WHY ARE THE TORIES GIVING CARILLION MORE CONTRACTS?

by Peter Lazenby

LABOUR is demanding answers from the government over Carillion today after it handed public-service contracts worth £2 billion to the near-bankrupt blacklister.

Government officials were locked in last-ditch talks with the troubled construction giant yesterday in a bid to stave off its collapse.

But Labour has accused the government of continuing to pour taxpayers’ cash into the outsourcing firm, despite knowing it was heading for financial disaster.

Carillion, which employs 43,000 workers at home and abroad, is involved in major rail projects such as the HS2 high-speed development. It has contracts to provide school dinners, cleaning and catering at NHS hospitals and maintains 50,000 army-base homes for the Ministry of Defence.

But the firm faces a £900 million debt mountain and a pensions-fund deficit of £580m, while its stock-market value has plummeted from £2bn to £61m.

Britain’s largest union Unite is also calling for an urgent inquiry into why Carillion, which was dishing out ever-rising dividend payments to its shareholders as recently as 2016, is close to collapse.

Carillion hopes lenders will help bail it out, but the banks, headed by HSBC, Barclays and Santander, are understood to be unlikely to pour in new funding unless the government takes part in the bailout.

Carillion issued three official warnings last year that its profits were in danger and suspended its dividend jamboree, but, despite the warnings, the government continued to hand the firm public contracts.

Shadow cabinet office minister Jon Trickett said: “Alarm bells have been ringing for over six months about the state of Carillion’s finances.

“So the government must come forward and answer questions on exactly what due diligence measures were undertaken before awarding contracts to Carillion worth billions of taxpayers’ money.

“In the meantime, as emergency meetings take place between officials, employ-ees of Carillion, pension-holders and taxpayers will want assurances that financial protections are in place in the event of the supplier experiencing further financial difficulties.

“Labour urges the government to stand ready to intervene and bring these crucial public-sector contracts back in-house.

“The government cannot outsource its responsibility and duty of care to these workers and vital public-sector projects.”

Turn to page 3

Labour hits out at public tie-ins as building firm nears collapse

Corbyn: Time to unhitch from US ➤NEWS: P5

Tunisia president promises reform ➤WORLD: P6

Federer ‘too old’ to be favourite ➤TENNIS: P15
CRIME

Minister may put stop to Worboys’s early release

by Ceren Sagir

WOMEN’s rights campaigners and MPs welcomed a possible reversal yesterday of the parole board’s decision to release rapist cabbie John Worboys.

Justice Secretary David Gauke revealed he was seeking legal advice to keep the London black cab driver behind bars, following a mass public outcry.

Mr Worboys was jailed indeﬁnitely in 2009 for drugging and sexually assaulting female passengers.

It was announced last week that the attacker would be freed nine years after his imprisonment, despite being convicted of 19 offences and linked to more than 100 complaints.

Shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry told the Andrew Marr show: “He is a serious criminal and a threat to women. I don’t think his victims nor the majority of women are going to be convinced that he doesn’t continue to be a threat to us.”

Harriet Wistrich, a lawyer representing one of Mr Worboys’s victims, said she had already been looking into the possibility of a judicial review.

She said: “They have already been badly let down by the police which led them to bring a case against the police for their initial abject failure to investigate him.”

“They have been let down again by the Crown Prosecution Service and now by proba-
tion and the parole board.”

EUROPEAN UNION

Corbyn rules out Britain staying in single market

by Lamiat Sabin

Parliamentary Reporter

JEREMY CORBYN ruled out staying in the single market yesterday because doing so would be “dependent on membership of the European Union.”

The leader’s comments followed calls by some Labour ﬁgures for the party to change direction and campaign to remain in the single market and customs union after leaving the EU.

Mr Corbyn expressed concern about the single market’s drawbacks on ITV’s Peston on Sunday.

He said: “There are also aspects of the single market one would want to think about such as the restrictions on state aid to industry, which is something that I would wish to challenge.”

The Labour leader also made clear that the party is not supporting or calling for another referendum on withdrawal from the EU but wants MPs to be able to vote on any deal struck between Westminster and Brussels.

Mr Corbyn said Labour would vote against landmark Brexit legislation which returns to the Commons in the next few weeks unless the party’s demands are met in areas such as workers’ rights.

On the BBC1 Andrew Marr show, shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry said that the Leave vote must be reversed in the next few days unless the par-
yty’s demands are met in areas such as workers’ rights.

She said: “They have already been badly let down by the police which led them to bring a case against the police for their initial abject failure to investigate him.”

“They have been let down again by the Crown Prosecution Service and now by proba-
tion and the parole board.”

All tenants will be able to take legal action against rogue landlords who fail to maintain homes’ safe standards after the government announced it would ﬁnally back new laws proposed by a Labour MP.

Housing Secretary Sajid Javid said he supports draft legislation which will protect both social and private ten-

ARTS

BAME under-represented

ETHNIC minorities are sig-
niﬁcantly under-represented in organisations funded by Arts Council England, its own diver-
sity report revealed.

The arts funders found that, of the 663 organisations it finances, only 8 per cent of chief executive and 10 per cent of artistic directors are from eth-

ministers’ Bill, said she was delighted further measures had won the government’s backing.

The Westminster North MP had put two pieces of legisla-
tion before Parliament to try to improve council and private-sector living standards, but the Tories had blocked both.

The (Fitness for Human Habitation) Bill was kicked into touch in 2015 by ﬁlibuster-
ing Tory MP Philip Davies, who talked at length about how it would be a “burden” on land-

End Violence Against Women Coalition’s Sarah Green said Mr Gauke’s poten-
tial action to stop the release of the “dangerous rapist was very welcome.”

She said: “Women have been singularly failed throughout this case, from initial investi-
gations all the way through to the parole board decision.”

“The victims of this man’s crimes, who have been treated appallingly by police and the parole board, will hopefully be delighted by this news.”

Shadow foreign secretary, Emily Thornberry told the Andrew Marr show: “He is a serious criminal and a threat to women. I don’t think his victims nor the majority of women are going to be convinced that he doesn’t continue to be a threat to us.”

Harriet Wistrich, a lawyer representing one of Mr Worboys’s victims, said she had already been looking into the possibility of a judicial review.

She said: “They have already been badly let down by the police which led them to bring a case against the police for their initial abject failure to investigate him.”

“They have been let down again by the Crown Prosecution Service and now by probation and the parole board.”
**HOUSING RIGHTS**

**Anti-rogue landlords Bill wins backing**

Javid supports new law protecting tenants

In 2016 then housing minister Brandon Lewis said his Housing & Planning Bill already had policies to tackle bad landlords and that Ms Buck and shadow housing minister Teresa Pearce’s amendments to it would impose “unnecessary regulation”. The Labour amendments were defeated by 309 to 205 votes.

Now, seven months after the Grenfell Tower disaster, the Tories are backing Ms Buck’s proposals, under which tenants can take landlords, including councils, to court for a breach of contract if they fail in their duty to keep homes fit for human habitation.

Defend Council Housing chairwoman Eileen Short told the Star that the government’s climbdown is “a very, very small step in the right direction.”

She said: “We need urgent action to control private-sector rents, create secure tenancies and rights to repairs. "We need 100,000 council homes a year to ensure we all have an alternative to private renting. “The government’s weakness means we can win if we organise together across tenure, as we did to defeat much of the 2016 Housing & Planning Act.

“Every small gain can give us confidence. Now let’s stop all universal credit evictions, rehouse all Grenfell survivors with secure tenancies, win safe, healthy, warm homes by joining up and organising.”

Maria Ludkin said: “This is the victory meant some drivers would receive up to £20,000 in back pay. Similar victories have been won against minicab transnational Uber and delivery firm DX, which used bogus self-employment to deny workers their rights.

GMB legal director Maria Ludkin said: “This is yet another brick in the road in GMB’s battle against bogus self-employment. “Some employers seem to think they can avoid paying the minimum wage or giving their workers the protection to which they are entitled.

“However, as Amazon and UK Express have now realised, this is not optional — it’s the law. The drivers delivering for Amazon, like Uber drivers and delivery drivers for DX, are clearly employees and it is gratifying that the company are shelling out 100 per cent of the amounts claimed. “GMB will continue to fight bogus self-employment wherever it appears.”

**INDUSTRIAL**

GMB pay victory for Amazon logistics workers

by Peter Lazenby

AMAZON delivery drivers have won up to £20,000 each in back pay after their union challenged the online retailer’s use of bogus self-employment to deny them rights at work.

General union GMB represents many drivers employed by delivery firm UK Express, which delivers goods for Amazon.

UK Express used bogus self-employment to deny its employees their rights such as the minimum wage, holiday pay, sick pay, paid rest breaks and employment rights such as protection from unfair dismissal.

GMB challenged UK Express and the company backed down before the cases reached an employment tribunal.

The union said the victory meant some drivers would receive up to £20,000 in back pay. Similar victories have been won against minicab transnational Uber and delivery firm DX, which used bogus self-employment to deny workers their rights.

GMB legal director Maria Ludkin said: “This is yet another brick in the road in GMB’s battle against bogus self-employment. “Some employers seem to think they can avoid paying the minimum wage or giving their workers the protection to which they are entitled.

“However, as Amazon and UK Express have now realised, this is not optional — it’s the law. The drivers delivering for Amazon, like Uber drivers and delivery drivers for DX, are clearly employees and it is gratifying that the company are shelling out 100 per cent of the amounts claimed. “GMB will continue to fight bogus self-employment wherever it appears.”

**FRONT PAGE**

**WHY IS CARILLION GETTING MORE CONTRACTS?**

FROM P1: The government has failed to confirm if Carillion has been categorised as a “high risk” supplier and declined to comment on the talks.

TUC deputy general secretary Paul Nowak said: “Tens of thousands of jobs are now at risk, along with vital public services and major infrastructure projects across the country. “Carillion is a textbook example of the failures of privatisation and outsourcing.”

Unite national officer Jim Kennedy said: “What is being discussed behind closed doors today has a real impact on each and every one of us. “Public services, vast amounts of public money, thousands of jobs, including in a lengthy supply chain of insecure agency workers who are also at risk, and workers’ hard-earned pensions are all in danger of being dragged under by yet another bout of reckless corporate irresponsibility.”

**WE’RE HIRING**

**REPORTER**

We are seeking a reporter to join the team at our busy London newsroom.

Regular weekend working is required as part of a five-day 35-hour week in order to cover the paper’s six publication days. Wages start at £21,100 per annum subject to a probationary period.

Holidays start at 28 days a year rising to 30 days, plus bank holidays. If you have the skills and you’re ready to take on a new challenge at a national newspaper which isn’t afraid to tell it like it is, email jobs@peoples-press.com for an application pack.

Women and minority ethnic candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.
OVERSEAS EXPLOITATION

'We could dispose of scrapped rigs safely in Scotland'

Peter Lazenby

SCRAPPED oil and gas-drilling platforms from the North Sea are being dumped in India and Bangladesh, where workers face life-threatening conditions dismantling them, maritime union RMT warned yesterday.

It called for an end to the dumping of disused offshore equipment abroad and said the dismantling and recycling work could be carried out — safely — in Britain.

The union said three disused drilling platforms are being stored in Cromarty Firth in Scotland and have been sold to a company that plans to transport them to South Asia for disposal.

RMT said facilities exist in Scotland for the safe dismantling and recycling process.

General secretary Mick Cash said south Asian workers “are regularly killed and injured in highly dangerous and poorly protected conditions.”

He accused the government of failing to introduce a decommissioning process for the drilling platforms.

“This government seems incapable of getting a fair deal from the oil and gas industry and it must immediately commit to regulating the decommissioning sector in the interests of UK workers and the economy,” he said.

The government has handed huge amounts of cash to oil and gas bosses in the form of giant tax breaks.

RMT national secretary Steve Todd condemned the “unethical exploitation of poor coastal communities in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh when disposing of retired vessels.”

He said: “These rigs are in the Cromarty Firth and could quite easily be dismantled and recycled at local facilities in Scotland.

“Conservative ministers have questions to answer and RMT will continue to work to hold this chaotic government to account for its continued failure to protect offshore workers from unsustainable and unethical profiteering.”

peterlazenby@peoples-press.com

HEALTH

No cash left for those eager to stub out

SMOKERS are being denied help to quit due to NHS cuts, health charities have warned.

At least one local authority in England has no budget to tackle smoking, according to a study published today by Cancer Research UK and Action on Smoking and Health (Ash).

The charities are “deeply concerned” that poorer smokers are being hit hardest after finding GPs in some areas cannot prescribe stop-smoking medications.

Their survey found that one in nine areas report that GPs are no longer prescribing nicotine replacements such as patches or gum.

And only three in five councils continue to offer all smokers access to evidence-based support in line with guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

Ash chief Deborah Arnott said: “ Shrinking public health budgets make it tougher to provide smokers with quit services while tobacco companies pocket a billion in profit every year in the UK.”

HENRY BOLTON

Kipper in hot water after partner sends hate-filled messages

UKIP leader Henry Bolton (pictured) faced calls to resign yesterday after his girlfriend was caught making racist slurs against mixed-race actor Meghan Markle.

Ukip suspended Jo Marney, the far-right party leader’s partner, after a string of hate-filled text messages were made public.

They included derogatory comments about black people and referred to Ms Markle, the fiancee of Harry Windsor, as a “dumb little commoner” and a “black American pushing her way to the top slowly.”

“Next will be a Muslim PM. And a black king,” she ranted.

Her outbursts have led to calls for Mr Bolton, elected Ukip leader in September to replace serial fantasist Paul Nuttall, to quit.

Ukip West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge told him: “Go now. Go quietly and leave us to deal with what’s left.”

Stand Up to Racism co-convener Weyman Bennett agreed that Mr Bolton should resign, and told the Star that Ms Marney’s “comments reflect the nature of the organisation.”

“These comments are unacceptable and reflect the most disgusting elements of politics in Europe today.”

Talentless people like his partner have contributed very little in ways of progress. Not only should they be rejected at the ballot box, as they have been, he should resign and accept the existence of Ukip is to continue politics like this.”

Though Mr Bolton claimed to stand against racism during
**JEREMY CORBYN**

`We can’t just rely on palling up with US’`

Labour leader criticises Trump’s ‘endless offensive remarks’

by Lamiat Sabin

BRITAIN must build links with many countries rather than kowtow to the United States, Jeremy Corbyn said yesterday, as Donald Trump was mired in yet more controversy.

The Labour leader criticised the US president for his “endless offensive remarks” about women, foreigners and followers of different religions as well as his attacks on bodies such as the United Nations and its cultural agency Unesco.

When asked on ITV’s Peston on Sunday programme if Britain’s relationship with the US was the most important, Mr Corbyn said: “No: I think there are many important relationships.

“The US one is obviously culturally and economically significant but it is important.”

“Also the trading relationships we have around the world, with, obviously, the EU, but also with India and China and the rest of the world are very important.

“Also our relationship with international institutions such as the United Nations is very important.”

Shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry called Mr Trump “a danger” and “a racist” on BBC One’s Andrew Marr Show after he branded African countries, Haiti and El Salvador as “shitholes” during a meeting about protections for immigrants in the US.

Prime Minister Theresa May was wrong to be “prematurely giving him a state visit,” Ms Thornberry said.

Mr Trump said last week that he was cancelling a visit to open the new US embassy in London, saying the new building was a “bad deal.”

Commentators have suggested he cancelled because he felt out in opposition to Trump’s racist outburst. We will not allow him to normalise this behaviour.”

The group has organised a protest outside the US embassy on Saturday from 2pm to mark the first year of Trump’s presidency.

Mr Trump reiterated yesterday that he would withdraw the US from the Paris climate change agreement, which proposes modest measures to curb catastrophic global warming.

He has rejected decades of climate science and has said he believes climate change is a “Chinese hoax.”

Greenpeace UK’s executive director John Sauven said: “Some politicians come to their senses when they start worrying about their legacy. “For Trump it’s already too late. The world will move on without him.”

Lamiat Sabin@peoples-press.com

**INDUSTRIAL**

Asda plans to cut pensions contribution

THOUSANDS of Asda workers face having their employer’s pension contributions cut to the legal minimum, trade union GMB has warned.

Asda’s third-biggest supermarket chain plans to cut payments to workers’ pensions to 1 per cent, instead of matching employees’ contributions of 2 or 3 per cent.

Asda is owned by US corporation Walmart. It has 160,000 staff and raked in £791 million in profit last year. Its slogan is: “Save money, live better.”

GMB reps will meet Walmart officials tomorrow. The union says it is willing to challenge the cut in court.

National officer Gary Carter pointed out that “Tesco, Sainsbury’s, Morrisons and [the] Co-op all contribute more into their employees’ pensions.”

**CONDEMNED TRUMP:** Emily Thornberry

She has also blamed immigrants for terror attacks and street crime.

“More acid attacks, more senseless knife crime, more rapes, more people trafficking. Please take back our borders,” she said in one post.

Ukip chairman Paul Oakden insisted the party “does not, has not and never will condone racism” and said Mr Bolton has to make “difficult decisions in the next 24 hours.”

Ms Marney claimed the slurs were “deliberately exaggerated in order to make a point and have, to an extent, been taken out of context.”

news@peoples-press.com

**CONDITIONS AT WORK**

People ‘working themselves into the ground’ – MP

by Our News Desk

LABOUR MP Hugh Gaffney has called for a shorter working week to allow a “better quality of life” and vowed the party will take back Scotland under leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Mr Gaffney said the current 48-hour cap on hours, from which employers can get workers to “opt out”, is seeing people “working themselves into the ground.”

The Co-Operative, Chryston and Bellshill MP warned the Tories against using the SNP in the snap general election last year, said Labour could definitely take back Scotland under Mr Corbyn.

He said that Labour were “all over the place” and “heading down” before Mr Corbyn was elected leader and he vowed that people “will see the red flag flying for Labour” north of the border at the next election.

“I think Jeremy Corbyn could go all the way. The Tories down here are clinging on to power. If they call a general election they’re going to lose it,” Mr Gaffney said.

“The country is now ready for Labour to come back, ready for ordinary working people to have a voice in this country.”

The 2017 intake had a lot of good working-class background people coming in and that’s all we ask, give workers a voice and an opportunity in this place.”

news@peoples-press.com

**STANDING ORDER PEOPLE’S PRESS FIGHTING FUND**

My name is: _________________________ My address is: _________________________

Postcode: ___________________ Telephone: ___________________

Email: _________________________ Please pay the Co-operative Bank PLC, Islington Branch, sort code 08-90-33 for the credit of the People’s Press Fighting Fund account number 5505-5115 the sum of £_________ each month until further notice and debit my account accordingly.

My account number is: _________________________ My sort code is: _________________________

Standing order start date: _________________________ Signature: _________________________

To the manager: (include bank name, address and postcode): _________________________

DON’T SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR BANK. PLEASE MAIL IT TO:

PPPSF Organiser, William Rust House, 52 Beachy Road, Bow, London E3 2NS

You must be 18 years or older. Registered Small Co-operative Under the Industrial Co-operative Act No 2798.
**PALESTINE**

**Schoolgirl in court for slapping troops**

16-year-old Tamimi faces 10 years in jail for resisting occupation

by James Tweedie

PALESTINIAN schoolgirl Ahed Tamimi will appear in an occupation military court today accused of slapping Israeli troops where she faces 10 years in jail.

Her hearing at the Ofer Israeli army court in the occupied West Bank take place two days after the occupation forces declared her home village of Nabi Saleh a “closed military zone,” blocking routes in and out and attacking a protest there.

The village, north of Ramallah, was closed off before a planned demonstration against US President Donald Trump’s recognition of Israel’s claim to Jerusalem as its capital.

Residents also planned to protest near Israeli settlement of Halamish, which has annexed large areas of farmland belonging to the Tamimi extended family between Nabi Saleh and nearby Deir Nidham.

Palestine’s Wafa news agency quoted local leader Bilal Tamimi as saying Israeli forces prevented non-residents from entering the village in support of the rally.

He said some found alternative routes in, avoiding the roadblocks, and the rally went ahead, but the occupation forces reacted with tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets. Locals said dozens suffered tear-gas inhalation and two were shot and wounded.

Sixteen-year-old Ahed and her mother Nariman were arrested in Nabi Saleh last month, four days after video emerged of a previous demonstration against Mr Trump's announcement, showing her harmless slapping and kicking two armed Israeli troops.

That was hours after her 15-year-old cousin Mohammed had been shot in the head with a steel-coated pellet. Mohammed survived after surgery but will need a prosthetic plate to replace part of his skull.

Ahed faces charges of aggravated assault and 11 other offences.

Britain’s Amnesty International director Magdalena Mughrabi joined calls yesterday for Ahed’s release “without delay.”

She quoted Ahed’s lawyer comments that she had “faced several long and aggressive interrogation sessions, sometimes during the night, and has received threats against her family by interrogators.”

According to her family, Ahed has also endured several physically exhausting transfers from prison to court alongside other child detainees, without access to a toilet.

jamestweedie@peoples-press.com

**SYRIA**

Troops retake al-Qaida-held part of southern Aleppo

by James Tweedie

SYRIAN troops retake an al-Qaeda-held part of southern Aleppo yesterday, while Turkey threatened to invade the province’s north to attack Syria’s Kurds.

Syrian state news agency Sana said troops cleared several villages of Heteq fighters.

The army now controls the road from Khanasser to Tal al-Daman and all areas north of there to Aleppo.

That may help government forces retake territory in Hama province, which is split between Heteq, al-Qaeda’s Syrian affiliate, and Isis.

Yesterday the army and allied militias attacked Isis from the south.

Meanwhile in Istanbul, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan repeated earlier threats of a major offensive to overrun Afrin canton in northern Aleppo province “to purge terrorism from our southern borders.”

Afrin is controlled by Kurdish YPG militia. Turkey has for years been waging a bloody campaign against its own Kurdish population, and has even attacked Iraq to get at Kurds in Tal al-Daman Workers Party (PKK) fighters sheltering there.

Mr Erdogan has asked the US for help in his campaign against the Kurds, though the US is currently providing material support to the YPG.

Russian forces have previously positioned themselves in Afrin to deter an attack by Turkey or the insurgents it supports.

Afrin YPG spokesman Rojhat Raj said clashes erupted after midnight between his unit and Turkish troops near the border.

He said shelling killed one YPG guerilla and injured a couple of civilians yesterday.

jamestweedie@peoples-press.com

**GERMANY**

Luxembourg event urges solidarity for Venezuela

THOUSANDS of people gathered in Berlin at the weekend to mark 99 years since the murders of communist leaders Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

Communists attending the 23rd International Rosa Luxemburg Conference – organised by German socialist newspaper Junge Welt – also reaffirmed their solidarity with Venezuela’s Bolivarian revolution and issued a declaration urging the EU and US to end their interference in Venezuela’s internal affairs.

It said Venezuela had taken the path of independence from the influence of the imperialist powers to unify the other nations of Latin America and the Third World. It added that the stated aim of the “revolutionary forces” was to “build socialism.”

Last November, the European Parliament banned exports of police riot gear to Venezuela. That was two months after German Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed a delegation from the Caracas opposition – after four months of anti-government riots had left 124 dead.

The Berlin declaration said it was the Venezuelan people’s task to “resolve their differences in a self-determined way.”

jamestweedie@peoples-press.com

**SWITZERLAND**

Thousands of anti-capitalist protesters took to the streets in Bern on Saturday to demonstrate against the World Economic Forum (WEF) and US President Donald Trump’s visit in Switzerland.

With placards reading “Eat the rich” and “Fight WEF, Trump, capitalism,” they also targeted the annual meeting of the world’s political and business elite at a luxury Swiss ski resort.
VENEZUELA

Government ‘on verge of deal with opposition’

by James Tweedie

VENEZUELA’s government and opposition are close to a peace deal, Information Min
ister Jorge Rodriguez said on Saturday night.

The Venezuelan News Agency reported that talks at the Dominin
can Republic’s Foreign Ministry in Santo Domingo had adjourned for several hours so that the two delegations could hold separate meetings and then returned to the negotiating table.

Reporter Boris Castellano of Venezolana de Television said they were expected to reach a deal soon in the talks that began last Thursday.

The opposition Democratic Unity Roundtable (Mud) coa
tion delegation includes national assembly speaker Julio Borges of the hardline Justice First party and Manuel Rosales of the more moderate New Era.

The talks are being bro
ered by Dominican President Danilo Medina, Foreign Min
ister Miguel Vargas and former Spanish prime minister Jose Luis Zapatero.

After the first direct meeting on Friday, Mr Vargas said the talks had not been successful. But Venezuelan government delegation and opposition leader Mr Rod
riguez stressed that the two sides were “very close to cemen
ting peace” between Venezuela’s political rivals.

Four months of Mud
tioned rioting starting last April left 124 people dead. Fears of a return to the vio
lence were raised last week when three people were killed and 16 injured in food riots.

A summit meeting of regional bloc Alba’s political council in the Venezuelan capital Caracas pledged on Friday to defend Latin Amer
ican and Caribbean unity against outside intervention. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro urged nations to adopt the petro crypto-currency his government plans to launch next month as an “alternative to break the financial blockade” imposed on his country by the US and a financial base for “powerful intra-regional trade.”

IN BRIEF

32 die as oil tanker explodes

CHINA: An Iranian oil tanker on fire off the Chinese coast exploded and sank yesterday, hours after the Maritime Agency said there was “no hope” of finding 29 missing crew.

“Thirty-two people died without a funeral and without coffins! They burned to ashes while their families were waiting here!” cried one woman relative at the HQ of the National Iranian Tanker Company in Tehran, owners of the stricken Sanchi. The ship burst into flames after colliding with the Chinese freighter CF Crystal 160 miles off the coast of Shanghai on January 6.

Officials slammed over ‘missile attack’

UNITED STATES: Hawaii senators lambasted the state’s civil defence system on Saturday after residents were terrified by a false missile attack alarm.

The message sent statewide just after 8am on Saturday said a ballistic missile was headed for the islands and residents should “seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill.”

Local emergency officials said that a worker had pressed the wrong button during a routine practice drill.

Talks to focus on art troupe visit

KOREAS: Seoul and Pyongang agreed on Saturday that their talks next week will address a North Korean art troupe’s visit to the South’s Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in the South, rather than the participation of the North’s athletes. Seoul’s Unification Ministry said that both sides had agreed to put off talks about athletes and officials until a later date.

55 people ‘still in jail after protests’

IRAN: Judiciary spokes
man Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said yesterday 55 people were still in prison following weeks of anti-government protests sparked by widespread unemployment and high prices.

He said about 400 protesters had been arrested but that “some were released” over the weekend. Tehran MP Mahmoud Sadeghi said 3,700 people had been arrested across the country.

TUNISIA

Thousands continue rallies despite vow to boost benefits

ahead, no flicker of hope for a better future,” said Ali Ben Mahmoud, a university gradu
ate from Tunis who took part in the initial demonstration last week, organised by the group Fest Nestanaou (What Are We Waiting For?).

The so-called Arab Spring began with mass protests fol
lowing the suicide of street trader Mohamed Bouazizi on December 17 2010 after police harasses him and confiscated his wares.

But the wave of uprisings was soon hijacked by imperial
ist powers, which engineered the 2011 coup in Libya and the ongoing war in Syria.

LIBERIA

Unity Party suspends Sirleaf

LIBERIA’S Unity Party said yesterday it had expelled out
going president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, apparently for refusing to support her vice-president Joseph Boakai’s election bid.

Assistant secretary-general Mohammed Ali accused Ms Sirleaf of sending supporters to campaign for George Weah, who won the December 26 run
off vote.

Mr Weah’s Congress for Democratic Change, a coal
ition formed to support him, is generally considered to be to

the right of the Unity Party. His vice-president, Jewel Howard-Taylor, is the ex-wife of former tyrant Charles Tay
lor and a member of the National Patriotic Party, which he is accused to control from prison.

In 2012, she attempted to push a law through parliament which he is believed to control

voked by the terrorists,” said Sir General Min Aung Hlaing.

There is no evidence to sug
gest that the men were terrorists.

“Some may worry, but I believe our investigation will prevent such things from hap
pening again,” Ms Suu Kyi said.

The Nobel peace prize laure
ate has presided over an army campaign against the country’s Rohingya Muslims, with over 1,000 killed by soldiers.

The UN has reported that the army has made “massive and systematic” use of rape, while over 650,000 people have fled to neighbouring Bangla
desh to seek refuge.

Military: Villagers in mass grave ‘at fault for deaths’

MYANMAR’S military admitted responsibility at the weekend for killing 10 Rohingya Muslims whose bodies were discovered in a mass grave in December.

The country’s de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi wel
comed the military’s pledge to investigate which of its sol
diers were responsible.

Troops involved and some vil
lagers who egged them on are under arrest. However, military command
ders quickly resumed their usual behaviour and said the 10 men had it coming.

“This incident happened because ethnic Buddhist villag
ers were threatened and pro
voked by the terrorists,” said Sir General Min Aung Hlaing.

There is no evidence to sug
gest that the men were terrorists.

“Some may worry, but I believe our investigation will prevent such things from hap
pening again,” Ms Suu Kyi said.

The Nobel peace prize laure
ate has presided over an army campaign against the country’s Rohingya Muslims, with over 1,000 killed by soldiers.

The UN has reported that the army has made “massive and systematic” use of rape, while over 650,000 people have fled to neighbouring Bangla
desh to seek refuge.

GOING STRONG: Thousands continued the protests yesterday
A small step forward for tenants

HOUSING Secretary Sajid Javid’s declared backing for Karen Buck’s private member’s Bill to empower tenants to sue landlords for failing to keep homes fit for human habitation could be an important step forward.

It would mark a major U-turn by the Tories who previously scuppered two attempts by the Labour backbenchers to achieve this reform.

Buck's first bid to amend the 1965 Landlord and Tenant Act to require residential rented accommodations to be “provided and maintained in a state of fitness for human habitation” was talked out by Tory MPs in 2015.

There was a second bite at the cherry when Labour’s shadow housing minister Theresa Peach took up Buck’s initiative, moving an amendment to the Housing and Planning Bill 2015-16, and a vote took place at least.

While 209 Labour MPs voted for it, along with six Liberal Democrats, two Plaid Cymru and two Demo-ocratic Unionists, 309 Tories crushed it, with the supermajority previously given local authorities powers to purchase empty properties in preference to greenfield development. Localities cannot put eco-system repair ahead of speculative ventures.

The plan doesn’t even mention the need for measures that would offer tenants protection from the next, looming, food crisis.

May’s plan is built on cynicism. Internal polling has told the Tories they have no chance of winning support from younger voters unless they come up with more convincing green/environmental policies.

This presented the Prime Minister with a problem. She and her hard right don’t give a stuff about the environment, food standards, animal welfare or environmental protection.

They want a post-Brexite world that looks more like the wild west. As a cover story, May needed a serious amount of window dressing and a big bag of trinkets. And that’s what you’ve got.

May’s plan is supposed to demonstrate the “greening of the Nasty Party” — it’s all empty promises, a losing battle and an insult to the public.

Of course, as ever, the devil will be in the detail and the fellowship of landlords, well represented in Parliament, will do everything possible to water down government proposals and efforts by Labour to beef them up.

Of course, as ever, the devil will be in the detail and the fellowship of landlords, well represented in Parliament, will do everything possible to water down government proposals and efforts by Labour to beef them up.

The government’s environment plan contains a bare minimum of action to deal with the twin scourges of homelessness and exploitation of tenants.

It sets no binding annual carbon budgets. There is no mention of aviation or any shift into clean transport systems.

The government will not restore the zero-carbon homes standard nor give local authorities powers to purchase empty properties in preference to greenfield development. Localities cannot put eco-system repair ahead of speculative ventures.

The list of big picture opportunities previously insisted that ministers should be told to “go swing.”

As a cover story, May needed a serious amount of window dressing and a big bag of trinkets. And that’s what you’ve got.

May’s plan is supposed to demonstrate the “greening of the Nasty Party.”

Its add-ons will include a retreat from any relicensing of fox-hunting — though no action against its illegal continuation — a restriction on the use of live animals in circuses, along with extending the plastic bags tax, a tax on takeaway coffee cups and some international action against accumulated plastic waste in the seas.

One look at their latest poster campaign tells you all you need to know.

A baby turtle makes its way across an empty beach, safe beneath the cover of the sea.

The real tragedy is that, within the government’s free-trade obsessions, the turtle is as good as done.

In any trade agreement Britain negotiates with US President Donald Trump or the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), environmental and eco-system protection will be told to “go swing.”

Theresa May knows this. She just needs more cover. Enter the unlikely figure of Michael Gove.

Gove may not be everyone’s image of a ruthless, but he has taken some responsibility for the government’s environment plan and for food and farming instead of empty promises.

“He’s pledged to protect animal welfare and biodiversity offer seductive, though undeliverable, assurances to both environmental and farming communities.”

And he’s been going down well. At recent food and farming conferences, delegates gave him a warm welcome — not because they were convinced but because they were desperate for reassurance.

All they wanted to know was that they figured somewhere, anywhere, on someone’s political agenda.

Labour has to take some responsibility for this sense of abandonment if only by allowing the issues to slip out of any exchanges that hold Theresa May to account.

Jeremy Corbyn’s personal manifesto, and the Labour one, offered radical commitments on sustainability policies.

Corbyn himself — in his lifestyle, diet, environmental affiliations and even on his allotment — stands in stark contrast to the superficiality of May’s approach to a one-planet politics.

We now know that Theresa May had previously insisted that ministers dumb down all climate and environment issues.

How else do you block public opposition to fracking, the case for zero-carbon homes or the refusal to meet legal air quality standards? How else do you explain the government’s year-after-year failure to meet its own annual tree planting targets? Why do the tenants always got the shove.

Beyond the trinkets in May’s 25-year plan, nothing has changed.

The government has to take some responsibility for this sense of abandonment if only by allowing the issues to slip out of any exchanges that hold Theresa May to account.

Jeremy Corbyn’s personal manifesto, and the Labour one, offered radical commitments on sustainability policies.

Corbyn himself — in his lifestyle, diet, environmental affiliations and even on his allotment — stands in stark contrast to the superficiality of May’s approach to a one-planet politics.

We now know that Theresa May had previously insisted that ministers dumb down all climate and environment issues.

How else do you block public opposition to fracking, the case for zero-carbon homes or the refusal to meet legal air quality standards? How else do you explain the government’s year-after-year failure to meet its own annual tree planting targets? Why do the tenants always got the shove.

Beyond the trinkets in May’s 25-year plan, nothing has changed.

The government has to take some responsibility for this sense of abandonment if only by allowing the issues to slip out of any exchanges that hold Theresa May to account.

Jeremy Corbyn’s personal manifesto, and the Labour one, offered radical commitments on sustainability policies.

Corbyn himself — in his lifestyle, diet, environmental affiliations and even on his allotment — stands in stark contrast to the superficiality of May’s approach to a one-planet politics.

We now know that Theresa May had previously insisted that ministers dumb down all climate and environment issues.

How else do you block public opposition to fracking, the case for zero-carbon homes or the refusal to meet legal air quality standards? How else do you explain the government’s year-after-year failure to meet its own annual tree planting targets? Why do the tenants always got the shove.

Beyond the trinkets in May’s 25-year plan, nothing has changed.

The government has to take some responsibility for this sense of abandonment if only by allowing the issues to slip out of any exchanges that hold Theresa May to account.

Jeremy Corbyn’s personal manifesto, and the Labour one, offered radical commitments on sustainability policies.

Corbyn himself — in his lifestyle, diet, environmental affiliations and even on his allotment — stands in stark contrast to the superficiality of May’s approach to a one-planet politics.

We now know that Theresa May had previously insisted that ministers dumb down all climate and environment issues.

How else do you block public opposition to fracking, the case for zero-carbon homes or the refusal to meet legal air quality standards? How else do you explain the government’s year-after-year failure to meet its own annual tree planting targets? Why do the tenants always got the shove.

Beyond the trinkets in May’s 25-year plan, nothing has changed.

The government has to take some responsibility for this sense of abandonment if only by allowing the issues to slip out of any exchanges that hold Theresa May to account.

Jeremy Corbyn’s personal manifesto, and the Labour one, offered radical commitments on sustainability policies.

Corbyn himself — in his lifestyle, diet, environmental affiliations and even on his allotment — stands in stark contrast to the superficiality of May’s approach to a one-planet politics.

We now know that Theresa May had previously insisted that ministers dumb down all climate and environment issues.

How else do you block public opposition to fracking, the case for zero-carbon homes or the refusal to meet legal air quality standards? How else do you explain the government’s year-after-year failure to meet its own annual tree planting targets? Why do the tenants always got the shove.

Beyond the trinkets in May’s 25-year plan, nothing has changed.

The government has to take some responsibility for this sense of abandonment if only by allowing the issues to slip out of any exchanges that hold Theresa May to account.

Jeremy Corbyn’s personal manifesto, and the Labour one, offered radical commitments on sustainability policies.

Corbyn himself — in his lifestyle, diet, environmental affiliations and even on his allotment — stands in stark contrast to the superficiality of May’s approach to a one-planet politics.

We now know that Theresa May had previously insisted that ministers dumb down all climate and environment issues.

How else do you block public opposition to fracking, the case for zero-carbon homes or the refusal to meet legal air quality standards? How else do you explain the government’s year-after-year failure to meet its own annual tree planting targets? Why do the tenants always got the shove.

Beyond the trinkets in May’s 25-year plan, nothing has changed.

The government has to take some responsibility for this sense of abandonment if only by allowing the issues to slip out of any exchanges that hold Theresa May to account.

Jeremy Corbyn’s personal manifesto, and the Labour one, offered radical commitments on sustainability policies.

Corbyn himself — in his lifestyle, diet, environmental affiliations and even on his allotment — stands in stark contrast to the superficiality of May’s approach to a one-planet politics.

We now know that Theresa May had previously insisted that ministers dumb down all climate and environment issues.

How else do you block public opposition to fracking, the case for zero-carbon homes or the refusal to meet legal air quality standards? How else do you explain the government’s year-after-year failure to meet its own annual tree planting targets? Why do the tenants always got the shove.

Beyond the trinkets in May’s 25-year plan, nothing has changed.

The government has to take some responsibility for this sense of abandonment if only by allowing the issues to slip out of any exchanges that hold Theresa May to account.

Jeremy Corbyn’s personal manifesto, and the Labour one, offered radical commitments on sustainability policies.

Corbyn himself — in his lifestyle, diet, environmental affiliations and even on his allotment — stands in stark contrast to the superficiality of May’s approach to a one-planet politics.

We now know that Theresa May had previously insisted that ministers dumb down all climate and environment issues.

How else do you block public opposition to fracking, the case for zero-carbon homes or the refusal to meet
A WARRIOR WOMAN: Eleanor Marx

Eleanor Marx still inspires today’s warrior women

TARANJIT CHANA reminds us to recognise the migrant women workers who continue to fight tirelessly for the labour movement.

As we celebrate 100 years of women’s suffering, we must not forget the strikes and “down tools” activism of black women workers at Imperial Typewriters, Burnssall, Gate Goumsent, Chix Bubblegum, Hillingdon Hospital, Fast Forward, Chemilines, Medi Rest, Lufthansa Sky Chef, Armakam Workers and not omitting the women at the heart of the Grunwick dispute led by the amazing Jayaben Desai, who incidentally was awarded the Blue badge by our late Mary Turner at GMB Congress in 2012.

In fact, Mary Turner, a giant of the trade union movement and inspiration to many, fought for the most oppressed and marginalised in society. She took on the giants of all oppression. She was the subject of an anniversary address.

It is important to recognise and acknowledge black women workers who too fight tirelessly, making a difference not only in the workplace but society generally.

ANC’s courting of the very rich is concerning

I would suggest that without the voices of the most progressive elements being listened to and without the ropes of proper accountability being pulled it becomes possible for even those of unimpeachable qualities to segue seamlessly to the top tiers of unaccountability to the masses in a nationalist organisation like the ANC, or even the South African Communist Party. No-one is superhuman.

Twenty-three years after the fall of apartheid, the 2011 census showed that nearly two million families in South Africa were living in shacks or informal dwellings, many with no or poor sanitation, running water, electricity access or healthcare etc.

For all its faults, the early Soviet Union embarked on the gargantuan task of housing its millions in accommodation which while not pretty, was in many cases light years away from the lack of running water, electricity, hygiene and healthcare known to many previously. This was achieved within 20 or so years — and without the existing facilities of a modern capitalist state like South Africa.

Sweetheart deals with international capitalism do not result in building a state for the many, not the few, let alone the gradual dawning of a new society based on equality.

Manchester

W J BRUNT

ANC’s courting of the very rich is concerning

Media

BBC Culture and pay clearly need a radical overhaul

It goes without saying that women and men should enjoy equal levels of pay at the BBC, as elsewhere. But the refusal of the BBC’s China editor, Carrie Gracie, to be placated by the offer of an extra £45,000 on top of the annual income of £135,000 (M Star January 9) casts light on a different issue — the exorbitant salaries which some journalists are receiving from the public purse.

BBC presenters threw a collective wobble when Labour’s Jeremy Corbyn almost won the last general election. But now the likes of Radio 4’s John “£600,000-a-year” Humphrys, Eddie Mair and the execrable Nick Robinson have resumed their smug, proprietorial tones, only too happy to toe the Establishment line and rake in the cash.

It’s a long while since the BBC has fulfilled its brief to provide us with an impartial and informative news service. If the corporation had an annual salary cap of, say, a handsome £60,000 (including for the director-general), there would be plenty of talented journalists willing and able to do at least as competent a job as the present incumbents — and, crucially, probably a more honest one.

PETER GODFREY
Isle of Harris

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC’s courting of the very rich is concerning

Cyril Ramaphosa was elected as the new African National Congress (ANC) president last month on a pledge to root out corruption wherever it thrived, in the party state or elsewhere.

I would suggest that installing the sec- tion to top tiers of unaccountability to the masses in a nationalist organisation like the ANC, or even the South African Communist Party. No-one is superhuman.

Twenty-three years after the fall of apartheid, the 2011 census showed that nearly two million families in South Africa were living in shacks or informal dwellings, many with no or poor sanitation, running water, electricity access or healthcare etc.

For all its faults, the early Soviet Union embarked on the gargantuan task of housing its millions in accommodation which while not pretty, was in many cases light years away from the lack of running water, electricity, hygiene and healthcare known to many previously. This was achieved within 20 or so years — and without the existing facilities of a modern capitalist state like South Africa.

Sweetheart deals with international capitalism do not result in building a state for the many, not the few, let alone the gradual dawning of a new society based on equality.

Manchester

W J BRUNT

ANC’s courting of the very rich is concerning

Media

BBC Culture and pay clearly need a radical overhaul

It goes without saying that women and men should enjoy equal levels of pay at the BBC, as elsewhere. But the refusal of the BBC’s China editor, Carrie Gracie, to be placated by the offer of an extra £45,000 on top of the annual income of £135,000 (M Star January 9) casts light on a different issue — the exorbitant salaries which some journalists are receiving from the public purse.

BBC presenters threw a collective wobble when Labour’s Jeremy Corbyn almost won the last general election. But now the likes of Radio 4’s John “£600,000-a-year” Humphrys, Eddie Mair and the execrable Nick Robinson have resumed their smug, proprietorial tones, only too happy to toe the Establishment line and rake in the cash.

It’s a long while since the BBC has fulfilled its brief to provide us with an impartial and informative news service. If the corporation had an annual salary cap of, say, a handsome £60,000 (including for the director-general), there would be plenty of talented journalists willing and able to do at least as competent a job as the present incumbents — and, crucially, probably a more honest one.

PETER GODFREY
Isle of Harris
CURRENT AFFAIRS

A threat to workers’ rights and democracy in Europe

A new book stresses the need for a continent-wide alternative to the neoliberal bent of the current Brexit negotiations, says JOHN FOSTER

EU and Britain: Workers’ Rights and Economic Democracy

Edited by Carolyn Jones

Employment Rights, (8)

The biggest threat is not so much EU laws as the EU treaties on which they are based. But EU policy, derived from the Lisbon Treaty, sees collective bargaining itself — the direct exercise of power by trade unions in wage setting — as detrimental to the operation of the free market.

Hans Modrow, former president of Germany’s Die Linke, underscored the consequences of this social and political reversion. The destruction of hopes and expectations driven by the EU’s austerity policies and its neoliberal, pro-business solutions to crisis, is directly associated with “the weakening of the social struggles of the community at large,” opening the way for the right.

This is what happens in Britain is so important for workers across Europe and Modrow spells out the real alternative: “The Labour Party has gained new support from many sections of the public based on principles of working-class collective action, public ownership and social solidarity. This result has opened up new hopes for working people across the whole of Europe.”

The challenge for us now, Modrow asserts, “is to place these principles at the top priority in the negotiations on the future of Britain’s relations with the EU … whereby Britain would not be subject to the neoliberal competition policies of the EU but instead would base her freedoms on the principles of economic and social solidarity.”

■ Copies available from the Institute of Employment Rights, ier.org.uk.

FROM THE PRESS

Labour Party position on strengthen-

ing the power of unions.

The author sees the growing disillusionment born of all these factors as fuelling the election of Trump, the vote for Brexit and the rise of Corbyn. The election of a Labour leader is very much mainstream — Peston recognises the enormous forces that brought him to power. Hence he does not seem to embrace the idea of a Corbyn-led Labour Improvement. And he espouses the mainstream orthodoxy that Labour only did so well in last June’s election because Remainers came in fully behind the party, going on to suggest that future Labour electoral success depends on the party strongly advocating remain- ing in the EU.

There are interesting chapters on the growing power of social media, and the challenges represented by automation, with Peston identifying the way in which the latest industrial revolution are man- al and often unskilled workers who are NOT in a position to vote in numbers, are endangered among the disillusioned and disempowered.

Yet the identification of solutions — among them, Peston proffers a universal basic income, addressing productivity failures, a more active role for the state in regional interest rates and a uniform one per cent tax on those with £500,000 plus in wealth — are thinner on the ground. In throwing some light on how we got into the present mess and making suggestions as to how it can be escaped, WTF is well worth a read.

Given Peston’s media profile, don’t expect any revolutionary solu-

tions.

PAUL DONOVAN
Contact campaigns@peoples-press.com to join future activity for the Star in your area

**Sudoku**

Tough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Solution tomorrow...

Tell us what you’d like to see more of in your paper and email editorial@peoples-press.com

**Fighting Fund**

YOU’VE RAISED: £7,295
WE NEED: £10,705

IF I were pushed to come up with a 60s-themed movie pun to sum up the Tories’ inability to deal with monsters of their own creation, this week’s offering might be Carillon Screaming (cue Kenneth Williams groaning theatrically).

Like some of the jokes in the original Hammer Horror send-up, the Tories’ policy of putting their eggs in one privatised basket has not aged well. We’re watching yet another company, bloated with blood sucked from public sector projects and incapable of properly delivering anything but shareholder profits, placed in a “too big to fail” situation which we’ll have to bail out. It’s a proper horror story, replete with vampiric business bosses, zombie neoliberal politicians and fist-waving national media.

But we, dear readers, are the only paper which consistently backs the only worthwhile plan to save the village — light our torches and put a socialist stake in the heart of the beast.

The rightist press calls for us to sacrifice yet more citizens to the monsters. The likes of the Graun wring their hands and hide under a wreath of garlic. We need a strong voice to put these horrors down and, as ever, in the absence of tycoon funding or big business advertising, we rely on heroes like you.

Every penny you give and raise for us goes into fighting for a world free of bloodsuckers, where we can live without constantly having to look over our shoulders for the next threat.

**Give by post...**
Payable to PFF to: Fighting Fund, 52 Beachy Rd, London E3 2N5

**Phone...**
From 10am-5pm on (020) 8510-0815

**Or online...**
At morningstar online.co.uk/support

**TODAY’S WEATHER**

- **GLASGOW**
  
  Heavy rain shower
  
  6°C max, feels like 3°C
  
  Wind 11mph W
  
  63% chance of rain

- **LIVERPOOL**
  
  Heavy rain shower
  
  9°C max, feels like 5°C
  
  Wind 10mph WNW
  
  81% chance of rain

- **SHEFFIELD**
  
  Heavy rain shower
  
  9°C max, feels like 6°C
  
  Wind 11mph W
  
  73% chance of rain

- **BIRMINGHAM**
  
  Light rain shower
  
  9°C max, feels like 6°C
  
  Wind 13mph W
  
  89% chance of rain

- **CARDIFF**
  
  Heavy rain
  
  10°C max, feels like 7°C
  
  Wind 16mph W
  
  94% chance of rain

- **PLYMOUTH**
  
  Light rain shower
  
  11°C max, feels like 8°C
  
  Wind 16mph W
  
  67% chance of rain

- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  
  Heavy rain
  
  11°C max, feels like 8°C
  
  Wind 16mph WSW
  
  90% chance of rain

**NEXT FEW DAYS...**

Strong cold winds and wintry showers will continue, perhaps thundery in the north-west. Snow is likely to settle in the north. Possibly wet and windy in the south on Thursday.

**TV & RADIO**

**RUSTBELT REVIVAL?**
Detroit Muslim Mike Hacham, who voted for Donald Trump

A year of Trump as president? It feels like a flippin’ lifetime

by Neil Jenkin

LIKE many, I find myself unable to look away from the hideous slo-mo pile-up that is Donald Trump’s presidency. Tonight’s Panorama (8.30pm BBC1) titled Trump Voters: One Year On heads to the boon- docks and rustbelts to hear from Trump supporters who hoped that he would “make America great again.” Has the man-child’s shambles of a year in office put them off voting for him next time?

We’ve had Geldof on Yeats, Gabriel Byrne on Shaw: this week’s celeb roped in by RTÉ to dish us up a slice of Irish culture is US actor Angela Huxton, who presents veteran film-maker David Blake Knox’s profile of James Joyce, A Shout in the Street (9pm BBC4).

Writers John Banville, Anne Enright, Colm Tóibín and David Simon chip in with their perspectives on the author of the mighty Ulysses and, gulp, the inpenetrable Finnegan’s Wake. It’s a lot to pack into an hour.

They’ve been digging through the archives again at BBC 6 Music and pulled out a plum: a three-part documentary from 2006 on the life and work of the great blues, soul and R&B singers, pulled out a plum: a three-part documentary from 2006 on the life and work of the great blues, soul and jazz singer Etta James, presented by another great, Candid Staton.

Blues to the Bone — the Life of Etta James (2am) tells a pretty sad story, despite some glorious music. It’s a reminder of just how the high the odds were stacked against even the most gifted of African-American women in James’s heyday. Tonight’s first episode tells of her troubled childhood in California and her early sides for Chicago’s Chess label.
EONAZIS, including the one who fatally ran down counter-protester Heather Heyer with his car, were part of last August’s infamous “alt-right” riot in Charlottesville, Virginia. Now, a panel of historians says, there are more parallels than people realise between the US “alt-right” and its allies and the real nazis — the ones led by Adolf Hitler in Germany from the 1920s to 1945.

Not only that but Hitler’s nazis used US race laws — those creating Jim Crow, outlawing so-called “miscegenation,” establishing “Black Codes” and encouraging the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) — as a basis for their own racist legislation against Jews.

Those infamous Nuremberg Laws, stripping Jews of citizenship and many ways to even make a living, preceded and foreshadowed the “final solution,” the genocide of six million European Jews in nazi extermination camps during World War II.

Those were among the points made by a panel of historians on “Antisemitism and racism: sources, similarities, and differences” during the American Historical Association convention in Washington DC on January 6.

And the similarities are not just found in the US either, the panelists said.

Professors Jeffrey Herf and Piotr Kozicki of the University of Maryland at College Park, James Whitman of Yale, Mirna Zakic of Ohio University and moderator Aaron Rabenbach of Princeton all made the point that the equivalent of the alt-rightists in Western Europe also follow nazi lines, with one occasional political exception.

Some of “the new rightists in Europe are clothing themselves in philosemitism,” said Rabenbach, admiring Israel’s current right-wing government and its anti-Arab policies, but for their own racist anti-Muslim reasons.

Such sentiment is uncommon, Herf retorted. “The major themes of the far right are the myth of the Holocaust and, in Germany, the extermination myth of the Israeli state,” he said.

Nevertheless, the panelists spent much of their time tracing parallels between the ideologies and rise of the alt right in the US and the ideologies accompanying the nazis’ rise in Germany, along with the nazi’s actions there when they took power.

“It’s a fair statement to say so many of us working on nazi Germany and the Holocaust have thought a lot about the long-term shadow” that era casts, Herf said.

“From a political point of view, I hope historians of US racism and nazi anti-semitism will find more common ground than they have in the past.”

They certainly found it in Charlotteville, the panel said. The alt-right, neo-nazis, KKK and their allies who rioted there, presumably defending a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, not only killed one person, along with two state troopers whose helicopter crashed, but injured between 19 and 36 other people, including an African-American man severely beaten in a parking garage.

by Mark Gruenberg

And they did so while screaming vicious chants against minorities in general and Jews in particular.

The rioters also advocate repression of those minorities and that’s where the parallels between the Black Codes and the Jim Crow laws of the US and the nazi’s Nuremberg Laws come in.

In his paper, which Rabenbach read on his behalf, Yale’s Whitman described how a team of 35 nazi jurists and lawyers travelled to the US in the early 1930s to study and ask questions about the Jim Crow laws and similar legislation, not just in Southern states but nationwide.

Those laws included statutes making “miscegenation” — intermarriage between the races — a felony and ensuring what Whitman, in an under-statement, called “second-class citizenship” for African-Americans, Native Americans, Filipinos, and Latin Americans.”

The nazis also noted that the carnage of World War I had left the US as the world’s dominant economic power. Using their own ideology, they made the link to racism. Whitman’s paper added. “Hitler believed racism made America a rising world power, so it would also do so for Germany.”

But in another parallel with the rise of the “alt-right,” it wasn’t just the nazis who believe that ideology and it wasn’t just Jews who were targets of racists in pre-World War II Europe, the historians warned.

While Hitler and the nazis called European Jews “enemies and parasites,” the pre-war Catholic primate of Poland — an intensely devout country 71 per cent Catholic and 11 per cent Jewish — alleged that Jews “engaged in violence and white slavery,” one speaker said. Meanwhile, Protestant churches “promoted anti-semitism.”

“But anti-semitic rhetoric was also used against Slavs, Bolsheviks, and capitalists,” Rabenbach added. Another parallel based hatred on both exaggerated notions of Jewish power and Christian theology of Jews as Christ-killers. The Catholic church did not abandon its anti-semitism, Whitman’s paper noted. And unlike the Nazis, the others were not “believed to be engaged … in a dangerous political threat against Germany that had to be exterminated to save the nation.”

The Jews were and that led to Hitler’s “Final Solution.”

The historians drew parallels between support for Hitler among German Junkers, aristocrats, industrialists, and the masses — all for their own reasons — and current US neonazis and other alt-rightists drawing everything from silent acquiescence to outright backing from segments of US society.

In particular, they focused on the reaction, or lack of it, to US President Donald Trump’s statement that “good people” exist among the “alt-right,” neonazi and KKK rioters.

“My greatest fear is that we are living with the consequences” of the nazis’ era of 1933–45 and the rise of the alt-right and their allies now, said Rabenbach. “The White House says ‘The people have spoken. There is no further truth to discuss.’” That echoes neo-nazis propaganda, he added.

Omitted from his summation was that the nazis won only one-third of the vote and one-third of the Reichstag’s 584 seats in the last free elections in Germany before they took power and actually lost votes and 34 seats. Trump lost the US popular vote to Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

“There are truths that cannot be put to a vote,” Rabenbach stated.

“That principle was abandoned in American race law and at the height of nazi Germany. I fear we are at the cusp of this again.”

This article first appeared at peoplesworld.org.
**MEN’S FOOTBALL: PREMIER LEAGUE**

**Another record falls for Kane as Spurs ease past Everton**

**Tottenham 4-0 Everton**  
by Samantha Miller  
at Wembley

HARRY KANE set a new record for Tottenham on Saturday, scoring his 98th goal for the club, more than any other Spurs player.

His brace saw him leapfrog Teddy Sheringham and help his side in the battle to secure a top-four finish in the Premier League.

Mauricio Pochettino’s side cruised past the Tooness and Everton boss Sam Allardyce took the blame for the loss, suggesting they should play more “boring” football.

Spurs left back Ben Davies is one of Tottenham’s most improved players after getting regular game time this season, once again slotting in for the injured Danny Rose.

The Welsh international said: “Kane is world-class and when you play against someone like him everyday you’re only going to get better. It’s just about finding out how to stop him sometimes.”

“Teams are struggling to keep Kane quiet in games. It’s not just goals he brings to the table but also his contribution to his teammates, bringing them into the game, combination play and his desire to track back and pick up the ball in deeper areas to drive the team forward.”

Spurs will be hoping they can keep hold of Kane as the England striker draws the attention of other clubs with his impressive form.

It’s easy to forget he was once called a “one-season wonder” and failed to score a single goal in August.

Southampton will look for a way to stop Kane at St Mary’s next weekend, with their previous encounter — at Wembley on Boxing Day — seeing him score a hat-trick.

**Chelsea’s slump continues in draw with Foxes**

**Chelsea 0-0 Leicester**  
by Amar Azam  
at Stamford Bridge

THE suggestion has been there for a while that this Chelsea side is on the verge of imploding.

Chelsea’s players may be doing a good job of keeping it together, or so it would seem, but this goalless draw on Saturday, their third on the spin, is reaffirming the speculation that there is trouble ahead.

At the end of this match, it seemed that the cracks were beginning to show.

There was a smattering of jeers from the Stamford Bridge faithful at the final whistle as Chelsea struggled against 10-man Leicester City.

In truth, Claude Puel’s men, vibrant and full of ideas, were very unlucky not to convert one of what was a number of chances against a Chelsea side that was a pale imitation of themselves.

Not only were the likes of Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez on top form but the players around them were showing that they are able to match more powerful opponents.

Attention again fell on Spanish striker Alvaro Morata, whose barren spell has now extended to five matches.

His brace in deep areas to drive the team forward."

Chelsea will be hoping they can keep hold of Kane as the England striker draws the attention of other clubs with his impressive form.

It’s easy to forget he was once called a “one-season wonder” and failed to score a single goal in August.

Southampton will look for a way to stop Kane at St Mary’s next weekend, with their previous encounter — at Wembley on Boxing Day — seeing him score a hat-trick.

**MEN’S BOXING**

Joshua to fight Parker in March

ANTHONY JOSHUA will continue his quest to be crowned the undisputed world heavyweight champion when he faces New Zealander Joseph Parker in Cardiff on March 31.

Joshua, who holds the WBA and IBF versions of the title, will add Parker’s WBO belt if he triumphs at the Millennium Stadium, leaving only WBC champion Deontay Wilder on his title hit-list.

Yesterday’s announcement brings an end to months of fractious negotiations with Parker, who defended his crown with a points win over Hughie Fury in Manchester in September and was holding out for a bigger percentage of the purse.

It will be Joshua’s first fight since a gruelling late stoppage win over replacement Carlos Takam at the same venue in October and a win will move him closer to his goal of being the first heavyweight to hold all four major belts simultaneously.

Parker, who has won 18 of his 24 professional bouts inside the distance, is the natural next step for Joshua despite his underwhelming performance against the back-pedalling Fury, when he escaped with a majority decision.

The 26-year-old claimed the WBO crown by beating Andy Ruiz Jr in Auckland in December 2016 and made a low-key defence against Razvan Cojana before venturing out of the southern hemisphere for only the fourth time in his career.

Joshua will begin his quest to become the unified heavyweight champion of the world against Parker, who is rated the second-best in the world by various publications and has not lost since 2010.

The pair will fight for all four titles, with Joshua looking to extend his unbeaten record to 22 fights and Parker out to continue his reign as the WBO champion.

**IN BRIEF**

Crusaders stay top with 1-0 win

NORTHERN IRELAND:  
Crusaders still top the Irish Premiership by one point after Jordan Owens’s injury-time winner sealed their 1-0 win over Ards.

Coleraine stayed second with a 1-0 win at Dungannon, Glentoran needed a stoppage-time goal to earn a 1-1 draw with Cliftonville, Ballymena beat Carrick 3-0 and there was more late action at Ballinamallard where James Knowles’s 93rd minute free-kick claimed a 2-2 draw for Glentoran.

Warrenpoint’s game with Linfield was postponed.

TNS extend lead at the top to 12 points

WALES:  
The New Saints extended their lead in the Welsh Premier League to 12 points after they saw off Bangor 2-1 and second-placed Caernarfon’s Quay were surprisingly thumped 4-2 at Aberystwyth.

Cefn Druids qualified for the Championship Group for the first time in their history following a 0-0 draw with Llandudno, Prestatyn lost their eighth consecutive league match, 3-0 at Newtown, Cardiff Met beat bottom club Carmarthen 2-0 and Bala won 1-0 at Barry Town.

St Mirren beat Dumbarton 2-0

SCOTLAND:  
St Mirren increased their lead at the top of the Scottish Championship to eight points after they eased to a 2-0 win at Dumbarton and Dundee United could only manage a 0-0 draw with Dunfermline.

Falkirk’s recent improvement continued thanks to a 1-0 win at Greenock Morton, Inverness beat Queen of the South 3-1 and Livingston condemned bottom club Brechin to a 2-0 defeat, leaving them 16 points adrift from safety.

Blues pick up their second WSL victory

WOMEN’S FOOTBALL:  
Birmingham claimed their second win of the Women’s Super League season with a 2-0 victory over Bristol City at Solihull Moors.

Aofie Mannion gave the home side the lead from the penalty spot in the 54th minute after Sarah Mayes was foiled by Caitlin Leach in the box.

Charlie Wellings drilled home the second six minutes later from a Marisa Ewers cross.
Federer: A 36-year-old should not be favourite

Defending Australian Open champion disputes notion he will win tournament

by Our Sports Desk

ROGER FEDERER prefers to think of Rafael Nadal or Novak Djokovic as the favourites for the Australian Open title, which begins today, despite entering as defending champion and having a worry-free preparation.

“I play down my chances just because I don’t think a 36-year-old should be a favourite of a tournament,” Federer said yesterday on the eve of the year’s first grand slam tournament. “It should not be the case.”

“That’s why I see things more relaxed, you know, at a later stage of my career.”

The 19-time major winner can afford to relax slightly longer, given the half of the draw that he shares with Djokovic doesn’t start until day two. Top-ranked Nadal will get under way tonight against Victor Estrella Burgos in the Rod Laver Arena, where he lost the final in five sets to Federer last year.

All four singles finalists were 30 or older last year but decided against defending her title because she didn’t have enough time to recover from health issues after a complicated childbirth in September.

Venus Williams is seeded fifth and is the second match scheduled on centre court to get her 77th major under way with a challenging opener against Belinda Bencic.

She’s 4-0 in career head-to-heads against 20-year-old Bencic, who reached a career-high No 7 in 2015. In 2014, she helped Federer win the Hopman Cup title for Switzerland earlier this month. But she has an abbreviated preparation that included a loss in the second round to eventual champion Angelique Kerber at the Sydney International last week.

At 37, Venus Williams is among the top contenders at Melbourne Park. Others in action today include seventh-seeded Jelena Ostapenko, who meets Francesca Schiavone in a rematch for featuring current v former French Open champions, No 2-ranked Caroline Wozniacki, who opens against Mihaela Buzarnescu, and US Open champion Sloane Stephens against Zhang Shuai.

Simona Halep is the No 1 seed in the women’s draw and one of six women who can hold the No 1 ranking at the end of the Australian Open. Halep, who has a back-to-back first-round exit on her last two trips to Melbourne Park, opens on day two against Australian wildcard entry Destanee Aiava.

Only two men can hold the top ranking in the first week of February, Nadal or Federer, regardless of what No 3 Grigor Dimitrov, No 4 Alexander Zverev or anybody else does in Melbourne.

by Our Sports Desk

Hodgson on Sako: I can’t ask for more

by Maamum Hajmahmoud

BAKARY SAKO’S solo-effort helped Crystal Palace to a 2-0 win against West Brom at The Hawthorns.

The Mali international’s first-half goal was enough to give Crystal Palace an important victory over Sean Dyche’s Burnley at Selhurst Park on Saturday.

The game ebbed and flowed with both teams having opportunities to go ahead in the opening period. However, the decisive goal was scored when Sako drifted in from the left-hand side and rifled a deflected effort past Nick Pope.

Palace looked to double their advantage soon afterwards but James McCarthy couldn’t make use of Wilfried Zaha’s cross as Ben Mee did enough to put him off taping into an open goal.

Despite defender Sako almost doubled his tally by scoring one of the goals of the season as he volleyed Timothy Fosu-Mensah’s cross just inches past the upright, sending the visitors into half-time fortune to be just one goal down. The Mali international’s performance pleased his manager Roy Hodgson, who praised the striker for grasping his opportunity.

“Three goals in three games. As a manager you can’t ask for more than that. He must be delighted, he has waited a long time for his chance,” said Hodgson.

“But of course, as the game goes on and he gets a little bit tired, some bad old habits start to creep in. But they’re habits that he’s working very hard to get out of his game. ‘We’re absolutely delighted with a) his goal and also his work rate. That’s one thing we can’t criticise Bakary for — ever’.

Despite the result, Burnley manager Sean Dyche wasn’t too disappointed, he was left waiting for his own side’s performance.

“It was close, close with no cigar. They were better than us in the first half, not by miles, just had that feeling. Second half … we probably deserved to scratch a draw out of the game in the end.”

“The margins are tighter. This season we’re winning a lot of games where the margin’s tight in them. I still think we’ve moved a long way from where we were last season, particularly away from home.”

Second half was a case of taking that game on today, and, like I said, arguably, we probably deserved to scratch something out of it.”

by Our Sports Desk

Pardew ‘powerless’ to prevent Evans leaving

by Simon Williams

West Brom 2-0 Brighton

WEST BROM manager Alan Pardew knows that speculation surrounding the future of Jonny Evans is “unsettling.”

The Baggies captain, who has been linked with a January move to Arsenal, Manchester City and former club Manchester United, scored the opening goal in his side’s 2-0 home win against Brighton at The Hawthorns on Saturday.

Evans (pictured) gave his side the lead after four minutes, arriving at the back post to head in Jay Rodriguez’s flick-on from a Matt Phillips corner, before Craig Dawson scored a header of his own 10 minutes after the break.

Despite their victory, their first in the league for 21 games, Albion remain in the relegation zone and Pardew may be keen to use the £35 million that he would get for the Northern Irish internationals to reinvest in the squad.

However, Pardew did confirm that the club had not yet received a formal bid for the 30-year-old defender despite all the speculation.

He said: “I’ve been honest with Jonny. We haven’t had a bid, but, if we have a bid, then we might have to think about it because of the situation with the balance of the squad. But we’ll see what happens if and when a bid comes in.

“I’ve been in this situation many, many times as an experienced manager in this sort of club where the top clubs can come and take my players, I’ve always had that. I’ve never been at a top club where I’ve been able to say: ‘You can’t have him.’

“So it’s not unusual for me, but it is unsettling and it is the nature of the beast. But one thing I will say to you is that the press will probably know even before I know, we are always the last to know. I’m not making that up. It’s actually true.”

Pardew admitted it may be difficult to keep hold of Evans who was the subject of intense interest from a number of Premier League sides last summer but ended up staying at the Black Country side when Tony Pulis was at the helm.

He said: “The ambitions of the player are such that how many times are you going to say ‘No’ to a player?

“Obviously in the summer he was going to go, but I’m not sure what happened as I haven’t really asked him the detail because I don’t want him to know. I want to know what is happening now.”

“I’m happy with him and, until a bid comes in, any bid, we haven’t really got anything to talk about.”
OH MANE! LIVERPOOL STOP UNBEATEN CITY

Attacker on the scoresheet as Reds hold on in thrilling win

Liverpool 4-3 Man City
by James Nafton
at Anfield

MANCHESTER City's 22-game unbeaten run came to an end in spectacular fashion at Anfield yesterday where Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool ran riot. Goals from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah had the stadium rocking as the home side moved up to third in the table.

Liverpool showed their intent early on when Joel Matip's long ball was sent through to Mane by Firmino, but the winger's touch was poor and the chance was gone.

Klopp's side didn't let City have the time on the ball they have perhaps been better positioned to make this show on the midfield and the Englishman was able to make this show on the opposition were able to assert some dominance on the ball as they jinked through the box.

Liverpool were eventually able to make this show on the scoreboard when Firmino found Oxlade-Chamberlain in midfield and the Englishman drove at the City backline before firing across Ederson and inside the far post. The floodgates opened in the second half and any errors which occurred during the goal Liverpool conceded were soon forgotten.

Firmino was first up, shrugging off Stones before he had the chance to react but he could have perhaps been better positioned.