

IN BRIEF



Meghan launching clothing line in U.K.

LONDON
The Duchess of Sussex is launching a clothing line to support a charity that helps unemployed women find work. Meghan has teamed up with designer Misha Nonoo and British retailers Marks & Spencer, John Lewis & Partners and Jigsaw to create a workwear collection to help the charity Smart Works. **AP**



U.S. restores grizzlies to protected species list

WASHINGTON
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has restored federal protections to grizzly bears in and around Yellowstone National Park, abiding by a court ruling last year that removal of the bears' threatened status violated the Endangered Species Act. The reinstatement came after several years of legal wrangling. **REUTERS**



Netflix debuts Scorsese's Irishman trailer

NEW YORK
Netflix on Wednesday unveiled the trailer for Martin Scorsese's long-awaited film, *The Irishman* — a major project for the streaming giant featuring Oscar winners Robert de Niro, Al Pacino and Joe Pesci, all digitally enhanced to look younger. The film is based on the book *I Heard You Paint Houses*. **AFP**

Indonesian villagers resist relocation plan from Komodo

‘Closing the island is a risk to homes and livelihoods’

REUTERS
BANGKOK

Thousands of residents of an island in eastern Indonesia are resisting a government plan to relocate them and close the island next year in a bid to conserve rare Komodo dragons.

Last week, Indonesian authorities said the island of Komodo would be closed next year to allow for the recovery of the reptiles and the Komodo National Park, the only habitat for the world's largest lizard species.

About 2,000 people would also be moved off the island, and risk losing their homes and livelihoods, said Gregorius Afoma, director of human rights group Sun-spirit for Justice and Peace.

“These are people who had already lost their land to

Adventurers to test theory of ancient route from Egypt to Black Sea

A team of two dozen researchers and volunteers from eight countries are preparing to sail on a reed boat for 1,300 km

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BELOSLAV

Were the ancient Egyptians able to use reed boats to travel as far as the Black Sea thousands of years ago?

A group of adventurers believe so, and will try to prove their theory by embarking on a similar journey in reverse.

In mid-August, the team of two dozen researchers and volunteers from eight countries will set off from the Bulgarian port of Varna, hoping their *Abora IV* reed boat will take them the 700 nautical miles through the Bosphorus, the Aegean and as far as the island of Crete.

The team is specifically seeking to prove a hypothesis lent credence by ancient Greek historian Herodotus, said the expedition's German leader, Dominique Goerlitz.

Herodotus wrote: “Egyptians sailed through the Black Sea to get materials

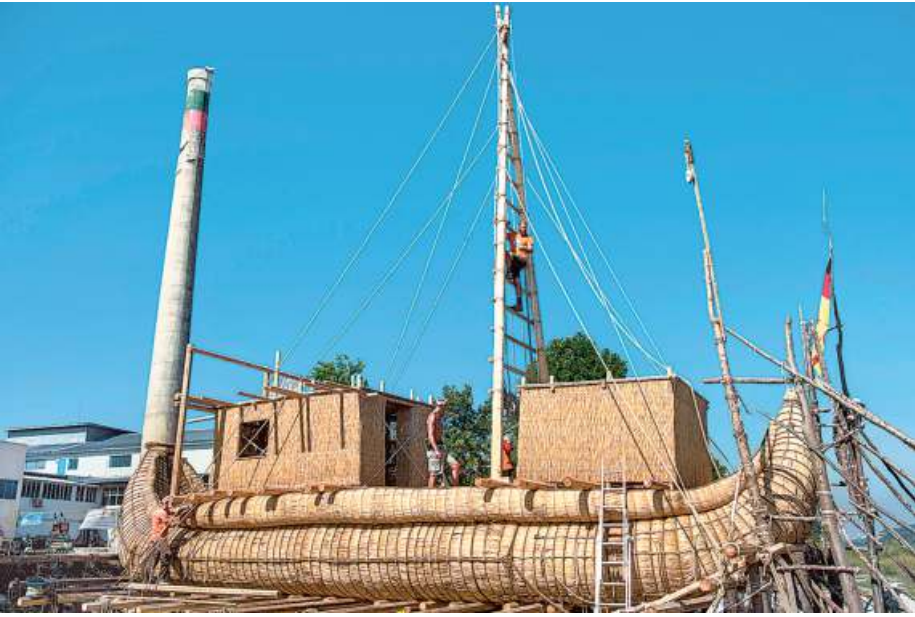
that they could not have from the east Mediterranean.”

Mr. Goerlitz, 53, and his team say they drew inspiration for the design of the 14-metre boat from ancient rock drawings from upper Egypt and the Caucasus.

The construction was carried out with the help of volunteers and two members of the Aymara indigenous community from Bolivia's Lake Titicaca, Fermin Lima-chi and his son Yuri.

It is no accident that the *Abora IV* bears a striking resemblance to the famous *Ra II* reed boat that Norwegian adventurer Thor Heyerdahl used in his 1970 attempt to cross the Atlantic; Mr. Lima-chi's father helped build that vessel.

Large bundles of totora reed were lashed together with ropes to form the main body of the vessel before it was equipped with a wooden



Ahoy there: Members of the crew assembling the reed boat *Abora IV* in Beloslav, Bulgaria. **AFP**

mast and two reed compartments for sleeping.

In all, 12 tonnes of totora reed and 2 km of rope went into making the boat, which

will have two sails — measuring 62 sq.m. and 40 sq.m., Fermin Limachi said.

“The main question of all is whether this boat... is able

to cross the difficult island shelves of the Aegean Sea,” Mr. Goerlitz said.

Reaching the Cyclades islands and then Crete will be

Study tests diet link to cancer treatment

Tumour growth slowed in mice when an amino acid, found in red meat and eggs, was restricted

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Diet is already a key part of managing diseases like diabetes and hypertension, but new research adds to a growing body of evidence that it could help cancer treatment too.

The study, published on Thursday in the journal *Nature*, found restricting intake of an amino acid found in red meat and eggs significantly enhanced cancer treatment in mice, slowing tumour growth.

“These are very strong effects, and they are effects that are as strong as we would see with drugs that work,” said lead researcher

Jason Locasale, an associate professor at Duke University's School of Medicine.

“What this study is showing is that there are many situations where a drug by itself doesn't work, but if you combine the drug with the diet, it works, or the radiation therapy doesn't work well, but if you combine... with the diet, it works well,” he said.

The study focused on restricting intake of the amino acid methionine which is key to a process called one-carbon metabolism that helps cancer cells grow.

The researchers first tested methionine restriction in healthy mice to confirm it

You're starving the cancer cells of certain nutrients, at a very basic level

JASON LOCASALE
Associate professor at Duke University

was having the desired effects on metabolism and then moved to testing it in mice with colorectal cancer and soft tissue sarcomas.

They found that a low dose of chemotherapy, which on its own had no effect on colorectal cancer, led to “marked inhibition of tumour growth” when combined with methionine restriction.

Similarly, combining methionine restriction with

radiation therapy in the case of the soft tissue sarcoma reduced tumour growth.

“You're starving the cancer cells of certain nutrients, at a very basic level,” explained Mr. Locasale.

He cautioned that the results should not be extrapolated beyond the cancers tested so far, and that the research was far from being tested in humans.

“What it's showing is that there are very interesting interactions between the food we eat, how it changes metabolism... and then how those changes in cellular metabolism might have an effect on tumour growth.”

“Before drawing any con-

clusions about the potential for dietary restriction as an approach to treating cancer, human studies are needed,” said Paul Pharoah, a professor of cancer epidemiology at the University of Cambridge.

Mr. Locasale and his colleagues extended the research by testing a methionine restricted diet in six healthy humans, and found that the effect on human metabolism appeared similar to that seen in mice.

That suggests that the diet could have a similar effect on certain tumours in humans, though Mr. Locasale warned it was far too early to draw any definitive conclusions.

Robots trained to make independent choices

They will be used in industries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MOSCOW

Scientists have developed a software that allows artificial intelligence (AI) robots with technical vision to set out and adjust the movement trajectories of their tools without reducing given precision levels.

The team from Far Eastern Federal University (FE-FU) in Russia developed and implemented a new principle for smart industrial robot control. Robots are able to set and adjust the trajectories of tools movement on their own while processing details under uncertain conditions and in a changing



working environment. The new software allowed the team to get around 0.5 mm precision in the operation of robotic tools, including the actions that require additional force application.

Using a technical vision system, a machine forms a virtual image of its workspace, recognises each piece, and determines its exact position.

Ocean drama



Jaw-dropping sight: A sea lion got caught accidentally in the mouth of a humpback whale in Monterey Bay, California. The whale did not close its jaws on the sea lion, which was probably shaken by the experience but managed to swim away. Humpback whales and sea lions usually manage to stay out of each other's way while feeding on small fish. **CHASE DEKKER/AFP**

Short story by Steinbeck is out in English

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

In the mid-1950s, writer John Steinbeck wrote a series of columns for the French newspaper *Le Figaro* titled “One American In Paris”. One of those pieces, widely believed to have never come out in English, appears this week in the summer issue of *The Strand Magazine*, a literary quarterly which has published rare works by Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and many others.

“Steinbeck is seen as a uniquely American writer, who wrote about American themes ... but this story casts light on Steinbeck the international traveller,” says *Strand* managing editor Andrew Gulli, who found the Paris story in the online Steinbeck archive at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

Archaeological excavation cut short in U.S. site

Water table made digging unsafe

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BOSTON

An archaeological dig in Boston's historic Chinatown has been cut short after it turned up a 1980s music cassette, a toy dinosaur and other bric-a-brac.

The city's Archaeology Program said that it was wrapping up its three-week excavation because researchers reached the water table, and it was unsafe to dig further.

In recent days, researchers have been humorously tweeting some of their “finds”, including a cassette by Boston R&B group New Edition, a dinosaur toy, linoleum flooring and other items from the 1970s and 1980s.

Researchers had hoped to turn up artefacts shedding new light on Boston's immigrants not only those from China but also Syria, Ireland and England who sought new lives in Chinatown from 1840 to 1980.

Deeper down
City archaeologist Joe Bagley said the dig was the first in Chinatown, and his team will “now have a better understanding of how complex and deeply buried backyards may be” there.

“We were tantalising close to the older deposits,” Mr. Bagley said. “It was frustrating to see the water on the site after weeks of work trying to get down to deeper/older deposits.”

Homegrown fashion emerges in troubled Somalia

Designers are challenging the idea that imported garments are for the well-to-do while locally made clothes are for the rest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOGADISHU

Every time young fashion designer Hawa Adan Hassan makes a new gown for a paying customer, she also makes her dreams come true.

“My whole life, fashion design was a dream,” says the 23-year-old university student, who last year began running a cottage business out of her family's home in Hamarweyne, the historic heart of Somalia's coastal capital Mogadishu.

For Ms. Hassan, it began with art, when she found herself drawn to sketching clothes rather than the animals and landscapes preferred by her peers.

Then she set to work on tailoring to turn her images into reality.



Sleek lines: Muna Mohamed Abdullahi at work. **AFP**

“I realised this could be my field of expertise,” she says.

For decades, war and upheaval left ordinary Somalis focussed on the daily matters of life, death and survival.

Bombings by Al-Shabaab

jihadists still trouble Mogadishu today.

But a creeping cosmopolitanism is challenging entrenched conservative attitudes and many Somalis are undaunted by wanting a look that stands out.

Somalia's clothing stores

traditionally adhere to a simple formula: imported garments for the well-to-do, locally-made clothes for the rest.

But Ms. Hassan and others are starting to alter that picture with locally-designed, handmade attire for the high end of the market.

In such a nascent industry, Ms. Hassan is, by necessity, self-taught. “I used to watch fashion design shows on TV, and every time I watched one, I tried to grasp the ideas by drawing what I saw,” she says.

Her favourite was “Project Runway”, a U.S.-made reality programme fronted by German model Heidi Klum.

“When I started I had no one as a role model. It is just something I dreamed up,”

she says, adding that she now finds inspiration in the likes of Lebanese fashion designer Elie Saab.

In her home studio, Ms. Hassan sketches and inks new designs of abaya gowns and hijab headscarves, in a variety of black or bright colours, tight and loose fittings, with plain or embroidered finishes.

Fashion has also become a family affair, with Ms. Hassan's father — a tailor by trade — and older sister helping cut and sew the clothes.

Muna Mohamed Abdullahi, another start-up fashion designer, is on a mission to encourage local people to take pride in products made in Somalia.

“Some people come to my shop and, when they realise

that these clothes are designed and made locally, they run away because they have a negative impression about locally-made clothes,” says the 24-year-old.

Like Ms. Hassan, Ms. Abdullahi is self-taught.

“A designer creates clothes with a story, but a tailor makes it without thinking, they just duplicate,” Ms. Abdullahi says.

The designers' customers are mostly young, like them, and affluent. “I like clothes designed by Somalis because they fit and make you look attractive,” says 22-year-old student Farhiyo Hassan Abdi. “Imported costumes are mostly out of shape and don't look good on you.”

“I don't go for imported clothes anymore,” she adds.