



Millthorpe Library News

Weekly News to your Library!

South Africa takes Israel to International Criminal Court for war crimes on Gaza



South Africa is accusing Israel of explicitly committing war crimes on Palestinian civilians at the International Criminal Justice Court (ICJ).

(Read page 2 to find out more).

Warning: this page contains sensitive and upsetting content.

USA & UK launch attacks on Yemen Houthi rebels

Subsequent to attacks on ships from the UK and US trying to cross the Red Sea, military response has come into effect, with jets bombing the Yemeni Houthis, which the USA sees as a terrorist organisation. **(Read page 3 to find out more).**

Around the World: Dominican Republic to trial a 4-day work week

The new pilot, which will last 6 months means workers get Friday off. "It prioritizes people, improving health and wellbeing, and promoting a sustainable and environmentally friendly productivity," said the labour minister Luis Miguel de Camps. A University will track the results of the experiment and look for potential benefits.

(Read page 5 to find out more).

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South Africa takes Israel to International Criminal Court for war crimes on Gaza

Warning: this page contains sensitive and upsetting content.

South Africa has taken Israel to the International Criminal Justice Court for war crimes, which the country claims have been committed in accompaniment to genocide of Palestinian lives in Gaza. Genocide is the intentional destruction of a race, nationality or ethnicity. According to South Africa's lawyers, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) have been carrying out indiscriminate air strikes whilst failing to protect civilians. Since over 100 days ago, when the conflict re-erupted, the ratio of civilians killed to Hamas gunmen killed is up to 100:1 - pro-Palestinians are saying that this proportion is unjustifiable. Israel have halted supplies and water currents into Gaza allegedly to stop Hamas from regaining strength, although according to the Geneva convention, many say this is illegal because occupying territories are obliged to always supply aid to civilians during war. Israel said that it offered safe spaces for civilians to evacuate to during the incursions on Gaza, but even these 'safe zones' are subject to bombing at the moment. According to one lawyer who accused Israel of genocide, at least 200 1 tonne bombs have been dropped on Southern Gaza, an area deemed by the IDF to be safe for fleeing civilians.

South Africa is aiming to halt Israel's siege on Gaza, which has lost 1% of its population since the retaliation attacks carried out by the IDF after Hamas' October 7 attacks. In practice, even if the court found Israel guilty, it would be unlikely that the counter-attacks would end. Russia was found guilty in 2022 of invading Ukraine, unfortunately this had no impact on the attacks. South Africa sympathize with Palestine after its long struggle for freedom during a long apartheid - where races are segregated.

"Our opposition to the ongoing slaughter of the people of Gaza has driven us as a country to approach the ICJ," said President Cyril Ramaphosa. "As a people who once tasted the bitter fruits of dispossession, discrimination, racism and state-sponsored violence, we are clear that we will stand on the right side of history." South Africa also said that genocidal intent was explicit in Israeli PM Netanyahu's repeated statements referring to 'Amalek', a rival nation to Israel in the Bible. Netanyahu has been scolded for saying amalek which has connotations of the destruction of Palestine. In the holy book, God commanded Israelites to put death to the amalekites - which some believe the Prime Minister is using to justify the killings of civilians.

Mr Netanyahu responded: "No, South Africa, it is not we who have come to perpetrate genocide, it is Hamas. "It would murder all of us if it could. In contrast, the IDF is acting as morally as possible." Rishi Sunak said that the case was "completely unjustified and wrong." Many campaigners have claimed that Western double standards on the conflict are explicit, saying that had a non-western country retaliated in a similar way to Israel, outrage would be unanimous.



USA & UK launch attacks on Yemeni Houthi rebels

The USA and the UK have recently carried out air strikes on Houthi bases in Yemen, due to the group's repeated attacking of ships passing through the red sea. The US claims that 60 targets were hit across 28 different sites during the bombings, and President Joe Biden has stated that the attacks were a "direct response" to the attacks in the red sea. Near the start of the Gaza war, the Houthis launched many missiles en route to Israel, most of which were intercepted, but this has led to an increase in tensions between the US, UK and the Houthis. However, on the 19th november, the Houthis hijacked a commercial vessel passing through the red sea, and since this attack more than two dozen more have suffered a similar fate, but US forces stopped most of the attacks. Though the Houthis have claimed that they are only targeting ships heading to Israeli ports or are Israeli owned, many ships that have been attacked have no connections with israel whatsoever.

Because of the recent attacks, many ships have opted out of using the red sea as a transport route, and have chosen to endeavour much longer route around the bottom of South Africa instead. In the interest of protecting global trade, of which 15% passes through the red sea, the US and UK took the decision to bomb significant targets, with PM Rishi Sunak stating that the action was "necessary and proportionate" in order to protect global shipping routes.

The Houthis are an armed political group who are predominately made up of the shia muslim minority within Yemen, the Zaidis. They claim to be part of an Iranian-led axis resistance against Israel, the US and many other western nations. They originally emerged during the 1990s, under the leadership of Hussein-al Houthi, and their current leader is Abdul Malik-al Houthi. During the early 2000s, they fought many rebellions against Yemen's long standing authoritarian leader, Ali Abdullah Saleh, in an attempt to establish greater autonomy for their people. During the Arab Spring in 2011, the Houthis took the opportunity to seize the capital, Sanaa, after taking control of the northern province of Saada. To this day they still control large amounts of the northwest region of the country.



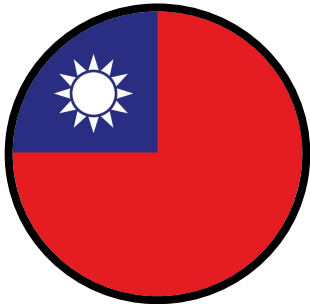
Around The World

Brazilian deforestation rate halved in 2023



Space Agency data has discovered that when compared to 2022, the rate of deforestation halved in 2023 in Brazil's Amazon rainforest. Under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who pledged to end deforestation by 2030, the rate has plummeted to its lowest in 5 years. In 2023, 5,153 square kilometers were cut down, down from 2022's 10,278.

Democratic Progressive Party wins Taiwan election



Supporters are jubilant after William Lai, the leader of the Taiwanese Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has won Taiwan's latest election which is the beginning of a series of global elections that 4 billion people will be polling for this year. The Chinese Government has long wished for sovereignty of Taiwan, and called Lai a 'troublemaker'. Read our previous issue to find out more.

Ancient City uncovered in the Amazon



In eastern Ecuador, an ancient city was recently discovered after being hidden for thousands of years by vegetation. It is the first time a major settlement has been discovered in the Amazon. The population of the ancient city was up to 100,000 and archeologists theorize that a nearby volcano resulted in the death of the settlement.

Iran strikes neighbouring countries with missiles



Following missile strikes on Iraq, Syria and Pakistan this week, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) is demonstrating its military abilities as a Middle Eastern superpower. Pakistan reported that Iran had targeted a militant group which resulted in the death of 2 children. Outrage was also expressed as Iraq's Kurdistan region was struck, killing four alongside Syria's Idlib province.

Dominican Republic to trial a 4-day work week



The Dominican Republic is trialling a new 4-day working week for volunteers who will work 36 hours instead of 44 hours a week - but still on the same salary. The new pilot, which will last 6 months means workers get Friday off. "It prioritizes people, improving health and wellbeing, and promoting a sustainable and environmentally friendly productivity," said the labour minister Luis Miguel de Camps. A University will track the results of the experiment and look for potential benefits.





Science & Environment News



Understanding of physics challenged by huge ring of galaxies



Scientists at the University of Central Lancashire have recently made a new discovery of a giant ring-shaped structure in space, which has been named the “Big Ring” by astronomers. Located 1.3 billion light years away, it cannot be seen with the naked eye, but is said to be roughly 15 times the size of the moon in the night sky. However, the structure shouldn’t be able to physically exist according to our current understanding of the universe.

This defies the cosmological principle, which is a guiding principle of astronomy, which states that all matter is spread evenly across the universe, and Dr Robert Massey at the Royal Astronomical Society has stated that the evidence for a rethink of what has been a central plank of astronomy is growing. “This is the seventh large structure discovered in the universe that contradicts the idea that the cosmos is smooth on the largest scales. If these structures are real, then it’s definitely food for thought for cosmologists and the accepted thinking on how the universe has evolved over time”. The structure was identified by PhD student Alexia Lopez, who also discovered the Giant Arc.

Plans for further nuclear power expansion announced by UK government



The UK government has recently explored the possibility of constructing a new large scale nuclear power plant, despite the fact there are currently concerns surrounding existing projects and delays. The new plant, which is expected to quadruple energy supplies by the year 2050, is said to be the largest expansion to the nuclear power sector in 70 years, according to ministers, ultimately reducing reliance on overseas supplies. The new site is part of the UK government’s Civil Nuclear roadmap, with the intention of increasing the UK’s energy independence and constructing further power plants similar in size to the £30bn plants currently under construction at Hinkley point in suffolk. However, despite this, concerns have been raised due to existing nuclear projects being over budget and behind schedule. On top of this, nuclear projects can take up to 20 years in order to get from the initial planning phase all the way up to “Power On”. Despite this though, it is hoped that the planned reactor will be able to replace the UK’s current aging reactors, many of which are due for decommission over the next decade.



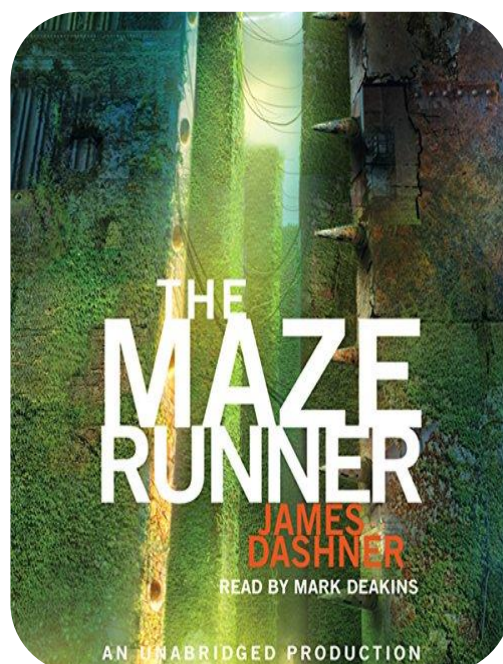
This Week's Book of the Week is: The Maze Runner

The story is set in a distant future, where a group of teens are mysteriously teleported into a giant, stone maze. Not only has their memory been cleared, but they also have no indication as to why they have ended up in this position and what means they must take to escape. Their situation complicates even further, given that the maze doors close every evening. During the night, vicious monsters roam free and devour any humans in their way. The teens, who have declared themselves “Grovers”, attempt to map the maze, but doing so poses obvious threats to their safety. Enter Thomas, a new “Grovener” arriving in the maze. As he learns his way about this new reality, the story follows his point of view in first person perspective.

Thomas eventually comes to terms with living as a Grover, but one night, as he crosses into the outer layer of the maze, his world is turned inside out. Over time, Thomas must confront these imminent struggles, while also attempting to solve the grand puzzle of the maze. As a reader, there is constantly a new twist at the end of every chapter, so definitely an exciting read!

Age Rating:

The age rating for the book is 13+, so as usual most people in the school should be fine reading it. Also, there is a film on this book with a very similar age rating, so if this is what you are into, it would be worth a watch!





Media Review

Anime and netflix

**may contain spoilers*

Anime. A seldom forgotten about art form. Doomed to lie in the depths of western cringe, only to be watched by weirdos and weeb. However over the past few months I have been collecting several different anime, that can all be found on Netflix, that one can watch to relax and to ease into anime.

1. Thermae Romae Novae

A classic Japanese anime about the roman empire at its height, and focusing solely on the baths. This anime is about a Roman thermae architect trying to make a name for himself by creating new and creative baths for all romans to enjoy. The twist however is that he keeps on accidentally traveling through time to modern day Japan to see their bathing culture and technology. This anime is a personal favourite of mine. On Netflix it is not dubbed so if you can find a dubbed version elsewhere then you can use that however i believe that using the subtitles can add a lot atmosphere.

2. Delicious in The Dungeon

Delicious in the dungeon is a very different style of anime set in a dungeons and dragons esque world where adventurers can make fortunes by diving bravely into the depths of a massive castle buried under the ground. Inside this castle/ dungeon one may find many traps and monsters, so when the protagonists run out of money for food when trying to rescue a party member they must



Delicious in The Dungeon - Netflix

resort to eating the monsters that they come across while fighting. This series is, as I'm writing this, coming out weekly every Thursday on Netflix.

3. Cowboy Bebop

Cowboy bebop is a popular action anime set in the year 2071. This series is based around the protagonists who travel across the solar system as bounty hunters. The anime is full of incredibly animated fight scenes both in spaceships and hand to hand combat. Cowboy bebop has a dubbed and subtitled version on Netflix as well as a live action version, because of course it does.

These 3 Anime are from an admittedly selection of anime I have watched, however honorable mentions go to: *Bee and Puppycat*, *arcane*, all the *Studio Ghibli productions* and *Beast Stars* which I am yet to watch.

If you are not looking for a commitment to a series right now then I would recommend Studio Ghibli as a fantastic film for light yet moving movies. My favourite of being *My Neighbour Totoro*, the best movie of all time.

Absolutely fantastic anime that you should watch if you get the chance - George



Puzzles

Riddles

Easy - What question can you never answer yes to?

Medium - What is easy to get into than out of?

Hard - What has legs but can't walk?

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

*(This sudoku will be cut out next to the issue stand for you to complete)!

$$\text{Basketball player} + \text{Basketball player} + \text{Basketball player} = 30$$

$$\text{Boy} \times \text{Boy} + \text{Basketball player} = 21$$

$$\text{Girl} + \text{Boy} \times \text{Boy} = 80$$

$$\text{Boy} + \text{Girl} \times \text{Basketball player} = ?$$

Last Issue's Answers

Riddles: Easy - Age, Medium - To the dock & Hard - A piano.



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Here, you can read the newspaper digitally, view older newspapers and even take quizzes!

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sites.google.com/millthorpe.southbank.academy/millthorpenews

Or for after school use only:

Scan the QR code:



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Science & Environment News Writer
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(Not in this issue)

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...for making this issue possible as usual!