for Poonawalla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

Cyrus Poonawalla, founder and Chairman of the Serum Institute of India, received an honorary degree from the University of Oxford for his work in the field of life-saving vaccines and philanthropy.

Mr. Poonawalla was awarded his degree on Wednesday at the world-famous university's annual Encaenia academic ceremony alongside Pakistani singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan as part of a total 2019 cohort of eight honorary degrees.

## Desert-dwelling carnivorous dinosaur's bones found in Brazil

*Vespersaurus paranaensis* used its claws to capture prey

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SAO PAULO

A desert-based carnivorous dinosaur that used claws to capture small prey 90 million years ago has been unearthed in southern Brazil.

Just over a metre and a half in length, the fossil remains of the *Vespersaurus paranaensis* were found in Cruzeiro do Oeste municipality of Parana state, a team of palaeontologists from Brazil and Argentina said in a statement.

The *Vespersaurus* was a theropod, a group of two-footed, meat-eating dinosaurs that included the better known *Tyrannosaurus* and *Velociraptor*.

Footprints now believed to belong to this new species of dinosaur were discovered in Cruzeiro do Oeste in the 1970s. "It's incredible that, nearly 50 years later, it seems that we have discovered what type of dinosaur would have produced those



**Rare find:** An expert working on the fossilised bones of a dinosaur in Maringa in Brazil. **AFP/UEM**

enigmatic footprints," said Paulo Manzig of the Palaeontology Museum of Cruzeiro do Oeste. The northeastern region of Parana was once a desert and the dinosaur's remains suggest that the *Vespersaurus* was well adapted to that type of climate.

Other dinosaur species have been found there and,

according to the scientists, the latest discovery must "catapult" palaeontological investigations in the region.

"It is a rich but little explored area that would surely bring great news to the world of palaeontology," said Neurides Martins of the Palaeontology Museum of Cruzeiro do Oeste.

## Lost Delacroix painting resurfaces

The picture was a preliminary study for the more famous *Women of Algiers*

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PARIS

It's been hanging on people's walls for almost 170 years without drawing much attention, but a painting showing a group of women has turned out to be more than meets the eye.

The most recent owner of the picture, a Parisian woman, has found out that what she has is a long-forgotten painting by 19th century French Romantic artist Eugene Delacroix.

"A woman walked into the gallery with a painting under her arm, telling me she'd just visited the Delacroix exhibit at the Louvre Museum ... and that she thought her painting shared some resemblance" with the artist's *Women of Algiers in their Apartment*, said Philippe Mendes, director of the Mendes Gallery in Paris.

"I took a look at the painting, which was dirty and with a very thick yellow varnish, but I felt it had Delacroix's very particular style. So I said, let's clean the



Philippe Mendes with the Delacroix work. **AP**

painting and let's see what comes out of it," he told in an interview.

"After we cleaned it, the radiant and extraordinary colours typical of Delacroix really stood out and we knew we had to start doing some real research."

The painting, now hanging in Mendes' gallery as he negotiates with a U.S. museum seeking to buy it, shows a pale woman seated and an African slave stand-

ing next to her, looking at the other woman over her shoulder. The same scene is captured in *Women of Algiers in their Apartment*, which was painted after in 1833-34 after Delacroix visited North Africa. That painting now lives in the Louvre.

Art historian and Delacroix expert Virginie Cauchi-Fatiga investigated the curious canvas at Mr. Mendes' request. She analysed the technique and use of co-

lours, compared it with other Delacroix paintings, then used infra-red and X-ray images to look deeper.

After more than a year of examination, her verdict: the painting is a Delacroix work, a study for *Women of Algiers*. The study was sold at auction in 1850 and hadn't been shown in public since.

She called it a discovery "of prime importance, because it really is a gateway into the artist's mind right at the moment" he was working on *Women of Algiers*. The painting bears no Delacroix signature, since it is only a study, she said but does bear a stamp at the back of the canvas reading "118". That matches the number listed for the study in the catalogue of paintings sold at auction in 1850 by the Count de Mornay, a diplomat who sponsored Delacroix's trip to North Africa, Mendes said. Lot 118 was bought for a private collection, and its subsequent movements aren't known.

## Bohemian Rhapsody makes magic for Queen

Film leads to music sales soaring

REUTERS  
LOS ANGELES

British rock band Queen sold more albums in North America than any other artist in the first half of 2019, as music featured in movies and television sent streaming and downloads soaring.

A midyear report by Nielsen Music released on Thursday said the soundtrack to the musical *Bohemian Rhapsody*, which won four Oscars in February, was the best-selling rock title of the first six months of 2019, with Queen's "Greatest Hits 1" compilation coming in second.

Queen sold more than 731,000 albums – more than any other artist – as well as the most digital songs with more than 1.3 million downloads, Nielsen said.

Queen in February became the first rock band to



Freddie Mercury during a performance in 1986. **AP**

open the Oscars when it kicked off the annual ceremony in Hollywood with a live performance of *We Will Rock You* and *We Are the Champions*.

Lady Gaga and actor-director Bradley Cooper's steamy performance on the Oscars stage of their winning duet *Shallow* from *A Star is Born* also sent sales soaring.

The romantic ballad has seen some 648,000 digital song downloads so far this year, the report said.

## Caught in a tornado



**Planet at risk:** A boy looking at an installation titled 'Tornado by Plastic Waste' made by artists from the social enterprise To He at an exhibition on plastics in Hanoi on Thursday. **AFP**

## 'Peace ambassadors' ease water conflicts in Kenya

Teach villagers about sustainable farming and how to share resources

REUTERS  
MAWENI

Outside a small, secluded house in Maweni village, a group of about 150 farmers sat together in the sweltering heat to talk about a topic giving them all sleepless nights: water.

Martin Muasya, one of the farmers, spoke about a phys-

ical fight he had with a neighbour four years ago, when they both thought each was stealing water from the other.

"I not only broke my jerry can, but we also held a grudge for almost a year, with each blocking the way so that one could not trespass on the other's farm in

search of water," he said.

Across Kenya's arid and semi-arid regions, communities face intensifying water shortages, as growing populations draw water from sources already depleted by climate change-linked drought.

The stress of competing for water can lead to conflict that ranges from neighbours trading punches to attacks between rival tribes that

leave dozens of Kenyans dead each year.

That is why the farmers in Tharaka Nithi County in central Kenya had gathered to hear "ambassador of peace" Tabitha Kaburi explain how to conserve water and, hopefully, stop the fighting.

Kaburi is part of a project run by the non-profit Strategies for Agro-Pastoralists' Development Kenya (SAPAD Kenya).

It teaches volunteers, dubbed "ambassadors of peace", about sustainable farming and conflict resolution, then sends them out to take those lessons into rural communities.

The idea is that the volunteers show farmers how to do more with less water, removing the need to fight over the dwindling resource, explained SAPAD executive director Zaverio Chabari.

The volunteers also advise communities on how to diffuse tensions – for example, by reporting suspected water theft to the area chief instead of confronting perpetrators themselves.

"Water shortages are a jeopardy in the region, but if the communities are well informed, the threat can slowly be curbed and lead to peaceful communities," said Mr. Chabari.