

Bernard of Clairvaux preaches his famous sermon in a field at Vézelay, urging the necessity of a Second Crusade. Louis VII and Eleanor of Aquitaine are present and join the Crusade

Queen Isabella I of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Aragon issue the Alhambra Decree which expels Jews from their kingdoms



English Parliament makes the Humble Petition to Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell offering him the crown: he declines

British parliament accepts Irish Home Rule law

## Germany welcomes Charles III

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Charles is known for his long and steady service as the Prince of Wales, as he carried out his official and ceremonial duties and established more than 20 charities, including The Prince's Trust, The Prince's Foundation and The Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund.

spectacle.

"It's the visit of the king in Germany. We want to celebrate it, regardless of how long the queue is," she said, adding that she finds "big ceremonies and state visits by royals great".

Silvelin Fiebig, 65, accompanied by her daughter Stefanie, 39, may make the effort to see the king more than once.

Charles has a planned visit close to the retired kindergarten teacher's home in rural Brandenburg on Thursday.

"I'm already thinking about

whether I should go," she said.

### 'Good feeling'

At the airport, the royal couple received a stately welcome.

Standing at the top of the aeroplane stairs, they were given a 21-gun salute and a military plane flypast.

In the visit heavy with symbolism, the colour of Camilla's dress drew the immediate comment from rolling news channel's NTV presenter who called it a "European blue".

The Queen Consort also made

an impression on the crowd by the Brandenburg Gate, where she was accompanied by the German first lady Elke Buedenbender.

"I have always wanted to see the royal family in real life," said 20-year-old Selma Tahirbegovic, a student.

"We loved it," said Kathy Robertson, 63, who comes from Britain but has lived in Germany most of her adult life.

Robertson and her friend, another British Berliner, were "coming away with a good feeling because they made the effort", she said.

On her way down the line of spectators, Camilla complimented a paper crown with a Burger King logo being worn by 19-year-old Andreina Riera from Venezuela.

"I never imagined that could happen -- her noticing me!" she said. "I'm really happy."

## Saudi Arabia joins Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Agencies

Saudi Arabia's cabinet has approved a memorandum granting the country the status of a dialogue partner in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), according to the state news agency SPA, as reported by Reuters.

The SCO is a political and security union of countries across Eurasia, including China, India, and Russia. Originally formed in 2001 by Russia, China, and former Soviet states in Central Asia, the organisation has expanded to include India and Pakistan.

Sources informed Reuters that during a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Saudi Arabia in December 2022, joining the SCO was discussed. As a first step, the dialogue partner status will



Participants of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit attend an extended-format meeting of heads of SCO member states in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

be granted to Saudi Arabia before being considered for full membership in the mid-term.

Last year, Iran signed documents for full membership.

In addition, Saudi Aramco (2222.SE) announced its multi-billion dollar investment in China on Tuesday, which included a

planned joint venture in northeast China and acquiring a stake in a privately controlled petrochemical group.

Finally, the SCO member countries have planned a joint "counter-terrorism exercise" in Russia's Chelyabinsk region in August 2023.

## UK museum to surrender Courbet painting stolen by Nazis

London, United Kingdom

A British university museum has agreed to return a 19th-century painting by French artist Gustave Courbet, which was seized by the Nazis, to the descendants of its original Jewish owner.

Cambridge University's Fitzwilliam Museum, in eastern England, is acting on the advice of a government-appointed expert panel, which investigates claims for Nazi loot.

For more than a year, the panel probed the history of "La Ronde Enfantine", an oil landscape dating from about 1862 that has been lying in the museum's storage.

In a report published Tuesday, it concluded that the evidence supported the restitution claim made by the heirs of its one-time owner, Robert Bing, a French Resistance hero during World War II.

"This is a deliberate seizure by the German authorities from a Jewish citizen of



the painting "La Ronde Enfantine" (Beneath the Trees at Port-Bertaud: Children Dancing) by French artist Gustave Courbet

France with the diversion of the work of art to Nazi leaders," the 19-page review stated.

"No other reason for seizure other than the Jewishness of Mr Bing has appeared to explain this seizure."

It added that the museum had "cared for the work so that it can now be restored to the heirs of the original owners".

## Pope Francis in hospital for respiratory infection

Vatican City, Holy See

Pope Francis, 86, was admitted to a hospital in Rome yesterday with a respiratory infection which will require a stay of a few days, the Vatican said.

"In recent days Pope Francis has complained of some breathing difficulties," said Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni in a statement.

The pontiff was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital for medical checks, which revealed "a respiratory infection... that will require a few days of appropriate hospital medical treatment", Bruni said, adding that a Covid-19 infection had been excluded.



Pope Francis is helped get up the popemobile car as he leaves at the end of the weekly general audience at St. Peter's square in The Vatican

Earlier in the afternoon, the Vatican had said Francis had been admitted "for some previously scheduled checks."

## Trinity T-Rex skeleton set to sell for millions

The Swiss sale comes only four months after Christie's withdrew another T-Rex skeleton days before it was to go under the hammer in Hong Kong after doubts were reported about parts of it.

Trinity, the Swiss T-Rex, is made up of bones from three dinosaurs excavated between 2008 and 2013 from the Hell Creek and Lance Creek formations in Montana and Wyoming.

The two sites are known for the discoveries of two other significant T-Rex skeletons that have gone to auction. "Sue" went under the hammer in 1997 for \$8.4 million, and "Stan", which took the world-record hammer price of \$31.8 million at Christie's, in 2020.

### Not 'trophies'

Trinity, which is being sold by an anonymous "private individual", is expected to fetch six to eight million Swiss francs (\$6.5-8.7 million) when it goes under the hammer in Zurich on April 18, the Koller auction house es-

timates.

But Christian Link of Koller said he believed the guide price was a "pretty low" estimate.

The 3.9-metre (12.8-foot) high skeleton went on display on a red carpet under crystal chandeliers in a concert hall in the city Wednesday.

Just over half of the bone material in the skeleton comes from the three Tyrannosaurus specimens -- above the 50 percent level needed for experts to consider such a skeleton as high quality.

Link insisted Koller was being transparent about the origins of the bones.

"Hence the name Trinity. We are not hiding in any way that this specimen comes from three different dig sites," he said.

Vertebrate palaeontologist Holtz, of the University of Maryland, remained sceptical, insisting that Trinity "really isn't a 'specimen' so much as it is an art installation."

He also took issue with auctions of significant dinosaur skel-

etons and other fossils, which have raked in tens of millions of dollars in recent years.

Experts have warned such trade could be harmful to science by putting the specimens in private hands and out of the reach of researchers.

"Fossils are not, or at least should not be, considered trophies or glorified action figures," Holtz said.

But Link stressed that 95 percent of known T-Rexes are currently in museums, and said any private collector who might buy Trinity was likely to make it available to scientists and lend it out to museums.

### 'Very, very old'

Reassembling Trinity was no

easy feat, Yolanda Schicker-Siber, a curator of Switzerland's Aathal Dinosaur Museum, told AFP as she secured another toe bone.

"The bones are very, very old. So they are brittle, they have cracks," she said.

"They are stabilised, but you never know if there is a crack that you haven't seen so far... You have to have the glue ready."

Aart Walen, a Dutch expert with 30 years' experience assembling dinosaur skeletons, agreed.

"We didn't break anything yet," he said proudly, as he and his colleagues worked on two large ischium bones, which sat near the dinosaur's pelvic area.

With a parakeet named Ethel perched on his shoulder, Walen filled in cracks using what looked

like dental tools and modelling compound.

It was important for the fixes to remain visible, he said, showing the dark lines where the fissures had been.

"You have to see where it has been repaired. There are some stories about fakes out there. We don't want that," he said, referring to the aborted Christie's auction.

Knocking on different parts of the bone, he also demonstrated the different sounds made by original bone and the plastic additions used to fill out the skeleton.

### Room for a T-Rex

Link said personally he would like to see a Swiss museum buy the skeleton, adding "it would be nice to have it here permanently."

Schicker-Siber said the dinosaur museum she runs with her father outside Zurich unfortunately could not afford to acquire Trinity.

"But if somebody buys it and doesn't know where to put it, we have a museum (with room) for a T-Rex," she said.

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KNOW WHAT

Towering 3.9 metres (12.8 feet) in the air, the skeleton dubbed Trinity skeleton is made up of bone material from three T-Rex specimens, has been valued at between six to eight million Swiss francs (\$6.5-8.7 million), according to the auction catalogue.

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TWEETS

01



Climate justice is both a moral imperative & a prerequisite for effective global #ClimateAction. The climate crisis can only be overcome through cooperation – between peoples, cultures, nations, generations. Let's work together to get the job done.

@antonio\_guterres

02



I've just spoken to @HumzaYousaf to congratulate him on becoming the new First Minister of Scotland. I'm looking forward to working with him to deliver on the priorities that matter most to people across Scotland - from cutting NHS waiting lists to growing our economy.

@RishiSunak

03



Forgot to mention that accounts you follow directly will also be in For You, since you have explicitly asked for them

@elonmusk

04



The United States and Canada have built a close and extensive relationship – I look forward to continuing to write our shared future together.

@POTUS

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)