

## **ONE**

A British woman accused of smuggling drugs into Egypt has been sentenced to three years in jail. Laura Plummer, who's thirty three and from Hull, was arrested in October with tablets of the pain killer tramadol. She says she didn't realize they were illegal in Egypt. Emily Junior reports.

Laura Plummer was arrested on October the ninth at Hurghada airport because the suitcase she was carrying contained two hundred and ninety tramadol tablets. The pain killers are legal in the UK but not in Egypt, where they're apparently abused as a recreational drug. Miss Plummer said she was taking the tablets to her Egyptian partner, who suffers from severe back pain. Her family have been campaigning to get her released and her mother, who travelled to Egypt for the trial, said she was being detained in appalling conditions, in a communal cell with no beds. They said she had no idea what she was doing was illegal, but the Egyptian authorities made it clear that ignorance was not a defence. Local media have reported that Miss Plumber accidentally pleaded guilty in a court appearance yesterday, owing to translation problems. Today she received a three-year prison sentence. Her lawyers have already launched an appeal.

## **TWO**

And the culture secretary has said that head teachers across the UK should ban mobile phones in the classroom. Matt Hancock warned that the phones had a real impact on the achievements of students and linked social media with bullying among school children. More details from Sheena Katisha.

Writing in *The Daily Telegraph* Matt Hancock makes his opinion abundantly clear: ban mobile phones from schools because their use has a negative impact on working memory and fluid intelligence. He says he admires those head teachers who don't allow the devices into classrooms and encourages others to follow suit. The culture secretary also says that their use can promote bullying. He says if a child is subjected to this at school it can continue at home through social media, something, he labels, is unacceptable.

## **THREE**

The local government association has warned of a multi billion pound ill-health time- bomb in England's primary schools. The organisation analysed public health England data, it says one in twenty five children aged ten or eleven is severely obese. Here's our health editor Hugh Pym.

The local government association said the latest figures should serve as a 'wake-up call' for action to tackle an obesity crisis which was costing the NHS more than 5 billion pounds a year. They showed that whereas 2.3 percent of children in reception classes at England's primary schools were severely obese, it was 4.1 percent by the time they reached their final year. The LGA said that prevention work, including providing weight management services, was being hampered by budget cuts. The government is due to publish a new child obesity strategy within weeks, it's believed this should include curbs on supermarket food promotions and TV advertising. A Department of Health and Social Care spokesperson said the recently introduced sugar tax was funding school sports programmes.

## **FOUR**

The government of Hungary is proposing a new set of laws which target groups who help asylum seekers, if approved, the measures could make offering migrants food or water a criminal offence, the country's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has taken a strong stance against illegal migration, which he says can and should be stopped. From Budapest, here's Nick Thorpe.

Very few refugees or migrants try to enter Hungary any more, those still attempting to reach western Europe have found alternative routes through Albania, Bosnia or Rumania. Nevertheless Viktor Orbán Fidesz government has made fighting illegal immigration a cornerstone in his policy. This will be the first package of legislation considered by the new parliament, elected last month, in which Fidesz enjoys a big two thirds majority. The final text has not yet been made public, but recent remarks by

leading party officials suggested would make even providing food, water or advice to asylum seekers a criminal offence, punishable by prison. Civil society groups who work with asylum seekers in Hungary say the new legislation is an attempt to destroy human rights initiatives and is in breach of European and international law.

## **FIVE**

A man in his eighties has been killed during flash flooding in the west Midlands. He died after his vehicle was submerged in Walsall in the early hours of this morning, the Midlands was hit by heavy rainfall yesterday with more than a month's worth falling in just an hour in parts of Birmingham. The environment agency currently has flood warnings in place for three rivers in the region. From Birmingham, Caroline Davies reports.

The pensioner was driving in Walsall, north of Birmingham, when his car became submerged in flood waters, police were called just after two a.m. to reports that a vehicle had entered the water. The man, who's believed to be in his eighties, was taken to hospital but later died, his family have been told. Heavy rain has caused flash flooding around the region. West Midlands fire service received so many calls, estimated around a thousand, that some were diverted to the London Fire Brigade. In total they attended more than a hundred weather related incidents including gas leaks and problems caused by lightning strikes. Roads in Birmingham, Nottingham and the surrounding countryside were flooded, with some still closed.

## **SIX**

Marks & Spencer has announced that the ongoing reorganisation of its business will now involve axing over 100 shops by 2022. The retailer says the additional closures are vital for its future as it attempts to cut costs and increase online sales. But the Asdaw Union, which represent shop workers, has called it a salami slicing approach, which is extremely distressing for staff. Here's our business correspondent Jonty Bloom.

Marks and Spencer has just over 1000 stores, but these cuts will mainly hit the larger units, which sell its full range of products, from clothes and food to furniture. Two years ago the company announced that 60 stores would have to close, 21 have already done so and now it's accelerating that programme, with plans to shut down 100 by 2022. It will also open 15 fewer simply food shops where it's already planned. Almost a fifth of Marks and Spencer sales are now online and the company hopes to raise that to at least a third. The increase in closures will be upload to many high streets and shopping centres around the UK where Marks and spark shops are often what are called anchor stores meaning that they're the largest attraction and bringing many shoppers to the area.

## **SEVEN**

The Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has become the first leader since the country restored democracy to be ousted by a no-confidence vote. The opposition socialist brought the motion after the conservative People's Party became implicated in a corruption scandal. The socialist leader Pedro Sánchez will succeed Mr Rajoy as Prime Minister. From Madrid Guy Hedgecoe reports.

Mr Rajoy lost for a margin of only four votes, after a minority party confirmed its support for the motion. A no-confidence vote was led by the socialists and was prompted by a court sentence that directly linked Mr Rajoy's People's Party to a network of ordering public contracts in exchange for bribes. With Mr Rajoy removed from power, the socialist leader Pedro Sánchez replaces him. A pro-European moderate, he was often had to overcome opposition from within his own party, Mr Sánchez has lost two general elections, but has a reputation for resilience. This vote is a major achievement for the 46-year-old, but his party only has a quarter of seats in congress. Basque and Catalan nationalists provided key support to Mr Sánchez. He's promised to establish links with the pro-independence government in Catalonia. The crisis there will be a priority for him.