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FEATURE STORIES



Egyptian tomb holds singer Nehmes Bastet's remains

Archaeologists working in Egypt have discovered the tomb of a female singer in the Valley of the Kings. The tomb was found by a team from the University of Basel in Switzerland who came across it by chance. The woman, Nehmes Bastet, was a temple singer during Egypt's 22nd Dynasty (approximately 945 - 712BC), according to

an inscription in the tomb. The coffin found in the tomb contains an intact mummy from almost 3,000 years ago. Professor Susanne Bickel of the University of Basel told the BBC that the coffin was opened on Monday and she was able to see the "nicely wrapped" mummy of the woman who was buried in the tomb. The opening of the coffin was carried out by Prof Bickel and her Basel colleague, field director Elina Paulin-Grothe, together with the Chief Inspector of Antiquities of Upper Egypt, Dr Mohammed el-Bialy and inspector Ali Reda. Prof Bickel said that the upper edge of the tomb was found on the first day of Egypt's revolution, on 25 January 2011. The opening was sealed with an iron cover and the discovery was kept quiet. Last week, after the start of this year's field season, the feature was identified as a tomb - and one of the very few tombs in the Valley of the Kings which have not been looted. **'Painted black'** Elina Paulin-Grothe said that the tomb was not built for the female singer, but was re-used for her 400 years after the original burial, according to AP. There are other non-royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings, Prof Bickel said, which mostly date from the 18th Dynasty (1500 - 1400BC). The woman in the coffin was the daughter of the high priest of Amon, Egypt's Antiquities Minister Mohammed Ibrahim told AFP. The discovery was important because "it shows that the Valley of the Kings was also used for the burial of ordinary individuals and priests of the 22nd Dynasty", he added. **Egyptian news site Ahram reports** that the wooden sarcophagus was painted black and decorated with hieroglyphic texts. This tomb is only the second found in the Valley of the Kings since the discovery of Tutankhamun in 1922, and is referred to as KV64 in the naming system used to label tombs in the valley. It is one of a cluster of tombs without any wall decoration found near the royal tomb of Thutmose III. A tomb found in 2006, **known as KV63**, had seven coffins in it but none of them contained any mummies - it seems to have been used as a burial cache. *BBC*

FEATURE STORIES

Beer 'must be sold' at Brazil World Cup, says Fifa

Beer must be sold at all venues hosting matches in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, football's world governing body, Fifa, has insisted. Fifa General Secretary, Jerome Valcke, said the right to sell beer must be enshrined in a World Cup law the Brazilian Congress is considering. Alcoholic drinks are currently banned at Brazilian stadiums and the country's health minister has urged Congress to maintain the ban in the new law. Brewer Budweiser is a big Fifa sponsor. Mr Valcke is visiting Brazil to press for progress on the much-delayed World Cup law. Fifa has become frustrated, because voting on the legislation has been held up in Congress by the dispute over alcohol sales. The Brazilian government has also failed to resolve differences with Fifa over cut-price tickets for students and senior citizens, and demands for sponsors of the World Cup to have their trademarks protected. **'Right to sell beer'** In remarks to journalists in Rio de Janeiro, Mr Valcke sounded frustrated with Brazilian officials: "Alcoholic drinks are part of the Fifa World Cup, so we're going to have them. Excuse me if I sound a bit arrogant but that's something we won't negotiate," he said. "The fact that we have the right to sell beer has to be a part of the law." Alcohol was banned at Brazilian football matches in 2003 in an attempt to tackle violence between rival football fans. Health Minister Alexandre Padilha and other MPs have called for the ban to be maintained. Mr Valcke said negotiations with Brazil over details of the World Cup had been slow. "We lost a lot of time and we were not able to discuss with people in charge that are willing to make a decision," he said, adding that it was the first time a country was still in talks five years after winning the right to host the tournament. During his visit to Brazil Mr Valcke has been touring the stadiums in 12 cities where the 2014 World Cup will be played. He criticised the pace of construction and said Brazil had not yet improved its infrastructure to the level needed to welcome visitors. *BBC*



El Salvador head apologises for 1981 El Mozote massacre

El Salvador's President Mauricio Funes has sought forgiveness for what he called "the worst massacre of civilians in contemporary Latin American history". In 1981, soldiers killed some 1,000 people, nearly half of them children, in the town of El Mozote. They had been accused of collaborating with left-wing guerrillas. Mr Funes made his emotional apology on the 20th anniversary of peace accords that ended

the nation's civil war. The president travelled to El Mozote, some 200km (120 miles) from the capital, San Salvador, near the border with Honduras. "For this massacre, for the abhorrent violations of human rights and the abuses perpetrated in the name of the Salvadoran state, I ask forgiveness of the families of the victims," he said on Monday. Breaking at times into tears, Mr Funes said: "In three days and three nights, the biggest massacre of civilians was committed in contemporary Latin American history". **No trial** Between 11-13 December, 1981, soldiers from a now-banned battalion, the Atlacatl, shot dead residents of El Mozote suspected of sympathising with left-wing rebels. It was the bloodiest single episode of El Salvador's 12-year civil war that left some 75,000 dead. Those responsible were not put on trial as the authorities agreed a general amnesty in 1992, as part of negotiations to end the civil war. President Funes said the country's armed forces, 20 years on from the peace accords, were very different, "democratic and obedient to civilian power". He called on the army to revise its history to avoid honouring those responsible for human rights abuses. Mr Funes made the first apology for civil war-era atrocities in 2009 and last December the government asked for forgiveness for the massacre of El Mozote. He was elected president in 2009, the first leftist leader in El Salvador for 20 years. His party, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was founded by Marxist guerrillas who fought the US-backed government in the 1980s. *BBC*



Indian teacher's shock at his \$9.8bn bank balance

An Indian teacher got the shock of his life when he checked his bank account online and found 490bn rupees (\$9.8bn). Parijat Saha expected his balance to be \$200 and could not believe his eyes - but a check at an ATM confirmed his billionaire status, on paper at least. The honest Mr Saha rang the State Bank of India (SBI) to point out the error. Red-faced bank officials would not comment, but sources say the funds were "uncleared" and he could not have withdrawn the money if he had tried. **'Astronomical'** Mr Saha's monthly salary as a school teacher in the eastern state of West Bengal is 35,000 rupees (\$700). But his account balance of \$9.8bn is closer to India's annual education budget of \$11.5bn. "On Sunday evening, when I was checking my savings account balance on the internet, I was expecting an amount of a little more than 10,000 rupees (\$200)," Mr Saha, who lives in the town of Balurghat in South Dinajpur district, told the BBC. The billions he found there instead have left him in shock. "I called up a friend in the bank and joked, maybe money is overflowing in your bank, that's why your system has remitted so much money into my account," he said. The government-run bank - motto "Safe Banking with SBI" - has not explained what happened. Subhashish Karmakar, chief manager of the bank's branch in Balurghat, declined to speak about the source of the funds or how the money got into Mr Saha's account. "I have been specifically asked not to comment on this issue," he told the BBC. The bank's regional headquarters in Calcutta and national headquarters in Mumbai have been alerted and officials are trying to figure out what went wrong, sources in the bank say. Mr Saha says he has managed to withdraw the \$200 from his account that belonged to him. "Even though I got my money back, the account still holds the billions of dollars as uncleared amount. I don't know how long I'll have to keep that astronomical figure in my account." *BBC*



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January Winner

Daniel Conroy

is the lucky **WINNER** of a great **Sona 17 Lt Micro Oven**. See page 46



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