

SPORTS

Vietnamese Grand Prix 'will take place in 2020 in Hanoi'



Vietnam will host a Formula 1 race on the streets of its capital Hanoi for the first time in 2020, government officials say. The Hanoi People's Committee said the grand prix circuit will be unveiled at a gala next week. The Vietnamese government said it had given its support for the race but there has been no confirmation from Formula 1's governing body, the FIA. Funding for the race will come from the private sector, and not the government. Mai Tien Dung, chief of the government

office, said in August: "Hanoi authorities have asked people living in the planned area for their opinions about holding the race and they have all shown their support, to attract tourists." A Vietnamese grand prix would mark the first new entry on the F1 calendar since US group Liberty Media took over the running of the sport at the beginning of 2017. It will be the third race to be established in south-east Asia following Singapore and Malaysia - the latter being scrapped following the 2017 race due to poor ticket sales. *BBC*

Australia v South Africa: Hosts bowled out for 152 in opening one-day international

Australia lost a record seventh consecutive one-day international as South Africa cruised to victory by six wickets in Perth. In their first international of the home summer, Australia were reduced to 8-3 and 66-6 before being dismissed for 152 in only 38.1 overs. Proteas pace bowler Dale Steyn, returning after a lengthy injury lay-off, took 2-18. The tourists chased down the target with 20.4 overs to spare. World Cup holders Australia have now lost 17 of their past 19 ODIs. This was their first home match since the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa in March. Bowler Nathan Coulter-Nile was one of just two Australia players to score more than 15 - top-scoring with 34 batting at nine, while South African seamer Andile Phehlukwayo claimed 3-33. The second game of the three-match series takes place at Adelaide on Friday. **'It makes you want to vomit'** Australia great Shane Warne has criticised Cricket Australia's new "buzz words," saying they are nothing more than "verbal diarrhoea". Photographs of the team's changing room at the new stadium in Perth, which showed a number of slogans painted on the wall including one saying "elite honesty", were mocked on social media. Speaking on Fox Sports, Warne said: "Forget all the words, forget the verbal diarrhoea and all that sort of stuff. That's just rubbish. "Seriously, it makes you want to vomit. At the end of the day, cricket is a simple game and it's a performance-based game." The new slogans were introduced following a scathing review into the culture of Australian cricket. *BBC*



Laura Muir: Dame Kelly Holmes hails Scottish athlete of year as 'future Olympic champion'



Dame Kelly Holmes described Laura Muir as "your future Olympic champion" as she presented the 25-year-old with Scotland's athlete of the year award. Olympic gold medallist Holmes has lost British records to Muir, who was this year crowned European 1,500m champion. "Laura Muir has had a cracking year," Holmes told Scottish Athletics' annual awards dinner in Glasgow. She suggested that Muir's

number one world ranking at 1,500m "says it all about Laura's 2018". "The World Indoors in Birmingham in early March set her up for the rest of the year," she said. "To win two medals in three days with a bronze in the 3,000m followed by a silver in the 1,500m was a great achievement - and especially when snow and ice made travelling so difficult in Britain that week. "I think that boosted her confidence even more for the European Championships and she dominated that 1,500m final to win well in Berlin. "To then go and win the Diamond League final in Brussels really was the icing on the cake." It is the third time Muir has won Scotland's annual award following successes in 2015 and 2016 and her coach, Andy Young, was also named performance coach of the year. Muir was particularly "thrilled" to win this title again as "every year it seems the opposition is even stronger because so many Scots are performing on the world stage". "It was such an exciting year for me," the Dundee Hawkhill Harrier said. "There were a few highlights, but if you push me, I would pick out Berlin and the European 1500m gold. "It was my first international medal outdoors and I really wanted to win that one." Fifer Derek Rae was named Para athlete of the year after winning gold in his T45/46 category at the IPC World Cup at the London Marathon in April and continuing to set personal bests at various distances. Commonwealth Games medallists Lee McConnell and Lachie Stewart were among the names from the past inducted into the hall of fame. *BBC*

Bradley Wiggins's comments on Lance Armstrong 'unbelievable' says UCI president

UCI president David Lappartient says it is "unbelievable" that Sir Bradley Wiggins has described Lance Armstrong as the "perfect" Tour de France rider. Briton Wiggins says he knows his decision to include disgraced drugs cheat Armstrong in a new book celebrating his cycling influences was never going to prove popular. Lappartient said it was "strange". "Supporting Lance Armstrong, who has been banned for life for cheating, isn't acceptable," he said. "How he can say that the rider is the archetype of a big tour, if the guy won with all what we know about this? "But, yes, Wiggins is Wiggins. He's always said some strange things." Armstrong recovered from cancer before winning the Tour de France a record seven consecutive times from 1999 to 2005. However, he was stripped of his titles and banned from the sport for life by the United States Anti-Doping Agency in August 2012. Armstrong repeatedly denied doping allegations following his return from cancer until finally confessing in January 2013. Wiggins, a five-time Olympic gold medallist, became the first Briton to win the Tour de France in 2012. He said his description of Armstrong was not about "praising" a drugs cheat. He believes the American's character and resilience on the bike makes him an icon in cycling, regardless of his doping. Wiggins said he was "not condoning for one minute what Lance did" but added: "From the angle I wrote this book at, I couldn't not include him in it." He said of Armstrong: "I do have a relationship with him that I can't deny, or I can't pretend it isn't there." *BBC*



'Please Explain'

Mashed Facts

The potato is a fine vegetable, high in nutrients and low in fat. In fact, in French (pomme de terre), Dutch (aardappel) and Australian German (erdafel), it is known as the 'apple of the earth'. The fourth most important food crop in the world (after rice, corn and wheat), the potato has an advantage over the top three crops in that it can be grown more quickly, in harsher conditions and on less land - and still deliver more produce per hectare.

However, when things go wrong, as in the Great Potato Famine or Ireland from 1845 to 1849, starvation can follow. Ireland and the potato are symbolically linked - but the potato did not originally come from the Emerald Isle.

History of the Potato

The potato actually came from South America, having been cultivated there for about 8000 years. In fact, the Peruvians have been freeze-drying potatoes for over 2000 years. There are approximately 13 000 different varieties of potato, with only 8000 in common use. When the greedy Spanish conquistadors invaded South America in the early 1500s, they were looking for gold and silver, ignoring the humble potato that they trampled under their feet. But today's annual potato crop of approximately 300 million tonnes is worth three times all of the precious metals that the Conquistadors stole. The Inca empire was crushed and the Spanish empire has in turn faded away, but King Potato still reigns supreme. There was some resistance to this new vegetable, when it was introduced into Europe. For example, the Scots shunned the potato because it was not specifically mentioned in the bible. However, the potato had some undeniable advantages over other crops. Not only can the potato be grown at sea level and up to an altitude of 4.2km, but it will also produce 4-5 times the yield of rice and wheat. For this reason the potato was eventually accepted.

There was even the Potato War in 1788. The Prussians and the Australians fought each other until their armies ran out of potatoes to feed the soldiers. The soldiers then simply walked away from the battlefield, leaving it deserted.

Potatoes eventually became essential to Europe. In fact, the industrial Revolution could not have happened without the potato - a cheap and hardy source of food for the new workers who had been funneled into the cities.

Potatoes and Ireland

Sir Walter Raleigh introduced the potato to Ireland. And indeed, Ireland was the first country to have the potato as its main vegetable crop. In terms of genetic diversity, Ireland did not get several thousand varieties of potato not even several hundred - it got only two varieties. Unfortunately, these were both very susceptible to a disease of potatoes called 'late blight'. Late blight is caused, not by a fungus (another myth) but by the organism *Phytophthora infestans*, also known as an 'oomycete' or 'water mould'. The organism is definitely not a fungus. It is more closely related to kelp than mushrooms. Late blight devastated the Irish potato crops from 1845 to 1849. At the time the Reverend Miles Berkeley identified this potato disease as being caused by an infectious agent. In this matter he disagreed violently with his religious colleagues who blame the devil instead. The destruction of the potato crops dumped a toll on the Irish population and culture that was shocking and huge. It was caused by many different factors, including the actual shortage of food, the unsympathetic British Military occupation, and a bizarre social structure involving absentee landlords and tiny plots of land. During the Great Potato Famine, one million people starved to death and another million emigrated overseas. The Great Potato Famine helped cause the demise of the Celtic Church and the near annihilation of the Irish language. The population plummeted from its previous level of 8.4 million. It hadn't even returned to half of this number by the time of Irish Independence in 1921, nearly three quarters of a century later.



Genetic Diversity

In Australia, we have relatively easy access to about 30 varieties of potato. Because they have a reasonable degree of genetic diversity, at least some of them should be resistant to a nasty disease. However, in Ireland in 1845, both varieties of potato were frighteningly susceptible to *Phytophthora infestans*. The devastation of Ireland, combined with the fact that Ireland was the first country to have the potato as its staple food crop, forever associated Ireland with the potato. This is why many people believe that the potato came from Ireland. While Irish people and Irish culture have given us many things, it did not include the first cultivation of the humble spud.

From the "TRIVIA BOOK"

While known as a painter, sculptor, architect, and engineer, Leonardo da Vinci was the first to record that the number of rings in the cross section of a tree trunk reveals its age. He also discovered that the width between the rings indicates the annual moisture. He could write with one hand and draw, with the other at the same time. Despite his great scientific and artistic achievement, he was proudest of his ability to blend iron with his bare hands.

TIDES

Dec 1 Sa	2 Su	3 Mo	4 Tu	5 We	6 Th	7 Fr
0001 1.3 0633 1.7 1233 0.8 1953 1.8	0331 1.1 0956 1.5 1430 1.0 2107 1.9	0429 0.9 0956 1.5 1550 3.0 2207 2.0	0518 0.7 1126 1.6 1644 1.0 2253 2.1	0601 0.5 1225 1.7 1728 1.0 2332 2.2	0642 0.3 1311 1.8 1807 1.0 2351 1.8	0607 2.2 0719 0.8 1351 1.8 1841 1.0
Dec 8 Sa	9 Su	10 Mo	11 Tu	12 We	13 Th	14 Fr
0041 2.2 0752 0.2 1428 1.8 1912 1.0	0114 2.2 0820 0.2 1503 1.8 1941 1.1	0146 2.1 0844 0.3 1537 1.8 2012 1.1	0218 2.1 0905 0.3 1611 1.8 2044 1.1	0251 1.9 0927 0.4 1646 1.8 2119 1.2	0326 1.8 0952 0.3 1723 1.8 2159 1.2	0407 1.7 1021 0.6 1803 1.8 2247 1.3
Dec 15 Sa	16 Su	17 Mo	18 Tu	19 We	20 Th	21 Fr
0458 1.6 1054 0.8 1850 1.7 2357 1.3	0201 1.4 0247 1.4 0600 1.5 1134 0.9 1944 1.8	0350 1.2 0719 1.4 1233 1.1 2045 1.8	0428 1.0 0908 1.3 1425 3.2 2140 1.9	0503 0.8 1119 1.4 1606 1.2 2226 2.0	0538 0.6 1217 1.6 1658 1.2 2307 2.1	0613 0.4 1258 1.7 1740 1.1 2346 2.2
Dec 22 Sa	23 Su	24 Mo	25 Tu	26 We	27 Th	28 Fr
0648 0.2 1334 1.8 1820 1.1	0025 2.3 0724 0.1 1410 1.9 1859 1.1	0106 2.3 0759 0.1 1446 1.9 1938 1.0	0149 2.3 0834 0.1 1523 1.9 2018 1.0	0235 2.2 0909 0.1 1601 1.9 2100 1.0	0325 2.1 0945 0.2 1641 1.9 2146 1.9	0418 2.0 1021 0.4 1723 1.9 2239 1.0
Dec 29 Sa	30 Su	31 Mo	Jan 1 Tu	2 We	3 Th	4 Fr
0513 1.8 1100 0.6 1808 1.9 2350 1.1	0613 1.6 1143 0.8 1858 1.9	0247 1.0 0725 1.5 1238 1.0 1958 1.9	0401 0.8 0920 1.4 1419 3.2 2105 2.0	0457 0.7 1127 1.5 1600 1.2 2207 2.0	0547 0.5 1230 1.6 1700 1.2 2259 2.1	0631 0.4 1314 1.7 1749 1.2 2343 2.1