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**Morning Star**



**RACISM**

**Corbyn's honourable record of opposing anti-semitism**

KEITH FLETT recalls how the Labour leader played an active part in organising against and resisting the National Front in the late '70s.

▶ Turn to page 8



**NEWS**

**Young Labour slams Blairite Woodcock**

LABOUR MP condemned for being an apologist for Turkey's Erdogan and praising his war on Kurds.

▶ Turn to page 3

# Mental health service crisis deepens on Tory watch

Corbyn corners May over broken promises

by **Lamiat Sabin**  
Parliamentary Reporter

JEREMY CORBYN lambasted the government yesterday over its failure to properly fund its promises to treat mental health as seriously as physical health.

He said that – despite the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which created a new legal responsibility for the NHS to deliver “parity of esteem” – there are now “5,000 fewer mental health nurses” than when the Tories came into power eight years ago.

The Labour leader paid tribute to the families of two vulnerable patients who died in the care of Southern Health NHS Trust and cornered Prime Minister Theresa May over their “completely avoidable” deaths.

The trust was fined £2 million for neglect at the care unit after Connor Sparrowhawk died in June 2013 and Teresa Colvin died in April 2012.

The trust admitted breaching health and safety law last year.

Mr Corbyn asked: “How confident is the Prime Minister that deaths like Connor’s and Teresa’s could not happen today?”

He also cited recent statistics that showed male suicide is the biggest killer of men under 45, with 84 ending their lives every week.

Half of mental health conditions materialise before the age of 14 so there has to be more of a priority on young people’s mental health, Mr Corbyn added.

He repeatedly raised funding concerns over mental health services, particularly for children, and demanded the PM ring-fence NHS mental health budgets.

He said: “We have fewer resources for mental health trusts, fewer mental health nurses, fewer child and adolescent psychiatrists.

“So will the Prime Minister commit to ring-fencing NHS mental health budgets to support those going through a mental health crisis at a time they most need our help and our support?”

Ms May also paid tribute to the families of Mr Sparrowhawk and Ms Colvin and said lessons had been learned by the health and care system

as a result of Southern Health failings.

She claimed that the government was putting “extra money” into mental health services and that around 1,400 more people are accessing mental health services every day compared with 2010.

Ms May said the NHS was receiving an extra £10 billion in funding for mental health and other services over the next few years, announced by Chancellor Philip Hammond in November.

But shadow cabinet minister Jon Trickett wrote on Twitter: “May cannot be serious!”

“She says her gov’t has increased services for children with mental health problems. In my area, it’s the opposite.

“Waiting times are up, services have closed and in one case a parent was told to go to the police so her child would be a priority.”

Labour MP Roberta Blackman-Woods wrote: “Most MPs know from their own constituencies that accessing proper support and care is almost impossible given how overstretched services are and that’s assuming they exist in [the] first place and many don’t.”

Shadow health secretary Jonathan Ashworth yesterday demanded an urgent long-term investment plan for the NHS as patients deserve more than “a nod and a wink” from Ms May.

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■ POLICING

# Anti-terror cop faces sack over document theft as appeal fails

by Sam Tobin

A FORMER senior terror cop who left top secret documents in the boot of his car has failed in a last-minute attempt to avert his imminent dismissal.

West Midlands Police assistant chief constable Marcus Beale, 54, pleaded guilty in December to breaching the Official Secrets Act.

A secure briefcase containing the secret documents was stolen from his car, having been left in the vehicle for five days last May.

The documents have never been recovered.

Last month, a disciplinary panel recommended that Mr Beale be dismissed without notice for gross misconduct, which would mean him losing a £215,000 tax-free pension lump sum.

But Mr Beale sought to challenge the decision, alleging

apparent bias on the part of panel chair Corinna Ferguson.

He also said that Chief Constable Dave Thompson had had dinner with a panel member the night before the disciplinary hearing, but this fact had not been disclosed.

John Beggs QC, for Mr Beale, said that if the court ruled against his client, he would go before a hearing this morning "at which he will likely be dismissed."

He alleged that the decision would be based on the recommendation of a panel whose proceedings were "tainted."

Mr Beggs said that Ms Ferguson had not disclosed her involvement in a campaign against Project Champion, a controversial West Midlands Police project, while working for campaign group Liberty.

He added that Mr Thompson had "dined with one of the panel

members, Sir Tom Winsor, the chief inspector of constabulary, on the night before the special case hearing."

He said Mr Beale was "for 29 years a modest and diffident man," but had been described by former top anti-terrorism officer Mark Rowley as "having made a significant contribution last year to the saving of lives."

Mr Beggs said that, if dismissed, Mr Beale "immediately goes onto the police barred list."

The lawyer said his client was "very marketable in the private sector," but if he was sacked, it would be "nigh on impossible" for him to "recover his market position."

Nonetheless, Mr Justice Jay rejected Mr Beale's request for permission to appeal, finding that the claims of apparent bias had not been made out.

A hearing to determine Mr Beale's punishment is still listed for this morning, pending late developments.

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BREACH OF SECURITY: Marcus Beale

■ CRIME

## MPs announce money-laundering probe

MONEY laundering in Britain will be investigated by MPs after property worth more than £4.4 billion in total was found to have been bought with suspected "dirty money."

The Treasury select committee said yesterday that it would launch the probe following claims that Britain, particularly London, is now the "destination of choice" for money launderers.

Recent figures from Transparency International show that property worth £880 million – a fifth of the £4.4bn total – may have been bought by Russians with suspicious wealth.

Last week, Prime Minister Theresa May vowed to "bring all the capabilities of UK law enforcement to bear against serious criminals and corrupt elites" in response to the attempted murder of former Russian double agent Sergei

Kripal and his daughter in Salisbury.

Committee chair Nicky Morgan said: "As part of our inquiry, the Treasury committee will examine the UK's role in international efforts to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing and implement sanctions."

The deadline for written submissions for the inquiry is May 8.



■ CONSERVATIVE PARTY

## Fundraising dinners 'seem to show a government for sale'

by Lamiat Sabin

LABOUR accused the Tories yesterday of creating "a government for sale" after it was revealed that exclusive dinners with ministers had been auctioned off for thousands of pounds.

Shadow cabinet office minister Jon Trickett, speaking in the Commons, cited reports that ministers were "sold off" at the party's fundraising Black & White Ball in February.

Prime Minister Theresa May made a speech at the event promising the wealthy donors that socialism would be defeated.

Mr Trickett accused the government of undermining democracy by flogging off nosh-ups with ministers to the super-rich.

He said: "Last month access to members of the British Cabi-

net were auctioned off for about £55,000 per minister, though the International Trade Secretary was only worth two [thousand].

"Now, her job in the Cabinet Office is to ensure propriety, ethics and transparency in government: but doesn't she agree that auctioning off access to ministers undermines confidence in democracy by giving the impression of a government for sale?"

"Will she immediately take steps to ensure transparency and propriety in all such matters in the future?"

Cabinet Office Minister Chloe Smith said: "All donations are registered in accordance with law.

"There are a lot of allegations in the air at the moment, but what the government has to do is deal with the law as it stands and to allow the correct bodies to carry out investigations."

And the Conservatives came under fire for having accepted donations of more than £820,000 from Russian oligarchs since Ms May became prime minister.

After the Russia-linked Salisbury attack, Chancellor Philip Hammond said that the Tories would not hand back donations as it would be wrong to tar the donors "with Putin's brush."

Labour MP Alex Cunningham asked how much of the donations from oligarchs and their associates would be returned.

Ms Smith said: "British citizens are entitled to donate to UK political parties and foreign donors are not."

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■ POLICING

## Inquest hears tribute to custody death victim

A MENTALLY ILL man who died in police custody was “a gifted footballer, father figure and role model,” his family told an inquest hearing yesterday into his death.

Kevin Clarke, a 35-year-old black man, died in hospital after being restrained by police in south-east London in early March.

Police received reports of a man being seen trying to gain access to the rear gardens of a property and found him in a mental health crisis.



The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) has opened an investigation and taken statements from nine police officers.

An IOPC spokeswoman told the inquest that criminal proceedings remain a possibility.

The coroner, who has acknowledged the police “may be criticised” over the death, has suspended the inquest as inquiries continue. A full inquest will follow in due course.

Mr Clarke’s family said he was “well-known and loved in our community” and they had been left with “so many questions” about his death.

■ SYRIAN CONFLICT

# YOUNG LABOUR CALLS MP ‘WAR CRIMES APOLOGIST’

**JOHN WOODCOCK:** Arch Blairite condemned for praising Turkish president and his war on Kurds

by Marcus Barnett

YOUNG Labour activists have condemned Blairite Labour MP John Woodcock as an “apologist” for Turkish war crimes.

The organisation, which represents approximately 110,000 Labour Party members under the age of 27, voted on Tuesday night to back a national demonstration in London this Saturday calling for a ceasefire in Afrin and for the body of Anna Campbell to be repatriated.

Ms Campbell, 26, from Lewes, East Sussex, was a volunteer in the Women’s Protection Units (YPJ), an all-female militia that is fighting Turkish forces and jihadi gangs in Afrin, a Kurdish region of northern Syria.

The statement noted the deliberate targeting of civilians and refugees by Turkish forces, and decried the political imprisonment of thousands of members of the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP), a Turkish sister party of Labour’s.

It went on to accuse Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson of excusing Turkey’s invasion of Syria in the name of procuring profitable arms deals, but also condemned Mr Woodcock.

The Barrow and Furness MP has long been accused by Kurdish campaigners of being a Turkish propagandist.

Young Labour’s statement highlighted remarks he made in December 2017, in which he praised President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s “tolerant” and “plu-

ral” rule, as well as his fight against “extremism” – presumably meaning socialists, trade unionists and Kurdish activists, labelling them as “hurtful and damaging.”

It also saluted the forces of the YPG/J currently defeating Isis, called upon “all democratic and progressive forces to declare solidarity with the people of Afrin,” and encouraged YL members to attend the demonstration at Marble Arch this Saturday afternoon.

Though not a Labour member, Ms Campbell was friendly with many party activists involved in the anti-austerity, anti-fascist and tenants’ rights movements.

In a comment to the Star, the youth representative on Labour’s national executive

committee Lara McNeill said: “Anna was a committed comrade who died fighting against fascism, the enemy of all progressive humanity,” she said.

“It is the duty of socialists everywhere to honour her memory by demanding her body be brought home, and we must fight to support the people of Afrin against the murderous provocations of Isis and Erdogan.”

Mr Woodcock told the Star: “I have decided not to give comment to media organisations which represent the Communist Party of Great Britain [sic],” though the Morning Star is a reader-owned co-op in which Mr Woodcock’s trade union the GMB is among nine that hold a maximum shareholding.

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■ TRAIN GUARDS

# RMT asks German minister for help to end rail dispute

by Marcus Barnett

RAIL union RMT is so fed up with the government’s refusal to co-operate over the Northern Rail dispute that it has penned a letter to the German transport minister seeking help.

The letter was sent yesterday as union members started a second 24-hour strike against Northern Rail over the role of the safety-critical guard.

RMT is now pushing for discussions with German minister Alexander Dobrindt as a way of breaking the current deadlock. The German state-owned Deutsche Bahn took over British privateer Arriva in 2010. Arriva UK Trains now runs almost a quarter of British train operators, including the Northern franchise.

In a letter to Mr Dobrindt, RMT general secretary Mick Cash said that the actions of Arriva Rail North are exacerbating, rather than solving, tensions in the ongoing dispute.

“Your help in this matter is

vital to avoid the German government being seen as the one prolonging this dispute and jeopardising safety, security and accessibility on UK rail services,” he wrote.

“UK passengers will become unhappy that their counterparts in Germany are benefiting directly from German state rail profiteering on Northern by removing safety-critical staff and at the same time as UK fares are going through the roof.”

The union urged the German government to broker a solution for rail safety in northern Britain, accusing Transport Secretary Chris Grayling of refusing to compromise or reach a solution.

“RMT has made it clear that we will leave no stone unturned in achieving a safe and viable solution to the Northern rail dispute.

“The union continues to press for the top-level talks required to reach a conclusion that puts public safety before private profit.”

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■ ENVIRONMENT

# Returns scheme for cans and bottles ‘needed fast’

LABOUR has told the government to hurry up with a mooted recycling scheme for plastic and glass bottles and metal drinks cans.

Consumers would pay a deposit, returned when the container is handed in, under plans announced yesterday to tackle plastic waste.

Shadow environment secretary Sue Hayman pointed out that Labour backed the idea in its 2017 general election manifesto. Countries like Norway, Sweden and Germany already have such schemes.

“This announcement is still only a consultation – and it’s clear that we need urgent action now,” she said.

“We need to look at waste and recycling as a whole, and

that means giving our overstretched local councils the resources they need to boost recycling rates and to tackle the scourge of fly-tipping.”

British consumers get through an estimated 13 billion plastic drinks bottles a year, of which more than 3bn are incinerated, sent to landfill or end up as litter.

Greenpeace UK’s Elena Poliano said that the government’s proposals could make a huge difference to the plastic problem but added that the government must be careful to avoid a voluntary scheme that only applies to some retailers.

However, charity A Plastic Planet warned that the scheme would fall far short of solving the plastics crisis.

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■ BREXIT

# No faith in feuding Tories' EU priorities

by Marcus Barnett

FEWER than one in seven people think that the Tories are handling Brexit negotiations well, a new study has found.

Less than a third of people polled thought ministers were prioritising the jobs, wages and living standards of Britain's workers, according to research carried out for the GMB union published today.

The poll conducted by Survation showed that two thirds of people thought that leaving the European Union was a distraction from other important issues the country is facing.

A similar number of the 1,000 people questioned thought it unlikely that the NHS would benefit from the infamous £350 million a week promised by right-wing Leave campaigners.

GMB general secretary Tim Roache condemned the government for "doing nothing" to put

people's minds at rest.

He said: "So many people voted for Brexit because the idea of 'taking back control' appealed to them – the status quo and how things were going just wasn't working for them.

"If these negotiations mean fewer good jobs, companies leaving the UK and continued insecurity and uncertainty, it will be because the government has made a hash of it.

"Ministers need to put the needs of working people and communities ahead of their own backbenchers' obsessive backbiting."

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady added to Mr Roache's condemnation, telling PM Theresa May to "stop crossing her fingers and hoping that something will turn up," urging her to "rise above Cabinet divisions" and to secure "a deal that delivers for ordinary people, across the whole of the UK."

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■ LONDON

# RMT safety fears as DLR strike continues

TRANSPORT workers on London's Docklands Light Railway (DLR) service are "united and determined" to resolve the dispute over jobs and outsourcing, as a 48-hour strike continues today.

Rail union RMT raised safety concerns over the limited and understaffed services being operated by KeolisAmey Docklands, the contractors running the DLR, during the action.

RMT leader Mick Cash said the dispute was about "ending the undercutting of jobs and conditions through outsourcing, ending the abuse of procedures and defending the basic principles of workplace justice.

"Instead of running risks and cutting corners, the company should be negotiating a settlement to this dispute," he said.

The union also called for Mayor Sadiq Khan, who chairs Transport for London, to take workplace concerns seriously and urged contractors to "get back round the table, take on board the workplace issues at the heart of the strike, and agree a settlement that values and respects the DLR workforce."

■ MPs' PLEA

# Festering in Sudanese jail

PARLIAMENTARIANS have called on the Foreign Secretary to put pressure on the government of Sudan to immediately free British-Sudanese national Dr Sidqi Kaballo.

Mr Kaballo, 70, has been held without charge since January 16 after peacefully protesting in Khartoum against cost-of-living rises.

A member of the Sudanese Communist Party's central committee, he is one of more than 100 people detained after the protests.

Twenty-three MPs and peers, members of the all-party group on Sudan and South Sudan, have called for renewed efforts to ensure his safe release.

Labour MP Richard Burden said: "His family were planning a big celebration for [his birthday].

"What they were not planning for was Dr Kaballo to be thousands of miles from his family in a prison cell in Darfur."



**WHITEWASH:** An 18th-century chapel at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park is filled with a new installation titled Beyond Time. Artist Chiharu Shiota created the piece using 2,000 balls of wool



Pic: Tam McFarlane

■ GLASGOW

# FBU keeps memories of Cheapside comrades alive

FIREFIGHTERS vowed to never forget the service's worst ever peacetime disaster as they gathered yesterday to mark their trade union's centenary.

On March 28 1960, an explosion at a Glasgow whisky warehouse killed 14 firefighters and five members of the Glasgow Salvage Corps who were tackling a blaze at the scene.

The warehouse, in Cheapside Street near the city centre, contained over a million gallons of whisky and rum.

The Fire Brigades Union's Scottish division chose to mark the union's centenary on the 58th anniversary of the disaster. Firefighters said safety

improvements over the past 100 years had been the fruit of the union's campaigning efforts.

"The FBU has been at the sharp end of every single improvement in the service over the years," FBU executive council member Chris McGlone told the Star.

FBU general secretary Matt Wrack laid a wreath in the Glasgow Necropolis, where the men who died are buried.

James Boyle, whose firefighter father Christopher died in the explosion, told the Star that it was important for the FBU and others to keep the memory alive.

■ SCOTLAND

# 'Defiant' Catalan academic will fight 'political' extradition

by Conrad Landin  
Scotland Editor

A CATALAN politician facing jail over the recent independence referendum was bailed by a Scottish court yesterday.

Clara Ponsati was the Spanish region's education minister but she fled to Belgium, along with Catalan president Carles Puigdemont, when the administration was sacked by the Spanish government last autumn. Catalonia had declared independence from Spain after a referendum that

Madrid declared to be illegal.

Ms Ponsati later returned to a teaching post at St Andrews University, which she had previously held before entering front-line politics.

A European arrest warrant for a number of Catalan ex-ministers was reissued on Friday and Ms Ponsati handed herself in to police in Edinburgh yesterday morning.

The hearing before Sheriff Nigel Ross lasted less than 10 minutes yesterday afternoon in a courtroom crowded with press and supporters. The court heard that Ms Ponsati does not consent to extradition.

The application for bail was not opposed by the Crown. Granted bail, Ms Ponsati was asked to surrender her passport.

Her lawyer said she views the charges, which could attract a jail term of up to 30 years, as political persecution and believes that her human rights cannot be guaranteed in Spain.

Students at St Andrews protested against her arrest outside the university's students union yesterday evening. A bigger demonstration will be held on Monday from 7pm.

Aamer Anwar, who is repre-



■ JUDICIAL REVIEW

# JUDGES BACK VICTIMS' BID TO KEEP WORBOYS CAGED

**HIGH COURT:** Parole Board decision to set free London's black-cab serial rapist overturned

BLACK-CAB rapist John Worboys will remain behind bars after the High Court upheld a challenge to his release yesterday.

Two of his victims successfully launched a judicial review of the Parole Board's controversial decision to release Mr Worboys earlier this year.

Mr Worboys was jailed indefinitely in 2009, with a minimum term of eight years, for drugging and sexually assaulting female passengers.

Police believe Mr Worboys attacked more than 100 women, though he was only convicted in relation to 12 victims.

Sir Brian Leveson upheld the challenge to the "rationality" of the board's decision "on the

by Sam Tobin



basis that it should have undertaken further inquiry into the circumstances of his offending."

Parole Board chairman Nick Hardwick resigned yesterday morning ahead of the ruling, warning Justice Secretary David Gauke of his "concern about the independence of the board."

Mr Gauke announced that he had "already decided to abolish Rule 25 ... as soon as possible after the Easter recess," which would allow summaries of Parole Board decisions to be provided to victims.

But lawyers for the women

said Mr Gauke "bears some responsibility" for the failings made in the Worboys case.

Phillippa Kaufmann QC said the Ministry of Justice was responsible for putting the dossier of evidence before the Parole Board, adding that it was "disappointing" that Mr Hardwick appeared to have been made a "scapegoat" when there was a "systemic failure."

One of the women who brought the case, known only as DSD, said although she was pleased with the result, she felt she had been "let down" and that it was "the whole system that had failed."

"I feel like I have been let down at every step," she said.

"It is wrong that we have

been put in this situation. As victims we should have been supported and not having to fight every step of the way in court."

DSD said she has confidence the Parole Board will now make the right decision, despite getting it "wrong" last time.

Shadow justice minister Richard Burgon said: "Today's unprecedented ruling highlights deep flaws in the initial Parole Board decision."

"Anything less an independent end-to-end review into the whole handling of the Worboys case will fail to re-establish public confidence in our justice system and will let victims down again."

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■ TRANSPORT

# Grayling 'lied' about rail electrification

by Marcus Barnett

RAIL unions have accused Transport Secretary Chris Grayling of lying over the reason for his decision to cancel three electrification projects.

Mr Grayling halted the projects in England and Wales last year on the basis that it was unnecessary to electrify every line in order to satisfy passenger expectations, the National Audit Office (NAO) investigation published today finds.

His official justification was that passenger journeys on the Great Western Main Line in south Wales, the Midland Main Line and the Lakes Line between Windermere and Oxenholme could be improved by using upgraded trains.

However, the NAO has concluded that the main reason for the cancellation was financial: the Department for Transport cancelled projects because Network Rail could no longer deliver its investment programme with funding available and the project was cancelled to

address the shortfall. The NAO also cast doubt over whether the department could still deliver the benefits of electrification without these projects.

Aslef general secretary Mick Whelan accused the government's story of being "smoke and mirrors" and said the report showed Mr Grayling clearly lied.

He said: "The truth is that the government didn't want to find the money and made up a story. It is a fantasy. Mr Grayling has been rumbled."

Shadow transport secre-

tary Andy McDonald said the report "lays bare the delusional and disastrous decision" taken by Mr Grayling.

"The NAO highlights that Chris Grayling cut rail electrification projects without appropriate alternative technology in place," he said.

And RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: "Once again the hypocrisy and failures of Chris Grayling are laid bare."

"The only rail priority of this rotten Tory government are bungs and bailouts to the private train companies."

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senting Ms Ponsati, said: "Clara remains defiant, resolute and is determined to fight back."

Mr Anwar said his client was "truly humbled by the unconditional support from students, colleagues and the principal at St Andrews University," and expressed thanks to the Scottish public and politicians for their support. "Scotland has been a true friend to Catalonia in her darkest hours," he added.

The ex-minister's counsel is likely to argue that rebellion is not a crime in Scotland, though the offence of treason could be deemed sufficiently similar. The case could also be struck out on grounds that it is politically motivated.

Mr Puigdemont, heading back to Belgium from a trip to Finland, was arrested by police in Germany on Monday. After a preliminary hearing, he will need to appear in court again to before a judge will determine whether he should be extradited.

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■ INDUSTRIAL

# Coca-Cola to shut 2 sites with loss of 300 jobs

**ALMOST 300 Coca-Cola workers will lose their jobs after the drinks giant announced plans yesterday to close sites in Milton Keynes and Northampton.**

The company said the closures will take place next year.

Unite has said Coca-Cola has not made a convincing business case for the closures and that the company should have an "urgent rethink."

The union's regional officer Sally Mortimer said it was "devastating news" for the workers and

their families, as well as the local economies.

"Even at this 11th hour, we urge Coca-Cola to have an urgent rethink and not to jettison the hard-working workforces at these two sites," she said.

Coca-Cola said it would be committed to supporting those affected by offering "training and development opportunities," as well as "tailored outplacement support."

Ms Mortimer said Unite would be working with the company so "as many workers as possible" find new jobs.

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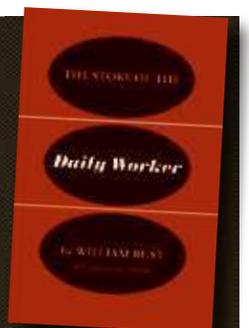
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BRAZIL

# LULA DEFIES GUN ATTACK AND THREAT OF JAIL TIME

**VIOLENCE:** The former president addressed crowds after campaign buses came under fire

by Our Foreign Desk

BRAZIL'S former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has vowed that neither legal persecution nor violent intimidation will stop his fight for the presidency after his campaign convoy came under gun fire.

Shots hit two buses in the caravan that has been touring Parana state in southern Brazil on Tuesday. Officials of Lula's Workers Party, which has won all presidential elections since 2002 but was removed from power in a constitutional coup in 2016, said Parana was the only state not to have provided a police escort for the campaign.

Lula, as Mr da Silva is universally known, told crowds after the attack that "the powerful can kill one, two or three roses, but they can never stop spring from coming."

"If they think they can do

away with my will to fight, they are wrong. The day I cannot shout any more, I will shout through your throats. The day my mind stops thinking, I will think through your minds."

On Monday, an appeals court rejected his procedural objections to a corruption conviction widely regarded as stitched up – Lula allegedly received a flat as a bribe from construction company OAS, but the conviction

rests on the testimony of a single convict whose prison sentence was reduced in return for it, and no documentary evidence exists to back it up.

If Brazil's Supreme Court decides on April 4 not to allow further appeals, Lula will be barred from standing for the presidency and could go to jail.

Communist Senator Vanessa Grazziotin denounced the "fascist, violent and intolerant

manifestations" represented by attacks on Lula's caravan, stressing that the most popular president in Brazil's history had also been its best.

The Communist Party of Brazil's "pre-candidate" for the presidency Manuela d'Avila said there was no doubt that Lula's conviction was political.

"The first in the polls is Lula, but he is not committed to the book of fiscal austerity, so they have judicialised the issue and prevented him from competing," she said.

Attacking the coup that replaced his elected successor Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's first female president, as "anti-democratic, anti-national and misogynist," she said Brazil's elite was determined to fix the election because their programme of privatisation and cuts was so unpopular, it was "impossible to put in the public eye."

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DEFIANT: Lula at the rally



FRANCE

## Paris marches after brutal anti-semitic murder

DEMONSTRATORS organised a silent march against anti-semitism in Paris yesterday following last week's brutal murder of Mireille Knoll, an octogenarian Jewish woman who narrowly avoided deportation during the Holocaust.

Ms Knoll, 85, was stabbed to death on Friday and her flat was then set alight by two assailants, one of whom was a resident of the same block and had previously been jailed for the sexual abuse of a 12-year-old girl.

Prosecutors confirmed on Monday that they believe the murder was a hate crime motivated by her race.

Parties of right and left participated in the march, with Left Front leader Jean-Luc Melenchon denouncing an "abominable assassination of a defenceless octogenarian, survivor of the nazis."

The Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France, which organised the march, called on the National Front not to take part because of its long history of anti-semitism – prompting FN executive member Louis Aliot to accuse it of "sectarian opposition to the real enemies of Islamism rather than Islamism itself."

UNITED STATES

## Anger rises in Sacramento over police shooting

by Our Foreign Desk

PROTESTS continued to swell in Sacramento yesterday over the police killing of unarmed black man Stephon Clark last week.

California's attorney general Xavier Becerra will join an investigation into the death of Mr Clark, who was in his grandmother's back garden when police shot him 20 times.

A city council meeting on Tuesday night had to be called

to a halt early after crowds filled the hall to overflowing and Mr Clark's brother Stevante jumped on the dais in front of the mayor, chanting his brother's name.

Protesters also blocked fans from entering the Golden 1 centre for a basketball match between the Sacramento Kings and Dallas Mavericks, the second such protest.

Kings forward JaKarr Sampson said the team would still play as professionals, but "as basketball players, [the] majority of us African-American in

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CUT OUT AND MAIL TO US



**SHUTDOWN:** Protesters chant "black lives matter" and block an entrance to the Golden 1 centre ahead of a basketball match

the league, we understand what's going on out there."

The attorney general's office will now oversee the investigation and review the police department's policies, but Mr Clark's uncle Curtis Gordon did not express confidence that his nephew would receive justice.

"We'll see what happens. It's all talk at this point," he said.

Mr Becerra's office has the right to press charges against the officers who killed Mr Clark, but the decision on whether to prosecute is likely to be made by district attorney Anne Marie Schubert, who said the process would "take time."

She spoke as Louisiana attorney general Jeff Landry ruled that two officers who killed Alton Sterling on July 5 2016 would not face any charges.

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**GRIEF:** Mr Clark's brother (above) confronts the mayor. Grandmother Sequita Thompson (below) breaks down during a news conference



## RUSSIA

# 'Profit before lives' in Kemerovo fire

by Our Foreign Desk

A CULTURE of "complete irresponsibility and profit at any cost" was responsible for the deadly fire in the Siberian city of Kemerovo, Russia's Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov warned yesterday, as the first funerals for the 64 confirmed victims started taking place.

Russia declared a day of mourning and flags flew at half mast across the country while thousands laid flowers or fluffy toys at memorials in various cities.

Deputy Emergency Situations Minister Vladlen Aksyonov said the bodies of all victims had been recovered and nobody was unaccounted for, denying claims by some Kemerovo residents that the true death toll was higher.

Mr Zyuganov, pledging to fight for a full parliamentary investigation, blamed the tragedy on "predatory capitalism" and said it would be repeated.

"In an effort to maximise quick profits the vital interests of thousands of people were ignored – and still would be," he said.

"The shopping centre in Kemerovo was converted from an industrial enterprise and was not adapted for the presence of thousands.

"During the renovation the cheapest, flammable materials were used. Construction norms and rules written in the blood of the victims of previous disasters were not observed."

Those behind the building project had made savings on fire safety, he declared, noting that "the billionaire owner of the Winter Cherry complex lives in Australia."

Oligarch Denis Shtengelov, the owner who lives on the Gold Coast, has said he felt sorry for the fire's victims and promised to make payments to their families, but scoffed at suggestions he might return to Russia, saying: "To come just to go to jail?"

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## EUROPEAN UNION

# EU succumbs to Nato with open borders for military

THE European Union announced its "action plan on military mobility" yesterday, aiming to allow member state armies to deploy across the bloc at will.

Nato commanders have complained that conflicting regulations prevent easy troop movements across borders, while many bridges and tunnels are too weak for tanks and other heavy military vehicles to use.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said: "By facilitating military mobility within the EU, we can be more effective in preventing crises, more efficient in deploying our missions and quicker in reacting when challenges arise."

The plan will now go to EU governments and the European Parliament for discussion.

The EU has been pressed to act by the United States, with the retiring commander of US soldiers in Europe Ben Hodges calling last year for a "military zone of free movement" similar to those the EU enforces for capital, goods, services and labour.



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## UNITED STATES

# Teachers' strike to go ahead despite last-minute offer

by Our Foreign Desk

OKLAHOMA teachers have confirmed they are still due to walk out on Easter Monday despite the Senate voting last night on an emergency package to give them a pay rise.

Teachers in the state earn among the lowest anywhere in the United States, starting on a wage of \$31,600 (£22,000), and are demanding a \$10,000 (£7,000) pay rise over three years as well as increased funding to pay for textbooks and school equipment.

Oklahoma has cut education spending by 28.2 per cent since the bankers' crash of 2008 – the biggest funding cuts in the US. It faces a teacher exodus, with many

heading to neighbouring Texas and Arkansas for pay that is thousands of dollars higher.

The lower house of the state legislature passed a \$450 million (£320m) tax rise Bill on Monday, raising taxes on oil and gas production, cigarettes, fuel and hotels in order to pay for a \$6,000 (£4,200) raise for the teachers, who have not had a pay rise since 2007. It needed a three-quarters majority to pass in the Senate.

Even if passed, the rises will account for less than the state lost in tax revenues by slashing gross production taxes on oil from 7 per cent to 2 per cent and on horizontal drilling for shale oil to just 1 per cent during the fracking boom.

Oklahoma Education Association president Alicia Priest called the proposal a "good first step" but didn't say if it would be enough to avert a lengthy walkout.

"April 2 is still on," the union confirmed. "Our ask is still our ask."

Secondary school Spanish teacher and union activist Zachary Grimm said the package was "definitely lacking."

"My teachers and I are still gearing up to walk out on Monday," he said.

Teachers in Oklahoma have been inspired to act by the successful nine-day strike by their colleagues in West Virginia earlier this month, which won a 5 per cent pay rise for all state employees.

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# Stifling of free speech at universities? Palestine campaigners are the biggest victims

'No-platform' and 'safe space' policies are not progressive – they are being used to shut down and bully Palestinian rights activists on campus, writes **OLIVER VARGAS**

**N**OT many weeks go by when a politician or journalist doesn't decry the demise of free speech at universities and "snowflake" millennials.

Former universities minister Jo Johnson recently pledged to combat the stifling of free speech and debate on campuses, saying there will be a "legal duty" to ensure all students, faculty or visitors are not discriminated or "no-platformed" based on their beliefs. Good.

As a co-chair of the Palestine Society at my university, I know that we face the biggest obstacles and the most ludicrous attempts to police and shut down our activities – though I imagine Johnson's plans aren't quite aimed at providing for greater free speech for Palestine activists.

The ongoing factional outrage of the Labour right against Jeremy Corbyn has whipped up the most hostile atmosphere in years for any discussions of Israeli human rights abuses.

Prominent rightwingers like Milo Yiannopoulos often complain they're being silenced by "snowflake" students.

The reality is that students who want to protest against Donald Trump's Jerusalem decision will find next term that we're the real target of "safe space" and "no-platform" policies along with the government's own Prevent strategy that monitors anything we do.

When organising activities for Palestine I've run into the myriad of absurd rules that student unions have to ensure nothing "controversial" is said.

When we held our first event we had to submit the speakers' names and organisations for

"vetting" 21 days before the event could be held.

Most ridiculous of all, we have to also submit a full text of the visitors' speech 21 days before, so that unaccountable admin staff can rule whether or not they're allowed to say it. If you've ticked all those bureaucratic boxes, well done. But it's not over yet, not by a long shot.

We have to then attend a one-hour "training session" on how to chair a meeting, at which admin staff say that your role is, in part, to ensure Prevent guidelines are obeyed and the speaker doesn't stray from the text they submitted three weeks previously.

Furthermore, we are required to have not one but two official bouncers at the meeting to monitor and check ID.

The Palestine Society is one



of only a tiny number of societies that have to jump this particularly absurd hurdle.

No conservative or right-wing group faces these kind of obstacles before being able to exercise their right to free speech.

However, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Palestine societies have had their activities banned by university bureaucracy even after initial approval.

Last year, students at Exeter were told they were not allowed to perform street theatre on campus. They were informed just 48 hours before their event had been due to take place.

In the US too, one univer-

**W**E have heard a lot from some in recent days about how Jeremy Corbyn overlooks anti-semitism or excuses it.

Yet when one looks at many of those making such points there appears to be an absence of actual active opposition to those who both hold such views in Britain and act on them.

That is not something that can be said about Corbyn.

On April 23 1977 the National Front decided to march from Duckett's Common by Turnpike Lane Tube in north London down a busy London high road packed with Saturday afternoon shoppers.

There were several thousand fascists but they were outnumbered by opponents, including many people out shopping, appalled that fascists were marching on the anniversary of Hitler's birthday.

The National Front was an avowedly anti-semitic party. It would be bad enough now but this was a mere three decades after the end of the second world war and numbers who had been actively involved in fighting Hitler were no doubt around on that spring day.

In reality only a small part

of the NF march made it to a concluding rally as it was broken by protesters.

Forty years later on April 23 2017 that day was marked with a festival to celebrate diversity and oppose racism on the very same Duckett's Common.

The fascists never returned in any numbers to the borough, but the fight against racism always needs to be maintained in each generation.

One of the keynote speakers on April 23 was Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. It was of course the kind of event that one might expect he would attend, but it is a little bit more specific than that.

In 1977, before he became the long-serving MP for Islington North, Corbyn was a trade union official and Labour councillor in Haringey for the area adjacent to Duckett's Common. He is still remembered for the hard work he did then.

Part of that was to act as the co-ordinator for all of the local Haringey councillors, including Tories, in 1977.

The councillors had called for the NF march to be banned, recognising the provocation it was designed to be. The police had declined. On the day all of the councillors assembled

## Jeremy Corbyn has a long and honed record of opposing fascism, racism and anti-semitism

**KEITH FLETT** recalls how the Labour leader played an active role in organising against and resisting the National Front in the late 1970s

Pic: Vaughan Melzer



**PRINCIPLED:** Jeremy Corbyn speaks at an event to mark 40 years of anti-racism in north London

on Duckett's Common, before the fascists marched, holding a giant banner making clear they stood firm against racism.

But there was another group of people – anti-fascists, trade unionists, socialists – who were determined that the NF would not march.

The main aim was simply to stop them by force of numbers, but some physical engagement with the fascists was envisaged.

Using his influence Corbyn was able to act as the spokesperson for both groups of people, presenting in effect a unified protest against the NF.

Indeed the following week he was quoted in the local Hornsey Journal paper in just this role.



sity banned its students from displaying a homemade banner that said simply: "Stand for justice. Stand for Palestine" because it violated "safe spaces."

Every Palestine society has a similar story of overzealous bureaucrats banning talks and stifling any attempt to talk about Israel's illegal occupation.

For Palestinian students in Britain, these ridiculous rules must represent an especially bitter humiliation. What other nation on campus faces bans and obstacles to simply talking about daily life in their own country?

If Johnson et al are serious about facilitating free debate

on campus, then they should acknowledge that it is pro-Palestine activists, not conservatives, who are the real victims of the vastly excessive powers that universities have to shut down free speech.

For those of us on the left, it should tell us that "no-platform" and "safe spaces" policies are not progressive.

Ever since they became a principle rather than a tactic, they have opened the door to such policies being very easily and routinely weaponised against the left.

There is a real free speech battle for the left. The battle to be able to talk about Palestine.

## nourable record anti-semitism

### ve part in ce '70s

That day was one of the occasions that led to the formation of the Anti-Nazi League and the first huge carnival in conjunction with Rock Against Racism at Victoria Park in May 1978.

We should remember Corbyn's role in some of the events that led to the birth of the anti-racist and anti-fascist movement that did much to stop the NF from becoming, as it threatened to in the late 1970s, a major political force.

Given that it is not unknown for labour movement leaders to develop hazy memories of how they came to be leaders in the first place, it's also good that the current Labour leader has not forgotten those days either.



Only a small part  
of the NF march  
made it to a  
concluding rally  
as it was broken  
by protesters

**B**ACK in May 2017, just prior to the British general election, I wrote a piece arguing that a victory for

Theresa May would see Britain dragged further towards war with Russia.

While Britain is militarily weak compared with Russia, the point was that May would continue to do the bidding of Washington by demonising that country and engaging in provocative actions.

Well, May is now prime minister and if anything supports the above view, it is the recent events surrounding the poisoning of former spy Sergei Skripal with the nerve agent Novichok in Salisbury.

In the aftermath, we have seen a tirade of accusations levelled at Russia, with Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson comparing the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and the political capital made from the event by Hitler with the upcoming Fifa World Cup and Vladimir Putin.

Johnson said Labour MP Ian Austin was completely right to say Russia's president wanted to "gloss over [his] brutal corrupt regime."

The accusations about Russian state involvement in the poisoning of Skripal and his daughter have been repeated across the Western media and by senior politicians despite the British government failing to provide any proper evidence for Russian culpability.

However, this is nothing new. The strident anti-Russia/Putin narrative has been ongoing for many years.

In April 2017, Putin was told by British ambassador to the United Nations Matthew Rycroft that he was on the "wrong side of history" because of his support for Syria's Bashar Assad.

Rycroft added that supporting Assad would result in "shame" and "humiliation" for Russia.

He said the UN security council had been "held to ransom by Russia's shameless support for the Assad regime" and added that Russia's credibility and reputation across the world would be poisoned by its toxic association with Assad.

In response to Rycroft's statements, Russia's UN representative Vladimir Safronkov said that Rycroft should stop putting forward unprofessional arguments and accusations based on lies. He warned that all Arab countries recall Britain's colonial hypocrisy.

Many might think Rycroft lives in an alternative universe: what credibility do the US and its allies, including Britain, have given their illegal interventions in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and Iraq?

Where does the reputation of these countries lie when much of the world beyond the bubble Rycroft exists in recognises that the US has supported terror groups to destroy Syria (described in Professor Tim Anderson's book *The Dirty War on Syria*)?

Nonetheless, the anti-Russia rhetoric has been incessant. Following the US-instigated coup

# Theresa May is playing a reckless game of nuclear roulette

The Tories are helping to accelerate a trajectory towards conflict with Russia, says **COLIN TODHUNTER**

in Ukraine, for instance, in 2017 the then British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said that Nato must be ready for Russian aggression in "whatever form it takes." He added that Russia is a "real and present danger."

Now, in 2018, May and Johnson accuse the Russian state of carrying out the attack in Salisbury yet provide no proper evidence to support this accusation.

Other Western countries have joined in with the accusations and a tit-for-tat expulsion of diplomats has followed – a dangerous game of Russian roulette that seems to escalate with each passing day, all based on a campaign of disinformation.

In a series of recent articles, former British ambassador to Uzbekistan Craig Murray has been highlighting the nature of the false accusations regarding the Skripal case and has accused Johnson of being a "categorical liar."

In Britain, over the last two years or so, we have also seen Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn being ridiculed and attacked relentlessly.

Corbyn has been described by prominent figures in the Conservative government as a threat to security and as a threat to Britain.

He is a target for the Establishment because he swims against the Washington consensus of neoliberal capitalism, Nato-instigated wars and US imperialism.

After Corbyn was elected leader of the Labour Party, Fallon stated that Labour was a serious risk to Britain's national security.

If anything is a threat to Britain and the world, it is the underhand destabilisations and wars it participates in, the ones that the likes of Fallon support.

The US thinks it and it alone has the right to act as it deems fit to maintain its global dominance: no other power will be allowed to rise to challenge the US. Its client states fall in line to provide support.

As documented by historian William Blum, the US has over a period of decades created a very long list of bogeymen and bogus reasons to remove leaders and destroy sovereign states that have stood in the way of this agenda.

In terms of a massive military budget, worldwide military bases, illegal wars and destabilisations, it is not "Russian aggression" the world should be concerned about but US militarism, which poses the greater threat to humanity.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the US has pressed ahead in a strategic sense to the point where it believes it can win a nuclear war with a preemptive strike against Russia.

Since when did Russia become a target for demonisation? The answer is when Washington decided to break prior agreements with Moscow and encircle Russia with missiles.

The US demands Russia accept this without complaint. But Putin is not Yeltsin. Russia has understandably reacted to events in Ukraine and has come to the aid of Syria, an ally under attack from Western-backed forces.

Western leaders and the media portray any protests or military countermeasures by Putin as "aggression."

The US strategy is to destroy Russia as a functioning state or at least replace Putin with a compliant puppet willing to acquiesce to Washington's hegemony.

There are well over a million dead in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Libya as a result of direct military intervention or covert actions by the Western powers and their allies (the death count for Iraq alone between 1990 and 2012 could be 3.3 million as a result of Western economic sanctions and illegal wars).

Many individuals, like Dick "Halliburton" Cheney for one, have profited handsomely on the back of the destruction of Iraq that they helped bring about.

However, Cheney, Bush, Blair, Obama and Hillary Clinton, who

are all complicit in driving illegal conflicts, destabilisations or outright war and who have the blood of so many on their hands, are given a free pass and accorded a type of stately respect by the media and within Establishment circles.

Outrage is reserved for Corbyn who has consistently been against all such actions, or for Putin who has acted to protect Russia's interests in the face of ongoing provocations.

How do Cheney, Blair and the rest continue to get away with their actions, while the focus is kept on the Establishment's convenient enemies?

The intelligence agencies have for decades ensured that key political leaders and the mainstream media comply with the interests of the Anglo-US Establishment and are "on message."

And these agencies certainly have a firm hold over media messages. A few years ago, Udo Ulfkotte, former editor of Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung, one of Germany's largest newspapers, claimed that he accepted news stories written and given to him by the CIA and published them under his own name.

His situation is not unique. As for Britain, scroll through the web pages of British-based *Lobster* magazine and the picture will become clear.

We are currently witnessing an orchestrated campaign directed at the public to shape negative perceptions about Russia, helped along by the recent events in Salisbury.

Through her inflammatory rhetoric, May is dutifully playing her part, while simultaneously distracting attention from her government's disastrous neoliberal agenda on the home front. A good old dose of patriotic fervour always helps on that score.

Regardless of her motives, May is helping to accelerate a trajectory towards conflict with Russia that might be impossible to escape.

★ Star comment

## The EU's military mobility plan is a sign of dangerous militarisation

LIKE most pronouncements from the European Union, yesterday's Action Plan on Military Mobility is likely to be met with popular indifference.

The arcane deliberations of EU institutions always seem remote from our day-to-day concerns, and those few who trouble to read the European Commission's press release will soon drift off to the dulcet tones of commissioners vowing to "offer opportunities for more synergies between civilian and military needs" and "streamline and simplify customs formalities for military operations."

This is unfortunate, because the action plan could represent a dangerous militarisation of Europe and increase the risk of war.

The EU makes no bones about the ultimate goal: its plan is "in line with President [Jean-Claude] Juncker's commitment to a fully fledged Defence Union by 2025."

Dropping restrictions on soldiers from one member state being deployed to another, and adapting road and rail infrastructure to facilitate rapid troop movements across the bloc will enable the EU "to react in a fast and effective way to internal and external crises," the Commission contends.

The dream of a unified EU military goes back decades: it was in the 1990s that Jacques Delors called for a joint army to "fight the resource wars of the 21st century." That vision saw the EU as a potential commercial and military rival to Washington.

But military integration is now being pushed equally enthusiastically by the United States: "We need it and Nato wants it," as Juncker declared in last year's State of the Union address.



Retiring US commander in Europe Ben Hodges said last year that Washington is planning to increase troop deployments to Europe, while the military mobility plan itself aims at enabling rapid transit for US troops as well as those of member states.

This militarisation is justified by the spectre of "Russian aggression," hyped up by media reports of Russian troops being "stationed on the borders of Nato" – hardly surprising when, in repeated breaches of agreements concluded between the US and the Soviet Union when the latter withdrew troops from the Warsaw Pact countries in the 1980s, Nato has expanded up to the Russian border itself.

Nato declared itself alarmed at Russia and Belarus's Zapad ("west") war games last year, although it was invited to send observers and these took place simultaneously with major US-led exercises in Sweden and followed 2016's huge military manoeuvres by the Washington-led alliance in Poland.

From deploying missile defence systems in eastern Europe to provoking the armed overthrow of the elected Ukrainian government in 2014, the EU and Nato have shown a reckless expansionism which, combined with increasingly hysterical reports of alleged Russian interference in everything from the US election to Brexit, increases the risk of a catastrophic war in which there would be no winners.



Turning Europe into a massive armed camp is likely to ramp up tensions even further – and that is not the only risk of allowing free troop movements across the EU.

The Commission does not define what it means by "internal and external crises," but the union has undergone a marked authoritarian shift in recent years, with "technocratic" governments imposed when elected ones have been unable to do what's required of them and the insurgent people of Greece warned by Juncker himself that "there is no democratic choice against the EU treaties."

Will "military mobility" enable member state troops to "restore order" if resistance to austerity explodes on the streets, as it has periodically done in Athens? It would be unwise to discount the possibility.

Nor does Britain get off the hook by leaving the EU – since the Commission is clear that the plans are being rolled out under Nato supervision, and Britain remains a member of the alliance and could well be integrated into the scheme on that basis.

Building a peace movement opposed to military deployments abroad and fighting to leave Nato to pursue an independent foreign policy are essential steps to a more peaceful world.

# We must call a halt to the creeping privatisation of our NHS

Plans by Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust to set up a private company to employ NHS staff are symptomatic of a drive towards US-style healthcare, writes **RICHARD BURGON**



**O**UR NHS is Labour's proudest achievement – a beacon of socialist principles put into practice. But its creeping privatisation continues apace.

Privatisation of our NHS is bad for patients, bad for staff and completely flies in the face of the founding principles of our NHS.

St James's Teaching Hospital is in my Leeds East constituency. It's a place that means a lot to me. I was born there and have, along with family and friends, benefited from it ever since. And it means a lot to the community in Leeds who are both patients and employees there.

In recent weeks, committed NHS staff who work there have contacted me, along with Unison and other trade unions, to express their concern about plans by Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust to set up a private company to employ NHS staff.

Like other NHS trusts, management in Leeds wants to transfer 2,300 staff such as porters, cleaners, housekeepers, clinical engineers and those who work in procure-

ment and supplies to a "wholly owned subsidiary company."

Unison representatives met with me and asked me to back their campaign against the plans, which will create a two-tier workforce as new staff coming into the service will start on worse pay and conditions than existing staff.

NHS trusts in Airedale and Harrogate, where similar privatisation plans are proposed, have chosen to ignore the views of their staff who have grave concerns about their pay and working conditions in the future.

As an illustration of where this approach leads, I was appalled to see a bank porter's job advertised at £8 an hour with basic pension and no unsocial hours payment by the new wholly owned company at Airedale Hospital. This is exactly what NHS staff are so worried about.

As a former trade union lawyer, I know that the Tupe regulations designed to protect pay and conditions if jobs are transferred can be easily changed for "economic, technical or organisational" reasons.

NHS staff have been subjected to years of frozen pay and lost thousands of pounds in income and now they are being threatened with privatisation.

This obviously damages morale and I am doing everything I can to persuade Leeds Teaching Hospitals to listen to staff and the public and drop this disastrous plan.

The creation of a two-tier workforce in large hospitals such as St James's and Pinderfields could replicate the worst excesses of the private sector, with zero-hours contracts similar to those advertised at Airedale, including cuts to holiday entitlements and sick pay.

It would make it harder to recruit and retain staff which will inevitably have a negative impact on standards of care for the people of Leeds.

Hardworking NHS staff in Leeds and across the country deserve better than zero-hours contracts and inferior pay and pensions. And NHS patients deserve better than an NHS staffed on the cheap.

One of the reasons NHS trusts want to set up separate companies to employ staff is a loophole which allows subsidiary companies to reclaim VAT – something which NHS trusts are not allowed to do.

That's one of the reasons why Labour's shadow health secretary Jonathan Ashworth has written to Health Secre-



tary Jeremy Hunt demanding that the tax loophole be closed and all such back-door privatisation plans dropped. The government should act. Leeds NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust should listen.

Our NHS was created by a Labour government in the teeth of Tory opposition. The NHS shows that other ways of running society are possible. If we can successfully run healthcare in public hands then why not education, why not transport and why not energy?

We must reverse the drift towards a US-style healthcare system where they feel for your wallet before they feel for your pulse.

The Leeds NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust Board meets today – Thursday March 29. The trust should engage in a full public consultation regarding its back-door privatisation plans. Better still, it should drop them altogether. If they and other trusts in our region carry on regardless, many predict there may be strikes across the whole of West Yorkshire.



In politics, the local and the national should not be subjected to false separation. This local issue in Leeds is not a “one off.” It’s symptomatic of a wider issue not only by virtue of the fact that other NHS trusts elsewhere in the country are pursuing similar plans.

It’s symptomatic in relation to the fact it reflects both the marketisation and privatisation of our public sector more widely. As shadow justice secretary, I know all too well that the justice sector, with profiteering from the incarceration of human beings and the disastrous part-privatisation of probation, to cite just two examples, stands as evidence of the corrosive effects of privatisation.

And it’s also symptomatic in relation to the trend of falling wages and casualisation of employment in both the private and public sector.

Of course, both the privatisation and marketisation of our public services and the weakening of the position of workers in the economy and in society are

key features of the neoliberal economic consensus which has ruled the roost in Britain for nearly 40 years.

As Jeremy Corbyn put it at the Labour Party’s Northern Conference just the other week: “Neoliberalism is an ideology that ruins communities and ruins lives. It’s an ideology that this government is still absolutely wedded to as they continue to wreak havoc with their incessant cuts.”

Labour led by Corbyn, with John McDonnell as our shadow chancellor, now stands firmly and unequivocally opposed to neoliberalism, which is a free market fundamentalism which serves the interests of the privileged few, not the many.

The campaign to stop backdoor NHS privatisation in Leeds is just one skirmish in a bigger battle – a battle to ensure all our public services are not privatised and to ensure that workers are fairly rewarded and that the situation of working people and their families goes forwards, not backwards in our society.

# Putting the campaign to Repeal the 8th centre stage

In May this year Irish citizens will vote in a referendum on abortion rights. **FIONA O’CONNOR** explains how her new play seeks to encourage women to make sure they vote for their right to choose

Pic: Pat Redmond

**F**OR decades Britain has provided an escape hatch for Irish women.

There’s a long history of boats and trains releasing the Irish into the anonymous streets of London, Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham.

Irish workers have been travelling across to Britain for centuries.

For women Britain has commonly offered refuge, not only from religious institutions such as the Magdalene Laundries, but from the Irish state, when it comes to their bodies and their rights over them.

What is now seen as a combination of Catholic power and state piety brought about decades of punishing discrimination for those female citizens deemed to be beyond accepted limits of respectability.

Key to a coercive control of women and their reproductive freedoms was the silencing of their voices.

A 1950s Dail Eireann (Irish government) report stated: “The unmarried mother’s greatest need is secrecy.”

This was an acknowledgement that Irish society did not accept an unmarried woman’s right to have a child.

It justified the funding of networks of Catholic institutions, state-funded concealments in church-owned properties: mother and baby homes, orphanages and Magdalene Laundries.

It provided the setting for thousands of women and girls being sent into silence and punishment as their pregnancies outside of wedlock stripped them of their legal autonomy.

Or they were just trouble – many girls were sent into Laundries not because they were pregnant, but because they might become so.

Behind the shroud of secrecy an economy flourished; armies of unpaid workers supplied hotels, hospitals, restaurants, government departments and the army, with boiled clean, starched and ironed laundry. And babies were supplied to childless families across the world.

In the 1990s, following the discovery of mass graves of women and children buried on convent grounds, the stories



of this period of Irish history began to surface.

Government commissions on child abuse were set up. The United Nations committee against torture urged the Irish government to further its inquiries.

Numerous religious institutes were found guilty of permitting or covering up acts of rape, molestation, beatings and mental cruelty.

The brutality of institutions was not isolated to the confines of holy ground. Religious orders ran schools and other public services.

Their influence permeated every area of society, including families.

Women deemed troublesome often found Britain a benign retreat from what they faced at home.

Taking the boat or plane and disappearing into a foreign culture, they carried with them their sense of shame, guilt or trauma, often as a tightly held secret that was never talked about.

And Britain has provided refuge in another way. Since 1980 an estimated 170,000 women have travelled from Ireland to Britain in order to have safe, legal abortions.

In May of this year Irish citizens will vote in a referendum to repeal the 8th Amendment to the Constitution, the abortion referendum.

This amendment puts the foetus’s right to life on an equal footing with the woman’s.

It has meant that women facing giving birth to unviable foetuses have had no recourse than to head for the nearest airport. (Last week a report in the Irish Times announced that Liverpool Hospital, “one of the main UK hospitals offering abortion services to Irish women in cases of fatal foetal abnormality has scaled back access due to staffing issues.”)

The site of the latest round of struggle to give Irish women equal rights as citizens focuses on this present-day restriction.

It is another test of Irish society’s acceptance of the rights of women and the conversations taking place throughout the country are intense and widely varied, with recognition of differences and continuing focus on what is necessary for the country, what is the right thing to do.

Irish women who are now living their lives in Britain should have their say. A campaign being run by London Irish Abortion Rights Campaign is urging women to go home to vote.

So far this campaign has tended to focus on younger women, the social media-savvy, young professionals who are as comfortable in hipster

Shoreditch as they are in their town or village in Ireland. But what of those women who have been here longer, who arrived in silence and imposed secrecy? They too should be involved in the conversations that are radically changing Ireland.

The play, *She Had a Ticket in Mind*, written by this writer, offers an opportunity to explore many of the stories of women and girls through the last decades.

This one-act play interweaves fragments from real and imagined lives. It intermingles testimonies with excerpts from Irish TV shows including *The Late, Late Show*, and features cameo roles for iconic figures such as Peig Sayers, infamous storyteller of the Aran Islands.

The play is haunted by the ghosts of silenced women of laundries and homes. Above all, it carries the memory of Ann Lovett, a 15-year-old schoolgirl from Granard, Co Longford, who died giving birth beside a grotto on January 31 1984.

■ The play runs from April 5-7 at Etcetera Theatre, Camden High Street, each performance is followed by audience discussions with representatives of campaign groups including *Everyday Stories* and *London Irish ARC*. For more information visit [www.etceteratheatre.com](http://www.etceteratheatre.com).

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



### TODAY

Showers will mostly die away leaving a cold clear night. A frost will form for many, with some areas of freezing fog. North-east Scotland may see some snow by dawn.

### NEXT FEW DAYS

Cold and changeable through Easter weekend with periods of rain or showers, these wintry over northern hills and turning windy at times. Easter Sunday will be drier.

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Tell us what you'd like to see more of in your paper! Email editorial@peoples-press.com with your ideas

## Fighting Fund

**YOU'VE RAISED: £15,630**      **WE NEED: £4,370**



YOU'VE been digging deep, comrades, with another £907 arriving in the kitty to boost our March total, and we're ever grateful here at Rust Towers.

What with bank holidays and the like, it looks as if we're going to fall short of our target this month. But, with two days to go, hope springs eternal.

I thank our comrade in Bradford who sent in £10. Our friend in Warwick sent his thanks

– and £50. I thank him most heartily. And a friend in Cobham donated £25 in memory of Ted Poole.

We're extremely grateful to another friend in Woodbridge who chipped in a very generous £100 cheque. And our late, great fundraiser Ivan Beavis was remembered by a comrade in Grays: he would be chirruping with pride at £100 to hammer another nail into this mean-

spirited government's coffin.

"No to the cutbacks" is the sound message from south Wales, with £50 raised by our friends at Talygarn caring for mental illness. And huge thanks to a friend who marked her late husband's birthday with a £100 gift – what a generous gesture. And a chum in Rainham sent £30 with the message that he enjoyed Bernadette Horton's article yesterday. It was titled

I Stand By Corbyn, Along With The Millions Relying On Him – a sentiment we can all get behind.

Gifts of £50 and £20 round off the online one-offs, and let's also hear it for our regulars, who chipped in a handy £17.45 yesterday.

Last but certainly not least, our standing orders weighed in at a mighty £354, for which we are thankful. Terrific.

### Give by post...

Payable to PPF to:  
Fighting Fund, 52 Beachy Rd, London E3 2NS

### phone...

From 10am-5pm on  
(020) 8510-0815

### and online

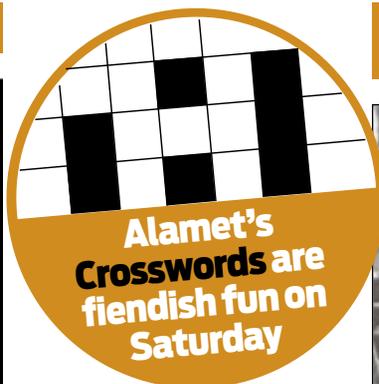
morningstaronline.co.uk/  
pages/support-us

## DAILY SUDOKU

(easy)

5			8	3			4
		3	5	1	6	2	
3	8					2	1
	9	1			4	5	
4	5					7	8
		4	7	2	8	5	
7			6		5		2

Solution tomorrow...



Yesterday's sudoku

2	6	3	8	5	9	7	1	4
9	1	8	2	7	4	6	5	3
4	7	5	6	3	1	9	2	8
5	2	4	3	6	7	8	9	1
6	3	1	9	8	5	2	4	7
7	8	9	4	1	2	3	6	5
1	9	7	5	2	3	4	8	6
8	5	2	7	4	6	1	3	9
3	4	6	1	9	8	5	7	2

## TV and radio preview with Ann Douglas



**FRANCO'S LEGACY:** Granollers after a raid by German aircraft in May 1938

## Disappearances and damage wrought that Madrid tried to ignore for too long

MORE than 100,000 people "disappeared" during Spain's civil war and the ensuing Franco dictatorship.

Decades later, the vast majority are still unaccounted for, and many people, particularly in Catalonia, hold bitter memories.

Before Madrid imposed direct rule in October, the pro-independence Catalan regional government started a plan to excavate mass graves and collect DNA from families looking for their lost relatives.

For Digging Up the Past in Catalonia, this week's episode of **Crossing Continents** (11am Radio 4), reporter Estelle Doyle heads to the region and finds out how those seeking answers are determined to rake over the past and confront Spain's painful history.

The narrator of **The Art Of Now: Guantanamo** (11.30am

Radio 4) is Mansoor Adayfi, who spent 15 years held without charge at the extrajudicial US prison in Cuba.

He guides us through an unlikely show that was held last autumn in New York of artworks made by former and current Guantanamo "war on terror" detainees.

In response to the exhibition, the US Defence Department declared art made by "wartime captives" to be government property and threatened to burn Guantanamo cell-block art. Plenty to ponder here.

Film-maker Steven Spielberg may be rich as Croesus but at 71 he hasn't tired of bashing them out. He talks to **The Film Programme's** Francine Stock about his new effects-heavy sci-fi effort **Ready Player One** (4pm Radio 4). The theme of **The Essay** this

week is Music a Civilising Force? In tonight's edition (10.45pm Radio 3) writer Jameela Siddiqi describes the effect a performance by the celebrated qawwali singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan had on her.

On the telly there's precious little to shout about. We hit the Renaissance in tonight's **Civilisations** (9pm BBC2) subtitled The Triumph of Art, another Simon Schama film.

Journalist Bronagh Munro examines the conviction of Omar Benguit, jailed for the brutal 2002 murder of a student in Bournemouth in **Unsolved: the Man with No Alibi** (10.45pm BBC1).

And another mention for Ken Burns's remarkable documentary series **Jazz** (10.15 PBS America); you'll be lindy-hopping round the living room.

## QUIZMASTER

with William Sitwell



### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

1. What is the title of a book by Terry Eagleton about Karl Marx? **Why Marx Was Right** (2011)

2. An apimaniac is a person who owns a lot of what? **Bees** (pictured are Buckfast

honeybees in a hive at Holyrood. The dotted one is the queen)

3. Which late comedian said: "You can't beat a bit of Bully"? **Jim Bowen** (on the TV quiz show **Bullseye**)

### TODAY'S QUESTIONS

1. A dun horse normally has a black what?
2. Morecambe & Wise's first film was subtitled  $M15+2=0$ . What's its title?
3. What word can mean both a room and a small choir or orchestra?

GAME ON

video gaming with BEN COWLES

# How I became a snoop for Big Brother and other console confessions

IT DAWNED on me a few days after playing Osmotic's **Orwell: Ignorance is Strength** – an excellent indie sequel to 2016's *Orwell: Keeping an Eye on You* – that I'd been a total stooge for an oppressive government.

By sifting through social media posts, dating profiles and medical data, hacking into private emails and text messages and tapping into phone calls for incriminating data, I'd ruined the lives of two innocent people. It's only a video game, but I still feel wracked with guilt.

Like its predecessor, players take on the role of an NSA/GCHQ-like state surveillance operative for a government known as The Party in a country called The Nation.

More of an interactive book than a traditional video game, the gameplay involves plenty of reading and finding data on the names, faces, aliases, locations, phone numbers, social media profiles, medical and immigration records, motivations, personal connections and political beliefs of those the Nation deems to be suspicious.

The game quite brilliantly shows just how much information we have about ourselves online and how this can easily be manipulated for very nefarious reasons.

Episode one of the game begins with a tapped phone call between a missing government informant with highly sensitive information in his head and a dissident blogger who appears to

be threatening him. Players are tasked with finding the whereabouts of both.

As with the first game, the story is very compelling and now that time counts down with each piece of data that you store, there is a new sense of urgency to your actions.

At the time of writing, only the first two of three episodes are available. If the finale, about to be released, is anywhere near as good as the first three, we should be on for something special. I can't recommend you play this game enough.

**Kingdom Come: Deliverance** (KCD, pictured) by Czech indie developers Warhorse Studio is a game I've devoted far too many hours of my life to. A first-person, open-world and

role-playing game, it's set in 15th century Bohemia and it's a good, potentially even great, video game. But it doesn't half try to convince you otherwise.

You play as Henry, the peasant son of a blacksmith thrown into a hostile and uncaring mediaeval world after an army of Cuman mercenaries, led by a pretender to the throne, ransacks his village and kills his parents.

Warhorse Studio deserve plaudits in striving for realism and depicting mediaeval Europe in all its horrors. Despite the graphics looking like a game from the previous generation of consoles, the setting – towns, villages, castles, forests, armour, weapons, knights, lords, bandits, farmers, beggars, princes, princesses and clergymen – and the



depiction of the whole medieval class system succeeds in transporting players back 600 years.

But the game is full of immersion-breaking bugs and game-breaking glitches. You'll find headless people strolling around town, rabbits flying off into the sky and words escaping from closed mouths.

With a game this ambitious,

you do expect some jankiness and most of the glitches are forgivable. But add these to the game's other problems – stiff characterisation, wooden voice acting, long load times, a lack of tutorials – and the worst manual-save game mechanic ever devised in a video game – you can only manually save by drinking a highly priced cocktail, which leaves you drunk and affects your abilities – it just becomes frustrating to play.

I wanted to love KCD. There just aren't enough video games that treat the past with such realism, but I feel so much better having quit it.

■ Ben Cowles is the Morning Star's web editor. You can spy on his Twitter account via @Cowlesz

THEATRE REVIEW

## Modish production of Sean O'Casey classic ploughs a sterile furrow

**The Plough and the Stars**  
Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith  
★★★★☆

SEAN O'CASEY'S play *The Plough and the Stars*, set during the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland and written a decade after, has always been controversial. Walk-outs and protests dogged its premiere in Dublin as he lampooned Ireland's post-independence mythologisation of a long and bloody struggle.

In this production, director Sean Holmes has rejected O'Casey's detailed realistic stage directions in favour of an abstract set, complete with scaffolding to represent Dublin tenements and modern dress for its inhabitants.

Holmes is, of course, drawing parallels between the devastating impact of civil war on everyday life and ordinary people, from past to present.

To distance us from the specific setting of 1916 Ireland, he often has the characters address the audience directly and the stagginess is emphasised by songs sung into mikes and a TV screen relaying Irish nationalist leader Pádraig Pearse's speech.

All very Brechtian, but where Brecht wrote his plays to embody this style of presentation, O'Casey's writing doesn't lend itself to this approach – his characters

are meant to be addressing each other and this breaking the illusion of the "fourth wall" simply doesn't make dramatic sense.

In attempting to escape the historical period, modern dress can sharpen our response to a play set in the past but it doesn't automatically create resonance for the modern age.

Clothes as non-verbal dramatic signifiers have to establish a convincing narrative and that doesn't happen here.

But there's some excellent acting, with the women standing out, from Kate Stanley Brennan as Nora Clitheroe – who yearns for domestic "respectability" – to the irreverent prostitute Rosie (Nyree Yergainharian) and the grief-stricken and alcoholic Bessie Burgess (Hilda Fay).

O'Casey's plays are difficult to pull off. His comedic, rollicking humour is always undercut by a deeply human and dark desperation and achieving that balance requires directorial subtlety.

Here, the writer's finely wrought structure often comes across as confusing and chaotic.

You need to know the play very well in advance to make sense of Holmes's interpretation.

Runs until April 7, box office: lyric.co.uk  
YVONNE LYSANDROU



Pic: David Monteith-Hodge

THEATRE REVIEW

## River runs deep

DENNIS POOLE recommends a disturbing play on the traumatic consequences of a homophobic murder

**Vincent River**  
Park Theatre, London  
★★★★☆

VINCENT RIVER is the eponymous subject of this harrowing but compelling narrative by Philip Ridley.

Directed by Robert Chevara, it's an almost forensic analysis of the circumstances of Vincent River's death at the hands of a homophobic gang in a disused toilet at a derelict east London train station.

Vincent's mother Anita (Louise Jameson) has recently been stalked by Davey (Thomas Mahy) and is now confronted by him in her living room. Unaware of the precise circumstances surrounding her son's death, it transpires that the person who reported his murder was Rachel, Davey's girlfriend.

As the discourse between the two characters unfolds, it becomes evident that Davey had independently encountered Vincent prior to his death in the local hospital where both Anita and Davey's mother had been receiving treatment.

Initially denying his true sexuality, it emerges that Davey was attracted to Vincent and had been in an intimate liaison with him at the station immediately before the brutal attack that ended his life.

Reluctant to reveal his homosexuality, he fails to report the incident and in a paroxysm of guilt engineers a situation in which he and Rachel come across the body a day later.

This is a brilliant piece of writing by Ridley, who has structured the encounter between Anita and Davey with subtle, nuanced sexual overtones. The initial awkward

and tentative fencing between the two protagonists provides the foreplay for an orgasmic and cathartic climax in which the full explanation for Vincent's death is revealed.

Jameson and Mahy provide a masterclass in acting. The transitions from suspicion, distrust and obfuscation to uneasy familiarity, through to edgy intimacy and revelatory catharsis, is superbly expressed and interpreted.

This combination of writing, direction and performance is a definite must-see.

Runs until April 14, box office: parktheatre.co.uk

RUSSIA

## Lack of evidence clouds expulsion of Russian diplomats

FIRST and foremost, I am not a fan of President Putin. He disgusts me. On September 9 2001 the United States suffered its worst terrorist incident on its own soil, resulting in thousands of deaths.

It is well documented that within a week of that tragedy Saudi diplomats were airlifted from the US with the help of top US government officials. I do not recall a major expulsion of Saudi diplomats within the EU or especially from Britain at that time. It is said that the terrorist organisation calling itself Isis is in part financed by the Saudi government, and we are all aware of the horrendous deeds that have been committed by Isis, yet no expulsions of diplomats.

The Irish government recently expelled a Russian diplomat due to an alleged major incident in Britain. To date, I am not aware of any credible evidence showing that the Russian government is responsible for the attempted assassination of two of its citizens on British soil.

Why is there such duplicity?  
PAUL DORAN

Dublin



CALL FOR JUSTICE

# Don't sugarcoat the brutality of Orgreave, a witness writes

DIANE ABBOTT'S article Orgreave: It's Time For Truth And Justice (M Star March 17-18) is of course welcome, but she understates the case for a public inquiry into events at Orgreave.

Diane mentions one charge by mounted police "up the field" while in fact there were several charges, some up the public road. As one of the pickets that day, I was among a group of miners who ran full-tilt up the road trying to escape the horses and truncheons. As they were gaining on us, we dodged down an alley between some houses, hoping for safety in the backyards - Martin Jenkinson took a photo showing the last of our group disappearing down the alley.

Soon a police snatch squad came into the yard armed with shields, visors and with truncheons pulled. One of them was slapping his truncheon onto his hand, his shield slung on his arm.

Fortunately for us, there was a group of residents in their backyards watching, so we were allowed to go back through the police lines.

The next day I met a number of pickets who had been arrested, one of them extensively wounded, with stitches on the back of his head, elbow and knuckle and with truncheon marks on his back - evidence that he was running away from the police when he was attacked. Despite



FALLEN: The town sign lies broken along a smashed wall after violent clashes between mounted police and striking miners

the protests of the nurse who had treated him in hospital, he was taken straight back to a police cell in Rotherham until his appearance in court next day.

This miner and many others were charged with riot, which carries a very heavy sentence.

Diane, in her article, states "their cases were dropped amid questions about the reliability of police evidence."

The cases were not in fact dropped until part-way through their trial, with all its attendant stress on themselves and their families.

Word at the NUM was that Michael Mansfield, barrister for some defendants was about to confront a police officer who had submitted contradictory statements.

Suddenly the police submitted a medical certificate to say this officer would not be fit to give evidence for a very long time, and the prosecution stated they would offer no further evidence.

In other words, the trial collapsed. It was more fundamental than simply "questions about the reliability of police evidence."

Since then a number of former police officers have given media interviews about being instructed what to put into their statements about events on that day.

There were many other examples of police fabrication of evidence against pickets in various coalfields during that strike.

HILARY CAVE  
Chesterfield

RUSSIA

## Demonisation of Russia is not diplomacy but war games

I REALLY welcomed Kate Clark's letter on Russia and the incident in Salisbury (M Star Letters March 24). I well recall Kate's superb journalism about the USSR in the 1980s and indeed have quite a large collection of her articles.

We should all be extremely concerned by the revanchist demonisation of Russia, and the increasingly coordinated aggressive actions being taken against it. Russia as a power, a state and a people has always feared encirclement, invasion and liquidation.

We should have no illusions about the "diplomatic" actions being taken against Russia. If "war is the continuation of politics (or diplomacy) by other means," the reverse is equally true.

Unless one or more of the western powers takes significant action to break the cycle of esca-

lation of tension with Russia, we are heading inexorably for war, and that will inevitably include nuclear.

I have no idea who carried out the attack in Salisbury or why. I have heard of no evidence linking this to the Russian state. I don't expect to see the intelligence reports, that would be ridiculous, but I would expect to hear the British government state the series of facts it claims to have in its possession which would prove the case. Whether I would believe those facts or their interpretation (given Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria etc) is another matter.

On March 12, Ms May gave Russia 24 hours to choose which of two equally unacceptable alternatives they were guilty of. The impertinence and arrogance of

stagnant, decaying, decadent imperialism is breathtaking.

In the 2018 Russian presidential election, Mr Putin obtained 56,411,688 votes, 77 per cent of the vote share on a turnout of 68 per cent. In 2017, Ms May obtained 13,636,684 votes, 42 per cent of the vote share on a turnout of 69 per cent. Who is legitimate and who is the bastard?

ANDREW NORTHALL  
Kettering



GRAHAM STEVENSON explores the Star archives

### 80 YEARS AGO TODAY...

#### Aircraft workers resist government spies in factories

The Daily Worker of March 29 1938 revealed a project for "government spies in aircraft factories," planned by Chamberlain's government as part of "the biggest drive yet to smash trade union organisation in the arms factories."

This arose out of an allegation by the Air Ministry that four Battle high-speed light bombers at the Fairey Aviation Company's Stockport factory had been sabotaged due to the severing of electric cables. No more was heard of cut cables but a later inquiry did reveal that the fuel tanks of two bombers had been leaking after slight punctures.

The public site of the aerodrome perhaps explained matters as being petty thieving by the owner of a light plane.

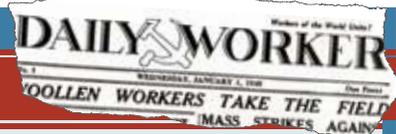
But the Daily Herald had splashed, without hesitation or criticism, support for spies to be introduced into aircraft factories to

watch for "anything suspicious." As this had been done twenty years before to arrest and denounce good trades unionists and committed socialists, the Worker thought this "gave the whole game away." Aircraft workers would welcome investigations into fascist sabotage but there was no justification for the introduction of industrial spies, which was already being carried out.

Throughout the country "trouble is brewing" as aircraft workers determined to resist the offensive. A strike at Hawker Aircraft in Kingston

had seen "deliberate provocation by the employers" by introducing a non-unionist, the same person behind a recent strike at the Coventry factory of Armstrong-Whitworth. Massive collections in aircraft factories were providing support, as did a "great mass meeting in Kingston Market Place."

You can read editions of the **Daily Worker** (1930-45) and **Morning Star** (2000-today), online at [mstar.link/DWMSarchive](http://mstar.link/DWMSarchive)  
Ten days' access costs just **£5.99** and a year is **£72**





■ MEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE

# Koukash aiming to bring a club back to Cumbria

by Our Sports Desk

FORMER Salford owner Marwan Koukash said yesterday that he is "itching" to get back into rugby league.

The multimillionaire race-horse owner experienced a roller-coaster ride with the Red Devils for five years until he became disillusioned with paltry attendances and handed over control of the Super League club to a fans' group earlier this year.

Koukash is maintaining his interest in Salford by offering to match the gate receipts from their Good Friday game against Catalans Dragons but is now setting his sights on Cumbria, which he feels is ripe to host a Super League club once more.

"I am itching to get back," he said. "The one thing I can't

afford to do is fail the next time.

"I don't consider my time at Salford to be a failure but I was not successful. The next time it's going to have to be right."

Koukash has been appointed as lead business consultant for Cumbria Lakers, the club that hopes to reintroduce Super League to the area, and has held exploratory talks with Allerdale Council leader Alan Smith over a proposed new stadium in Workington.

The former Palestinian refugee envisages a brand new club playing out of a state-of-the-art 10,000-capacity stadium rather than a merger of the three current part-time Cumbrian clubs Workington, Whitehaven and Barrow.

"They could never be a Super League club on their own unless there is mega investment but it could happen if

the whole county gets behind a new club," Koukash said.

"I was at a civic reception where the council leader announced the intention to build a new stadium for the 2021 World Cup and, if it comes off, that would be an ideal location. Everything hinges on a new stadium.

"There are a lot of negotiations to be done but there is so much potential in West Cumbria, which has produced 10 to 15 players for Super League clubs and lots more for the academies of Super League clubs."

In the meantime, Koukash insists the Red Devils remain in his blood and, after buying a season ticket, he will double the takings for tomorrow's game at Stadium Way.

"I am passionate about Salford," he said. "I no longer own the club but that doesn't

make any difference to how I feel about it.

"It is in my blood, I still hurt when when we lose and I'm over the moon when we win.

"Every single player and every member of staff are friends of mine and I want to help as much as I can.

"I can't keep donating money but by matching the gate receipts, I am hoping it will galvanise fans to turn up in numbers."

Koukash opened the gates for the corresponding game against the Catalans last season, seeking donations instead for the Manchester appeal, and was rewarded with an above-average attendance of 4,827.

Salford's new chair Andrew Rosler said: "Salford is still very much in Marwan's heart – you can't put in, both personally and financially, what he did without a lasting attachment."

■ MEN'S FOOTBALL

# Pogba racially abused in Russia

by Our Sports Desk

ANTI-racism campaigners yesterday demanded Fifa investigate the abuse of French players, including Paul Pogba, by Russian fans.

Monkey chants could be heard from the crowd in St Petersburg on Tuesday when black French players touched the ball in a friendly against Russia. The abuse was also audible on a TV broadcast after Pogba scored France's second goal in a 3-1 win.

"There should be enough there for Fifa to initiate proceedings," Piara Powar, head of the anti-discrimination Fare Network, said yesterday.

The Fare Network helps Fifa investigate racism cases.

French Sports Minister Laura Flessel also called for action.

"Racism has no place on the football field," Flessel wrote on Twitter alongside a picture of the French team. "We should act together at a European and international level in order to stop this intolerable behaviour."

Flessel didn't comment directly on the chants at Tuesday's game.

The case comes before Russia hosts the World Cup in June and July and



Fare said it highlights shortcomings in how the country has prepared for the tournament.

"If photographers heard it pitch-side, then there must have been stewards and other officials who also heard it," Powar said. "If, toward the end of March, these guys don't know what to do, and they're not initiating procedures and protocols that exist, then that doesn't bode very well for the World Cup."

"So close to the World Cup, questions are being asked as to why it wasn't dealt with as it occurred during play."

It's the third racism case this season at St Petersburg Stadium, which will host a World Cup semi-final match.



## HAVE YOUR SAY

Write (up to 300 words) to  
52 Beachy Rd, London E3 2NS  
or email [letters@peoples-press.com](mailto:letters@peoples-press.com)



FANCY: Nigeria's Mikel Ndubusi Agu

■ MEN'S FOOTBALL

# Nigeria coach happy to lose to Serbia

Nigeria 0-2 Serbia  
by Asif Burhan  
at The Hive

"I'M SMILING because it's good for us to lose a game. If we win again today, some people would believe that we will be the world champions," proclaimed Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr after Tuesday night's defeat in a match where the coaches of both sides were left satisfied.

A hard-fought 2-0 win for Serbia over fellow World Cup qualifiers Nigeria at The Hive stadium followed criticism after their defeat last Friday against Morocco.

Serbia flung themselves at

Nigeria from the start with a series of raking cross-field passes that resulted in several chances for Aleksandar Mitrovic.

He was first denied by Francis Uzoko's unconvincing parry, then a last ditch tackle by Bryan Idowu before another goalbound shot was deflected wide.

Mitrovic then thought he had headed Serbia into what would have been a deserved lead but despite wheeling away in celebration, referee Craig Pawson, without the aid of the Video Assistant Referee being utilised four miles down the road at Wembley, deemed that the ball had not crossed the line.

Sporting their eye-catching new World Cup kit for the first time, Nigeria eventually played their way into the game with a short-passing style that was more pleasing on the eye but yielded few clear-cut chances other than a couple of long-range efforts from Victor Moses.

In the second half, the game was more even but Serbia still created the better chances with Uzoho saving bravely from the feet of Adam Ljajic then more fortunately when Branislav Ivanovic failed to connect properly following a corner.

Substitute Odion Ighalo then came closest for Nigeria, blazing over the bar before Mitro-

vic finally made an opportunity count in the 68th minute hooking home with his left foot. He then added a second nine minutes from time sliding home with his right from another left-wing cut back.

Serbia coach Mladen Krstajic congratulated Nigeria on a very "fair and correct match" before explaining how the pressure from the public in Serbia affected his team.

"It was very hard to come back after the defeat against Morocco. Usually in a friendly match, the score is not the most important thing but in Serbia every match is looked upon as a final. The boys showed a lot of character."

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

# HOSTING EURO 2021 IS VITAL FOR GROWTH OF THE GAME, SAYS CAMPBELL



by Our Sports Desk

SUE CAMPBELL said yesterday that winning the bid to host Euro 2021 would help the women's game grow even more.

England are up against Austria and Hungary in the fight to stage the next European Championships, with a decision expected in December.

With the profile of the Lionesses continually rising, the Football Association's head of women's football Campbell believes hosting such an event will provide a strong legacy.

"It's very exciting and a real opportunity, but we are in a competition," she said.

"The Euros are really important for us. It would be fantastic, the success I hope we have next year in 2019 and then at the 2020 Olympics, I hope that by 2021 we would be filling the stadiums.

"There were 21 [potential host] cities that came to the briefing and we are waiting for written submissions.

"Some of them dropped out, a couple of new ones have come in. There will only be about seven or eight that we use.

"We are working in partnership with UK Sport, who were fundamental in bringing the Olympics here, and have brought a lot of world championship events here.

"They have a great deal of experience which we are leaning on.

"We need it to be strong but we need to make sure the legacy programme working in partnership with the cities is equally strong.

"The events are terrific in their own right, but you want to leave something."

Campbell was reporting on the first year of the FA's "Gameplan for Growth," the governing body's strategy for women's and girls' football.

There have been clear improvements in participation and awareness, while the restructuring of the league system means there will be

professional footballers in the Women's Super League.

It all points to a positive future for the women's game after a turbulent time following the departure of former Lionesses boss Mark Sampson.

It was revealed last week that Sampson has been banned for three games after intimidating a female Uefa official with a metal pole.

The 35-year-old was under investigation by Uefa before he was sacked by the FA on September 20 last year for "inappropriate and unacceptable" behaviour with female players in a previous role.

And in the wake of Phil Neville's appointment and impres-

sive start at the SheBelieves Cup a few weeks ago, Campbell says now is the time to look forward.

"It was a difficult time for all of us," she said. "I think the players are desperate to move on.

"Phil talked about SheBelieves being crossing the bridge. We have learned some harsh lessons but we do move on now.

"We have crossed a bridge and for the sake of the England team and the future of the women's game we have to move on from this.

"Phil has definitely added massive value already, most importantly from my point of view with the players."

WOMEN'S CRICKET

# England back down to Earth after Aussie loss



PLACED: Natalie Sciver

by Our Sports Desk

ENGLAND suffered a reality check following their record-breaking run chase against India as Australia romped to a crushing eight-wicket win in Mumbai yesterday.

England had already booked their place in the T20 Tri-Series final but they never looked like making it three straight victories.

England captain Heather Knight said: "We'll learn a lot more from today than the

past two games. The wicket was slightly different to what we've had in the past two games and we didn't adapt quick enough.

"It keeps us humble. The first two wins were amazing but sometimes little knocks like this remind you where you are and how fickle the game is. It shows that we still have a lot of work to do but we're going in the right direction."

Opener Danielle Wyatt smashed a career-best 124 off just 64 balls on Sunday and England could not recover after

she was dismissed for six in the first over.

Alice Davidson-Richards top-scored with 24 from as many deliveries in her first international innings as England limped to 96 all out in 17.4 overs.

Australia were wobbling at 12 for two in reply but captain Meg Lanning took 21 from Danielle Hazell's first over to settle any nerves.

Lanning finished with 41 from just 28 balls and Ellyse Perry smashed 47 off 32 deliveries as Australia coasted to

victory with 8.3 overs to spare.

The sides will meet again in Saturday's final at Brabourne Stadium, where England will aim to rebuild their confidence against India today.

MEN'S CRICKET

# Aussies given lengthy ban

DAVID WARNER was the ringleader behind the Australia ball-tampering scandal which has seen him, captain Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft hit with lengthy bans.

Vice-captain Warner and Smith have been banned from international and domestic cricket for 12 months and Bancroft for nine months by Cricket Australia following the Cape Town controversy.

Smith and Bancroft gave a press conference after the third day's play of the third Test against South Africa, during which they admitted a premeditated attempt to tamper with the ball.

The yellow tape Bancroft was captured on camera rubbing against the ball, and then hiding down the front of his trousers, was in fact sandpaper, CA revealed.

SPORT ON TV

- CRICKET: Second Test, New Zealand v England — Sky Sports Main Event 11pm.
- DARTS: Premier League from Belfast — Sky Sports Action 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event 9.45pm.
- FOOTBALL: Sky Bet League One, Blackburn v Bradford — Sky Sports Main Event 7.30pm.
- GOLF: PGA Tour, Houston Open — Sky Sports Main Event 1.30pm, Sky Sports Golf 1.30pm and 9pm; LPGA Tour, ANA Inspiration — Sky Sports Main Event, Sky Sports Golf 5pm and 12am (Fri).
- Golden State Warriors v Milwaukee Bucks — BT Sport 2 3.30am (Fri).
- TENNIS: WTA Tour, Miami Open — BT Sport 1 6pm and 2am (Fri); ATP Tour, Miami Open — Sky Sports Action 12am (Fri).

TONIGHT'S FOOTBALL

League One

- Blackburn.....Bradford, 7.45pm
- Gillingham.....MK Dons, 7.45pm

TODAY'S TIPS

Farringdon's Doubles

- MEGABOOST  
Towcester 2:10 (nap)
- SHART OPERATOR  
Chelmsford 2:20

Houseman's Choice

- NONIOS  
Chelmsford 3:30

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