



“GAZA STRIP IS MOST DANGEROUS PLACE TO BE A CHILD”



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People celebrate as hostages are released by Hamas

“THE Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child”, says UNICEF boss Catherine Russell.

The comments came after Israel and Hamas agreed to a four-day truce to allow some hostages to be freed and humanitarian aid, medical supplies and fuel to reach Gaza. The truce was then extended by another two days.

By Tuesday 28 November, the temporary truce had seen 69 hostages in Gaza being released, 51 of whom were women and children held since Hamas attacked Israel on 7 October. A further 17 Thai hostages and one Filipino were also released as part of a separate deal between Hamas and the Egyptian government.

Hamas said that 150 Palestinian women and teenagers would be released from jails in Israel in return.

Further releases could get tricky, as some hostages are

being held by other terrorist groups, not just Hamas.

Talking about children in Gaza, Russell said: “The agreement to release hostages is welcomed but much more needs to be done. More than 5,300 Palestinian children have been reportedly killed in just 46 days – that is over 115 a day, every day, for weeks and weeks. Based on these figures, children account for 40% of the deaths in Gaza. In other words, today, the Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child.”

Although many families are relieved to have their loved ones home, others say they can't celebrate until the war is over and everyone has their freedom back.

Organisations such as UNICEF and Oxfam are calling for an urgent ceasefire (end to the war) so that children can get the help and protection that they desperately need.

UN to make tax fairer for all

A HISTORIC vote has been made to allow the United Nations (UN) to create a new global tax system.

It's hoped the UN will be able to make tax fairer for everyone, particularly poor countries that need the money to develop their economy and tackle climate change.

In total, 125 nations voted in favour of the UN having more control over tax. Most of them were low or middle-income countries, including Nigeria, Ghana and Brazil.

Another 48 countries, including the US, UK and all EU member countries, voted against the plan.

Alex Cobham of the Tax Justice Network said: “This is a historic victory delivered by the countries of the global south, for the benefit of people all around the world.”

The current tax system is run by a group of wealthy countries known as the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). The OECD has been blamed for giving wealthy countries an unfair advantage, and for not doing enough to make big businesses and rich people in the West pay their fair share of tax. Because of this, the world misses out on \$480 billion in tax every year.

Outer space particle mystery

AN international group of astronomers have been shocked to discover the second-most energetic cosmic ray ever detected on Earth.

The particle had such high energy that creating it would have taken something even more powerful than a supernova, the violent explosion that takes place when a star dies and collapses in on itself.

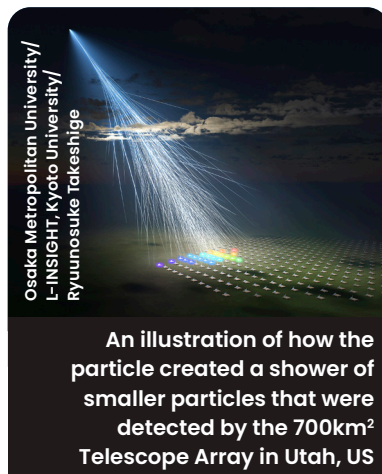
However, tracing the particle's route back shows that it came from an area of space that's pretty much empty, so there shouldn't be anything there that

could have created it.

“That's the mystery of this – what the heck is going on?” said John Matthews, one of the authors of a report of the event in the journal *Science*.

The particle had an energy of around 240 EeV (exa-electronvolts), which is a million times higher than anything we can produce in the biggest particle accelerators on Earth.

The only previous particle with more energy was detected in 1991 and was such a shock to scientists that they nicknamed it the Oh-My-God particle!



Osaka Metropolitan University/
I-INSIGHT, Kyoto University/
Ryuunosuke Takeshige

An illustration of how the particle created a shower of smaller particles that were detected by the 700km² Telescope Array in Utah, US

EDITOR'S COMMENT



Nicky Cox MBE

WORLD leaders are gathering in Dubai for the COP28 climate talks.

Let's hope they are more than talks and we see some positive action for the planet at the end of it.

We've been asking you what you would say to world leaders, which you can read in a pull-out in the middle of this week's *First News*.

We also look at some of the positive things young people are doing for the planet.

And, on p16, we have worked with conservation charity WWF to put together your green charter for businesses. You told us what you'd expect from organisations if you were to work for them one day, and it makes very interesting reading.

Let's hope they are listening – and that world leaders are too!

Monkey the monkey



A LOVEABLE toy monkey has been reunited with his owner, after making a 600-mile railway journey!

A three-year-old boy lost Monkey while travelling from Oakham to Bristol Temple Meads. Thankfully he was spotted by staff and sent back home. But, it was a long old journey, involving several different train companies.

He was even gifted a Christmas jumper to keep him warm!

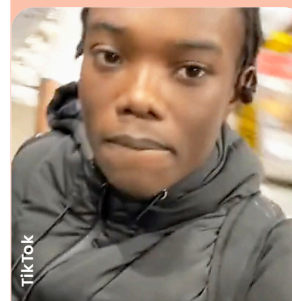


Network Rail

TikTok prankster Mizzy



THE social media star has been jailed for 18 weeks, after pranking people and sharing the videos without their permission. A judge said Bacari-Bronze O'Garro's (Mizzy's) videos were “not funny” and caused members of the public “significant harm and distress”.



TikTok

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