

ITALY



● Pantheon pit appears



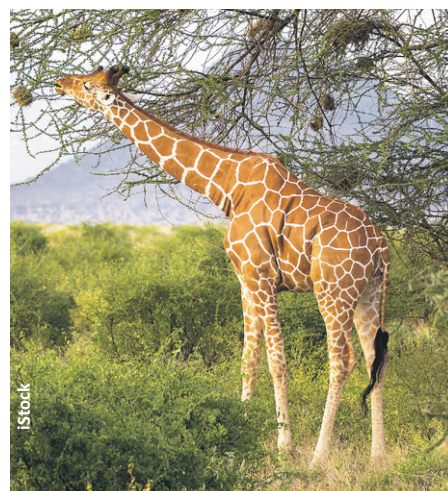
A sinkhole has opened up outside the Pantheon in Rome, revealing ancient Roman paving stones buried under the city. The sinkhole is almost 1m across and 2.5m deep. Fortunately, lockdown restrictions meant that the usually crowded area outside the Pantheon was empty, so no-one was injured. The paving stones found in the sinkhole are estimated to be from 27-25 BC – around the same time the Pantheon was built.

SOUTH AFRICA



● Exotic animals sold

South Africa-based groups Ban Animal Trading (BAT) and the charitable EMS Foundation have released a report that suggests that thousands of endangered wild animals threatened with extinction are being illegally sold to Chinese markets. Their report says at least 5,035 live wild animals were exported to China between 2016 and 2019, and that the trade is increasing. Researchers found that fake permits were being used to ship the animals across the world.



INDIA



● Kerala's 'coronavirus slayer'

Kerala's health minister, KK Shailaja, has earned a number of new nicknames, including 'Rock star health minister' and 'coronavirus slayer', for her success in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in the state. Kerala is home to 35 million people, yet has seen just 524 cases of COVID-19 and four deaths. Three days after reading about the new virus in China, Shailaja held a meeting to decide Kerala's strategy for stopping the disease. The first case arrived on 27 January from Wuhan. All passengers had their temperature tested, and everyone had to quarantine themselves. Since then, Kerala has been tracking and tracing all spread of the disease.



JAPAN



● The Amabie challenge

A strange, mythical monster that looks a bit like a mermaid has become the unlikely focus of a viral internet challenge. It's known as the Amabie, and people across Japan and the world are drawing pictures of the sometimes-armless, beaked fish-monster and posting them online with #AmabieChallenge. The challenge started after Kyoto University Library posted a picture of the Amabie, along with the story of how creating an image of the monster can help fight off infections. Since then, hundreds of people have been making their own images of Amabie. One bakery has begun to bake cakes that look like the Amabie – and they're selling out every day!



AUSTRALIA



● Night at the museum

A man from Sydney is due in court after breaking into the Australian Museum to snap selfies with the dinosaur exhibits. The man, who reportedly spent 40 minutes in the museum, was seen on CCTV taking pictures with his head in the mouth of a T-rex skull. He also stole a cowboy hat from the locker of one of the museum's staff members. Police put out a warning to the trespasser on TV news, warning him: "It's not going to be a movie producer knocking on your door. It's going to be NSW Police knocking on your door." The man turned himself in that afternoon.



ANTARCTICA



● Snow goes green

In the slightly warmer parts of ice-covered Antarctica, algae can bloom in the snow, turning it bright green. This algae absorbs greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Researchers from the University of Cambridge have spent two summers creating a map of all the places that this algae appears – and have found that, as the world gets warmer, the green snow is spreading, and could turn the coast of the continent green one day. "This is important in our understanding of land-based life on Antarctica," said Dr Matt Davey, who led the study.



OUR WORLD

NAME: NUJEEN
LIVES: GERMANY

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WWW.UNHCR.ORG/PROTECTREFUGEES

IN 2015, at the age of only 16, Nujeen fled her home in Syria and travelled 3,500 miles in her wheelchair to safety in Germany.

Born with cerebral palsy and with her family unable to afford a school that was suitable for her, she spent most of her childhood at home in her flat, where she learned English by watching television. After war forced her family to flee, Nujeen became famous for surviving the perilous journey to Europe – including crossing the sea in a rubber dinghy.

Now 21 years old, she has used her fame to bring positive change, releasing a book about her experiences, called *The Girl From Aleppo*, and giving inspirational talks around the world. "I always believed everyone's here for a mission, but I hadn't found mine yet," she said. "Now I have a voice, I can help people."

