THE TORY government should continue to sell deadly weapons to Saudi Arabia, Damian Green insisted yesterday, despite being warned that 150,000 children will die in Yemen as a result.

Theresa May's deputy told the Commons that British jobs would be at risk if weapons sales to the Saudis stopped because of concerns over war crimes committed during the three-year bombing campaign.

Mr Green was standing in at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday as Ms May flew to the Middle East for a three-day trip to drum up business for trade.

Scottish National Party leader in the Commons Ian Blackford pressed Mr Green over weapons sales to Saudi Arabia in a heated Commons exchange.

Mr Blackford blasted: “The UK government has received £4.6 billion in selling arms to Saudi Arabia since the war in Yemen began. A war which has created a devastating humanitarian crisis.

“Yemen is now on the brink of famine and Unicef has said that 150,000 children will die by the end of this year.

“Doesn’t the First Secretary agree that the best thing the Prime Minister can do with her meetings today is follow the example of the Netherlands and suspend licences for arms sales to Saudi Arabia?”

However Mr Green told MPs it would be a mistake for the government to stop selling weapons to Saudi Arabia, despite a reported 10,000 deaths and millions affected by a cholera epidemic, as it might put jobs at risk.

He also reminded Mr Blackford that the conflict had the backing of the United Nations security council.

Former defence secretary Michael Fallon caused a stir last month when he suggested MPs should stop criticising Saudi Arabia over human rights abuses and possible war crimes as it was hindering the sale of British-made weapons. And anti-war campaigners failed in their High Court bid to bring a judicial review earlier this year pausing arms sales, despite the government being advised by three influential Commons committees to do so pending investigations.

Mr Green claimed that Britain has “one of the most rigorous and robust defence sales regimes in the world,” which he said was recognised in a court case last July.

Saudi Arabia is currently on the government's own human rights watch list amid concerns over widespread abuses in the country, including state execution of children and the use of torture.

continuing the sale of weapons to Riyadh is the right thing to do for Britain's prosperity, according to Mr Green.

The PM is under pressure to raise the issue of child executions by the Saudi state during her visit to discuss post-Brexit trade deals.

Human rights organisation Reprieve said the Prime Minister arrived in Riyadh just after the 125th person had been killed this year.
FAR RIGHT

Trump in trouble for Tweets backing Britain First boss

by Felicity Collier

DONALD TRUMP sparked worldwide condemnation yet again yesterday after he retweeted a string of anti-Muslim videos by the deputy leader of far-right group Britain First.

The posts by Jayda Fransen, who is currently facing multiple charges of causing religiously aggravated harassment, included unverified videos titled “Muslim destroys a Statue of Virgin Mary!” and “Muslim migrant beats up Dutch boy on crutches!”

At least 20 videos of a similar nature were posted in a 24-hour period on Ms Fransen’s page, three of which were retweeted by US president’s account to his 43.6 million followers.

Ms Fransen’s account, which is verified by Twitter, welcomed the apparent endorsement: “Donald Trump himself has retweeted these videos and has around 44 million followers! God bless you Trump! God bless America!”

Mr Trump has previously said he considered retweets to be endorsements, saying: “You know, I retweet, I retweet for a reason.”

In 2015, he made hate-filled posts saying Britain had a “massive Muslim problem.”

Ms Fransen and Britain First leader Paul Golding were charged with causing religiously aggravated harassment after handing out leaflets in Kent and posting videos online, in September.

Last year, Ms Fransen was convicted of religiously aggravated harassment after hurling abuse at a Muslim woman wearing a hijab.

Unite Against Fascism joint secretary Weyman Bennett said: “Britain First rubbed shoulders with fascists at the large, far-right demonstration in Warsaw, just weeks ago. It was “wrong” for President Trump to retweet videos posted by far-right group.

Downing Street said after Labour called for his actions to be condemned.

BANKING

Up to 100 jobs at risk from Lloyds cuts

by Our News Desk

LOYDS banking group have announced the closure of 49 branches, leaving almost 100 people without jobs.

Branches under the Halifax, Bank of Scotland and Lloyds brands will be affected by the move, revealed yesterday.

The lender said the closure programme comes partly in response to the declining use of bank branches as customers turn to internet and mobile banking.

However union Unite called the closures “unnecessary” and said they were leaving more communities without access to local banking.

Unite national officer Rob MacGregor said: “Lloyds Banking Group [LBG] needs to stop ignoring its corporate social responsibilities.

“Those today will not be welcomed by staff or the customers left with no access to local banking.”

Earlier this year, the lender said it would shut down 100 branches as it swung the axe on 200 jobs.

Unite is urging the banking group to reconsider the latest round of closures and to guarantee that no compulsory redundancies are made.

Last month the bank unveiled a hefty rise in third-quarter profits with pre-tax profits more than doubling to £1.95 billion.

A Lloyds spokesman insisted that branches remain a “key part of the service” it offers.

WESTMINSTER

Minister shamed for letting down victims of sex assaults

by Lamiat Sabin

DAMIAN GREEN was shamed in the Commons yesterday after Labour demanded he apologise on behalf of the government for letting down victims of sexual assault, while the minister himself is being investigated over allegations of harassment.

Labour MP John Mann asked the First Secretary of State, who was standing in for Theresa May in Prime Minister’s Question’s, to apologise.

Speaking in the Commons, he said: “Does he [Mr Green] agree with me that government and Parliament need to lead by example and will he on behalf of government apologise to the victims that Parliament and government have been letting down?”

The question was met with silence in the House as Mr Green is still being investigated over alleged inappropriately advances towards a young female activist and claims that police officers found porn on a work computer.

Shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry — standing in for Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn while Ms May was in Saudi Arabia — also pointed to allegations against Mr Green.

She asked whether he was “happy to be held to the same standards in government that he required of others in opposition.”

DENNIS SKINNER said yesterday that Brexit voters in his constituency would prefer a rumoured £60 billion due to be paid to Brussels be spent in Britain instead.

The Labour MP for Bolsover said 70 per cent of his constituents who voted Leave wanted him to tell Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss that it should be invested in the NHS and social care.

His views were shared by Tory backbenchers during an urgent question on the cost of Brexit brought by Labour MP Chris Leslie, who accused the government of paying for the privilege of “downgrading to an inferior deal” with the EU.

Wellingborough MP Peter
**HILLSBOROUGH:**
Campaigner Anne Williams’s “last legacy” was unveiled to a crowd of around 200 people at Liverpool Central Station yesterday.

Her brother Danny Gordon promised, before her death in 2013, that a plaque would pay tribute to survivors who tried to rescue dying fans, among them Anne’s 15-year-old son Kevin.

Liverpool City Mayor Steve Rotheram said: “I'm very lucky because I got to know Anne Williams; the fortitude of the woman was amazing.”

**NETWORK RAIL**

**Labour slams flailing Gray on rail line sale**

Break-up of track management branded a ‘total smokescreen’

by Felicity Collier

LABOUR has described the Tories' new rail strategy as “a total smokescreen” while transport unions branded it “another dose of privatisation.”

Publicly owned Network Rail will share its responsibility for running the tracks with private train operators under proposals announced by Transport Secretary Chris Grayling yesterday.

Joint teams managing day-to-day operations are to be rolled out across the South Eastern network with a new director taking overall responsibility.

Mr Grayling said Network Rail would be “devolved” with separate franchises for regional services and long-distance routes — including the troubled Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern franchises when the current contract with Goff Thameslink Railway ends in 2021 and on Great Western Railway (GWR).

The government will extend the franchise for GWR’s current operator First Group until March 2020.

Proposals were also outlined to reopen several rail lines, including between Bedford and Cambridge, to be delivered by a new independent East West Rail Company from the mid-2020s.

However, Campaign for Better Transport head Stephen Joseph warned that it is “desperately difficult to reopen a rail line.”

Shadow transport secretary Andy McDonald called the plans “a total smokescreen,” pledged to “step up the campaign for public ownership” and claimed the plan to split franchises is a “massive admission of failure.”

“This unambitious strategy stands in contrast to Labour’s plan to upgrade and expand the rail network across the country.”

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: “From what we have heard this lethal plan could well spell the end for Network Rail as a national, strategic and publicly owned body.

“It is no good building new lines if no one can afford to travel on them. Fares are up by twice the rate of wages, with another massive increase due in January, and it’s shocking that this announcement has said nothing about the affordability of rail fares.”

Branding the plans “jam tomorrow and cuts today,” he said the solution lies in public investment, free from “rack-eteering private train companies and their demand for ever-increasing profits.”

**EAST COAST**

**Criticisms over bailout of franchise**

RAIL union RMT condemned government plans to terminate the East Coast rail franchise three years early in what Labour has branded a “bailout” that could cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of pounds.

The train operator, made up of Stagecoach and Sir Richard Branson’s Virgin Group, had pledged to pay £3.3 billion to run the service until 2023 when it was re-privatised in 2015, after six years of public ownership.

But Virgin Trains East Coast will avoid paying huge sums back to the public purse because the bulk of payments were due in the final years of the franchise.

The line will then be run by a new partnership model.

Shadow transport secretary Andy Macdonald said: “The real issue is that the East Coast franchise has failed again and the taxpayer will bail it out.

“The secretary of state [Damian Green] has let Stagecoach off the hook for hundreds of millions of pounds. He’s tough on everyone except the private sector.”

**BREXIT**

**Skinner and Tories agree (for once) over Brussels bill**

Bone said: “For the first time in my parliamentary career I’m going to agree with [Mr Skinner]. He is absolutely right.

“The 60-odd per cent of the people in Wellingborough who voted to leave would want to know what we were doing with £60bn.

“They would want it spent on the NHS, social care and defence, they would not want it given to the European Union.”

Ms Truss denied that this was the case, adding that the sum of £60bn is “speculative” amid ongoing negotiations.

**BILL STICKLER:**

Dennis Skinner

Tory ex-minister Robert Halton said the government risked looking like “we have wads of cash when it comes to Europe.”

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier said on Wednesday that the financial settlement should be settled before an EU summit in mid-December.

He said the £60bn reported on Tuesday was a rumour.

PM Theresa May offered the European Commission £1.3bn in September before it was dismissed by European Parliament President Antonio Tajani as “peanuts.”

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CLOSING DATE: Friday December 29
NHS CRISIS

More than 40% of full-time nurses leaving after a year

by Lamiat Sabin
Parliamentary Reporter

MORE than 40 per cent of nurses are leaving full-time work within their first year, shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry said during Prime Minister’s Questions (PMQs) yesterday.

The overall number of NHS nurses and health visitors has decreased by 1,500 this year, she added, citing the latest government figures.

She was standing in for Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn while first Secretary of State Damian Green stood in for PM Theresa May, who is in Saudi Arabia.

Ms Thornberry asked Mr Green whether he remembered querying then-deputy PM John Prescott around 17 years ago about “the percentage of new nurses recruited in the last 12 months who are now working full-time.”

She asked whether he could answer the same question now.

Mr Green said that he could not remember asking it, before claiming that there are more midwives, doctors and nurses working in the NHS because the health service is “expanding.”

His claim that there are enough NHS nurses was debunked by Health Education England (HEE) chief executive Ian Cumming.

The HEE is employing international nurses as part of an “earn, learn and return” programme to help plug shortages.

Indian nurses have been brought over to England to work for a fixed period of time while learning a new graduate skill, Mr Cumming told the House of Commons health committee.

LEAVING IN DROVES: A nurse protests against the scrapping of bursaries which has partly caused the shortage in nurses

A pilot study into the scheme is already taking place in Harrogate.

HEE hopes that 500 nurses will come to England from India under the scheme by the end of March and eventually 5,500 international nurses will be recruited as part of the programme, he said.

Mr Cumming added: “I am not saying that we don’t have a shortage of nurses at the moment, because we absolutely do have a shortage of nurses in substantive employment in the NHS.”

“In the same time that the number of nurses in employment has gone up, our demand for nurses has also gone up.”

“So we have a large number of vacancies for nurses at the moment, which is somewhere in the region of 35,000 vacant posts for nurses at the moment in the NHS.”

A spokesman for the Royal College of Nursing said that overseas recruitment is “inca-pable of plugging the vast gaps the NHS faces.”

The Tory government scrapped bursaries for new nursing and midwifery students from August 1 this year. Now they have to take out student loans.

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(John Green — Morning Star)

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TURKEY CRACKDOWN

Johnson refuses to condemn jailing of opposition MPs

by Steve Sweeney

CAMPAIGNERS slammed the Foreign Secretary yesterday for failing to condemn the imprisonment of dozens of Turkish politicians ahead of the trials of two opposition leaders next week.

Labour MP Chris Williamson had asked Boris Johnson in a written question last week if he would “condemn the Turkish government for imprisoning almost 100 elected representatives and more than 5,000 activists from the People’s Democratic Party (HDP).”

Replying yesterday the Foreign Office said: “Following the failed coup in 2016 and the subsequent imposition of a state of emergency, we expect Turkey, as a modern democracy, to undertake any legal processes against elected representatives and activists fairly, transparently and with full respect for the rule of law.

“It is important that legal measures under the state of emergency be proportionate, justified and in line with Turkey’s democratic principles and its international human rights obligations.”

The response sparked anger from campaigners fighting for the release of jailed opposition figures in Turkey — many of whom are Kurdish.

Kurdistan Solidarity Campaign (KSC) co-secretary Rosa Gilbert told the Star: “The Foreign Secretary was asked simply and explicitly to condemn the mass incarceration of the HDP, which he chose to completely ignore.”

She warned that the government were “passively accepting” the increasingly authoritarian state by referring to Turkey as a “modern democracy” while it jails its opposition.

It has been more than a year since opposition MPs were arrested on trumped-up charges of terrorism in a series of raids across Turkey.

Many are still in prison on
HARINGEY

Blairites at London council step down

Social cleansing housing scheme in tatters as its supporters go

by Steve sweeney

LABOUR members in London have taken back control from Blairite councillors, leaving the future of a controversial housing project in tatters.

Selection meetings have been taking place across the London borough of Haringey over the last few weeks with sweeping gains for candidates that oppose the Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV), the heavily-criticised regeneration project that would see £2 billion of council housing stock handed to private developers.

Haringey Council has been branded a “fame duck administration” after key supporters of the HDV stepped down and will not be automatically re-elected as candidates for May’s local elections.

Cabinet member for Housing and Regeneration Alan Strickland was the first major casualty last week as he withdrew from the selection process in Noel Park ward.

In his resignation letter he took a swipe at the so-called “hard left” for their role in his departure, however since then pro-HDV candidates have been swept aside in democratic selections meetings.

It is understood that there will now be a majority on the council who oppose the HDV next May, casting serious doubt over the future viability of the project.

According to the latest figures just seven pro-HDV candidates have been selected compared to 35 who oppose the project.

It could see the collapse of the controversial plans, however Haringey Council claimed that the HDV would go ahead regardless.

A council spokesperson said: “Haringey Council’s cabinet made a decision in July to proceed with the HDV, and that decision remains unchanged.

“Through the HDV, we look forward to building 6,400 new homes in the borough, including new affordable homes, and delivering on our commitment that all existing social tenants will have a guaranteed right to a new home on equivalent rent and terms.

“The HDV has been paused pending a decision on a judicial review which is expected early next year.

“A Lendlease spokesperson said the company recognises there are “many points of view” over the project with the company making “a significant investment in beginning to understand the needs of the borough.”

Clare Kober, who has been seen as the figurehead for the HDV, is expected to be challenged as leader of the council with sources saying an anti-HDV candidate could replace her following the elections in May 2018.

A demonstration has been called by trade unions for the full council meeting on December 4 where they will tell councillors they have “no mandate” for the HDV.

WINNING THE FIGHT: Protesters demand Haringey council scrap a controversial housing project (above) which is supported by council leader Clare Kober (right) who is expected to be challenged

EMLOYMENT

Poor young adults shut off from best apprenticeships

by Felicity Collier

YOUNG people from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to start the best apprenticeships than their well-off peers, a new report has found.

Just 7 per cent of young men and 11 per cent of young women from deprived backgrounds are enrolled for free school meals have since taken up an advanced level apprenticeship, compared to 14 per cent overall, the Sutton Trust said yesterday.

Fewer than one in four young people in England starting a level 2 apprenticeship progressed to a level 3 one, due to insufficient training and access to skilled work.

And those starting an apprenticeship are more likely to be white and speak English as a first language.

There is also a stark difference in earnings — by the time they are 28, men who take a Level 3 apprenticeship might expect to earn up to a third more than their peers who left education after achieving A-levels. For women the figure is just 9 per cent.

The think tank is calling for better access and quality, plus adequate funding.

Currently, employers with an annual wage bill of more than £3 million pay a £15,000 levy, which was aimed at increasing the number of apprentices — but since it was introduced by the government last December there have been 59 per cent fewer applications.

University and College Union general secretary Sally Hunt said: “It’s increasingly clear that the government’s pursuit of its three million apprenticeships target is coming at the expense of quality and choice within the system, and that this is having a real impact on outcomes for young people in particular.”

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MEDWAY HOSPITAL

Operations could be cancelled due to strikes

MEDIWAY hospital operations face cancellation if theatre staff vote to strike over a staffing crisis, their union Unite warned yesterday.

Medway Maritime Hospital theatre staff have been warning Medway NHS Foundation Trust bosses for more than a year about the threat to patient safety due to the “recruitment and retention” crisis in the operating theatres.

Unite is balloting its 74 anaesthetic practitioners, staff nurse, obstetric and theatre recovery members for strikes and industrial action short of a strike.

The dispute centres on the new rosters introduced on November 13 which, in one case, meant shift members working 12 hours without relief.

Unite regional officer Kathy Walters said: “The new rosters are a definite threat to patient safety as theatre staff will be exhausted if they have to work well over their contracted hours in a week.

“Staff are working the new rostes under protest.”

The ballot opens on December 4 and closes on December 21.

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“Staff are working the new rostes under protest.”

The ballot opens on December 4 and closes on December 21.
SPAIN

Taxi drivers stage anti-Uber strike over cab limit row

by Our Foreign Desk

SPANISH taxi drivers staged an anti-Uber strike yesterday over the ride-hailing app breaking a limit on the number of its cabs.

Normally packed taxi ranks at stations and airports were empty as licensed cabbies refused to pick up passengers, but their unions pledged free rides for the elderly, disabled and pregnant women.

Unions said US firm Uber and Madrid-based Cabify were flouting a law setting a maximum ration of one ride-hailing app cab for every 30 licensed taxis.

Taxis converged on Madrid early on Wednesday to take part in a midday protest from the city’s main railway station to a square near Parliament.

Uber faced more woes at home on Tuesday when it was probing industrial espionage claims by its former global intelligence manager Richard Jacobs.

The bombshell broke at a hearing in a civil action between Uber and self-driving car pioneer Waymo, founded by Google eight years ago.

Mr Jacobs testified that Uber had set up a unit called Marketplace Analytics to steal trade secrets from unnamed rivals overseas.

His attorney wrote a 37-page letter setting out the allegations, sent to Uber lawyers in May.

The allegations had been kept under wraps until the Justice Department passed them to US District Judge William Alsup last week — who recommended the department opened a criminal investigation.

The firm is already under investigation for unscrupulous hiring policies, precarious employment contracts, tax dodging and leaks of drivers’ and passengers’ personal data.

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NORTH KOREA

US to impose more sanctions over Pyongyang missile test

by Our Foreign Desk

THE US and China agreed new sanctions for North Korea yesterday after Pyongyang tested a ballistic missile capable of hitting Washington.

US President Donald Trump tweeted yesterday that he had just spoken to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping about the “provocative actions.”

He said: “Additional major sanctions will be imposed on North Korea today. This situation will be handled.”

A White House statement said Mr Trump made clear “the determination of the United States to defend ourselves and our allies.”

He also “emphasised the need for China to use all available leverage to convince North Korea to end its provocations and return to the path of denuclearisation.”

The launch ended a two-and-half month hiatus in North Korea’s nuclear weapon and missile tests.

US and Norwegian sources estimated the missile had a yield of between 100 and 300 kilotons.

It said the missile was fired on a high lofted trajectory 2,780 miles into space before re-entering and hitting a sea target 590 miles away in the Sea of Japan.

South Korean military radar data corroborated those claims.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un “declared with pride” the country had achieved its goal of becoming a “rocket power.”

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Beijing was “seriously concerned about and opposed to” the test and “strongly urges” Pyongyang to abide by security council resolutions.

The test took place just as a Russian parliamentary delegation was visiting Pyongyang to encourage the North to “stop the destructive escalation of tensions.”

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov condemned the “provocative action that foments tensions and puts off the launch of efforts to settle the crisis situation.”

He urged all sides to “maintain the calm needed to prevent the situation on the Korean Peninsula from developing along the worst scenario.”

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Thursday November 30 2017
A CROATIAN war criminal, himself convicted in a campaign to drive Muslims out of a mini-state in Bosnia, would-be Bosnian Croat Andrej Plenkovic condemned the trial of former Republican senator Bob Dornan and the ousting of Zelaya.

The car had been carrying the refugees west from the Turkish border.

Thousands of refugees continue to cross into Europe in search of sanctuary. This year 27,000 people have made boat crossings to Greece while 116,000 headed to Italy.

THE NETHERLANDS

Croat war criminal poisons himself

A CROATIAN war criminal died yesterday from arsenic he drank at the close of the Hague court’s last ever case. Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic confirmed Slobodan Praljak’s death, saying it reflected the “injustice” against six Bosnian Croats whose guilty verdicts were upheld by the UN’s International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Praljak shouted “I am not a war criminal!” and drank from a small bottle after Presiding Judge Carmel Agius upheld his 20-year sentence.

Dutch police, an ambulance and a fire engine rushed to the scene but medics were unable to save him. The six were convicted in a campaign to drive Muslims out of a war-torn Bosnian Croat mini-state in Bosnia during the wars that tore apart the former multinational socialist Yugoslav state in the 1990s.

HONDURAS

Nasralla calls for protests over ballot fraud fears

by James Tweedie

HONDURAN presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla alleged ballot fraud yesterday, urging protests as troops ruled toward the capital.

Fears of a repeat of the 2009 US-backed coup against president Manuel Zelaya were raised after a video was posted on social media on Tuesday showing long lines of army trucks carrying soldiers on the road from Siguatepeque to La Esperanza — west of the capital Tegucigalpa.

Counting of votes in Sunday’s presidential election resumed after a mysterious two-day hiatus.

Mr Nasralla’s five-point lead over incumbent Juan Orlando Hernandez rapidly shrank to 24,000 — less than 1 per cent — with around half a million ballots left to count.

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal promised a final result by last night.

On Tuesday, Opposition Alliance candidate Mr Nasralla accused the ruling National Party of Honduras (PNH) of putting pressure on the tribunal, which had called his 40-45 per cent lead irreversible days earlier, to steal the election.

He said: “The company hired to give out the results, under pressure from the magistrate president, removed security mechanisms from the data transmission system.”

Mr Nasralla called on his supporters to launch protests against the fraud, insisting: “We’ve already won the election.”

“I’m not going to tolerate this and, as there are no reliable institutions in Honduras to defend us, tomorrow... the Honduran people need to defend the vote on the streets.”

PNH National Secretary Juan Zelaya — no relation of the ousted president — called his supporters onto the streets on Tuesday to “defend the triumph,” despite his candidate still trailing at the ballots.

Mr Hernandez succeeded the candidate Porfirio Lobo, who took over from Liberal Party congress speaker Roberto Micheletti.

Mr Micheletti was made interim president after the military coup against Mr Zelaya after he won a referendum to extend the presidential term limit — with a pledge not to seek re-election.

The coup was condoned by then US secretary of state Hillary Clinton with the support of former Republican senator Jim DeMint, a prominent backer of US President Donald Trump.

It was followed by a vicious security crackdown with the murders and disappearances of Zelaya supporters and others, including indigenous campaigner Berta Caceres.

Mr Nasralla has said his supporter Mr Zelaya would have influence in a new government, while his wife and former presidential candidate Xiomara Castro would join his cabinet.

He has also promised to review the siting of a US military air base in the country that Mr Zelaya vowed to convert to civilian use.

by Calvin Tucker

I REPORTED from inside Honduras during the US-backed coup in 2009, and it’s looking awfully like the groundwork for a second coup is being prepared.

The signs are ominous: the unexplained halting of the vote count after left alliance candidate Salvador Nasralla took an early and irreversible lead, the intimidation of journalists, the torture and murder of social movement activists and the convoys of military trucks captured on film streaming towards the capital.

Right-wing president Juan Orlando Hernandez, whose administration and family are implicated in drug smuggling and money laundering, has refused to concede defeat.

Meanwhile, after a 48-hour news blackout, the electoral authorities have begun drip-feeding extraordinary new results that showed Hernandez on course to overhaul his rival and retain the presidency.

The Honduran oligarchy and its US sponsors have long understood that democracy threatens their grip on power. Back in 2006, charismatic left candidate Manuel Zelaya convincingly won the elections, and he was duly sworn in as president. But Zelaya was in office for just three years before he was kidnapped at gunpoint by the military and flown to exile in Costa Rica.

His crime had been to double the minimum wage in a country where a quarter of children have stunted growth due to malnutrition.

At the time, there was hope that the new US president Barack Obama would deliver on his promise to open “a new chapter of engagement” with Latin America and withdraw military and economic support for the coup regime. But behind the scenes, Hillary Clinton’s State Department cut a deal with far-right Republicans to endorse the military takeover and the ousting of Zelaya.

Despite the increase in repression and killings in the years that followed, the left regrouped in a new political party called Libre and formed an anti-corruption alliance with clean politicians and public figures.

Today, we should discover whether the regime is going to allow Nasralla to take up his rightful position as president, or once again snuff out democracy at the point of a gun.

Calvin Tucker is Morning Star campaigns manager.
Trump exports his hatred here

THERESA MAY’S acknowledgement that it was “wrong” of US President Donald Trump to share online Islamophobic videos posted by the Britain First fascist group marks perhaps not only a baby step.

It provides some clarification after Brexit Minister Lord Callan danced on eggshells, trying to distinguish between Trump and the office he holds.

Even his cack-handed attempt to square the circle of government desire to woo the Trump administration despite awareness of the president’s support for white supremacy and Islamophobia was too much for Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

She simply had nothing to say in the absence of guidance from the Prime Minister.

Callan said that Trump might not have heard of Britain First as though his ignorance justified his action, but this doesn’t diminish its culpability for watching the provocative—and probably falsified—videos and choosing to disseminate them.

Doing so is fully in line with his consistent record of spreading hatred against minorities in US society—Muslims and Mexicans—and defending white supremacists as good people.

Britain First leaders are largely irrelevant in this saga. Trump’s virulent national, racial and religious prejudices between Trump and the office he holds.

Callanan danced on eggshells, trying to distinguish between Trump and the office he holds.

Here was something more akin to intervention in the London media by the chief whip of the right-wing bosses’ government in Dublin this week.

Fine Gael’s Joe McHugh summoned up the spectre of a resurgence of armed Loyalist and dissident Republican groups in the north of Ireland as a result of the Brexit vote in Britain.

He came across as threatening people in both countries with someone else’s guns. He did so on the very day that his own minority government nearly came crashing down as a huge scandal involving police and ministerial corruption continues to fall senior figures.

The latest is the deputy prime minister.

McHugh claimed that any divergence of customs arrangements arising from Brexit would create a hard border between the Irish Republic and the north, and the mechanism—smuggling—through which such armed groups would finance themselves.

Well, if you genuinely believe that, then the answer is refuse to implement such a border—universally unpopular across Ireland. And that is what both Sinn Fein and Irish radical left parties have said.

But such popular refusal of a hardened border, with civil disobedience of the kind that peacefully beat the imposition of water charges in the Irish Republic, would open up two questions which the right-wing parties on both islands—Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, the British Tories and the DUP—are desperate to keep closed.

It would call into question the austerity policies and tax haven status for the corporate elite in Ireland and in Britain. And it would challenge the sectarian unionist logic of the partition of Ireland, which provides a bedrock of reaction in both states.

The parties of the status quo want none of that. Instead, they are all engaged in reckless rhetoric aimed at using the Irish Question in a squallid political game to pursue big business and their own interests in the Brexit process.

The egregious Denis MacShane, who was jailed for fiddling his parliamentary expenses, told the Financial Times this week that Labour too should join this dangerous brinkmanship.

He wants Labour to ignore the referendum result and “stop Brexit”—with a cowardly and dangerous manoeuvre. It is for the Labour front bench to say, in effect, that it would have liked to carry through the democratic will, but it cannot because of a combination of the objections of the Irish government and a commitment to keep Northern Ireland firmly part of the UK.

The only way to avoid a “hard border” goes this argument, is for Northern Ireland to stay in the European customs union and Single Market (equivalent to staying in the EU) and therefore Britain to do the same.

It is difficult to imagine a more disastrous line for the Labour Party to adopt. In making the union sacrosanct, it would strengthen the reactionary DUP, which is propping up the Tory government.

Worse, it would tell 17.4 million Leave voters that their democratic choice was not being honoured because of “the Irish.” What could be more guaranteed to rechage anti-Irish prejudice that has thankfully been receding for 20 years?

Britain does not have a far right of the scale of France or Germany. This would be one way to create one. But that has not stopped the EU from pushing this line, and the Irish government acting as a cat’s paw of Brussels, in an effort to gain leverage in the Brexit talks.

Now that Theresa May has bowed to the eye-watering divorce bill, it is to the Irish issue and the rights of EU and British nationals that EU negotiators and pro-EU politicians are turning to generate further crises.

Both issues could be settled by a British government easily: refuse to implement a hard border and guarantee the rights of EU nationals at the outset. So did Germany’s Angela Merkel, who insisted that they be thrown in as bargaining chips in the Brexit talks.

That is not the only thing they have in common. Weakness and division are as characteristic of many European governments and the EU as they are of the British.

The collapse of Merkel’s attempt to form a three party coalition has plunged Germany into its deepest governmental crisis since the second world war. Like May, she also lost authority and votes in a general election this year that saw a decisive rejection of the outgoing grand coalition between her Christian Democratic Union (CDU)/Christian Social Union (CSU) and the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD).

Now the SPD has done a U-turn and said it will go into talks, due to take place in January, over renewing a grand coalition or propping up a minority Merkel government.

There is no guarantee that talks will succeed or that any arrangement will be agreed in a vote by SPD members. The party has fallen in the polls since the U-turn announcement.

A major point of division is over the proposals by French President Emmanuel Macron for modest reform of the EU—still as a corporate-capitalist entity but with a stronger role...
for France at some cost to German hegemony and national capitalist priorities.

That is an indication that contrary to so much pro-EU boosterism, the bloc is far from unified and stable. More glaring still is the contempt for democracy in the desperate efforts by the German establishment to cobble together a coalition and avoid at all costs another election.

Almost half of the population say they prefer a fresh election to either a grand coalition or a minority government.

But that is the last thing the elites in Berlin and Brussels want, though if talks fail it could still happen next spring.

Meanwhile, the German agriculture minister has just used his casting vote at an EU meeting to renew the use of glyphosate weed killers, which are widely held responsible for the collapse of bee populations and other environmental damage.

It has caused uproar in Germany.

The next budget continues to fi ght to defend and extend state welfare, watched by heavily armed Israeli soldiers.

In East Jerusalem, several hundred teachers will attempt to do the same, but many will be held at checkpoints for several hours, and some will not make it to school in time to teach.

In the northern West Bank governorate of Nablus, shepherds will herd their livestock under the continual threat of violence from Israeli settlers and soldiers on land that belongs to them, but which they are denied from building on, forcing them to live in caves.

In the Nagab desert, Bedouin residents of Um al-Hiran will wake up again to the reality of life in one of more than 40 Palestinian villages in the Nagab that the state of Israel refuses to recognise, cut off from all basic services and facing a forced threat of demolition to be replaced by a village that will be for Jewish citizens only.

In Gaza, with almost no electricity or clean water supply, many families whose homes were never rebuilt following Israel’s 2014 offensive will take shelter from the bitter winter in temporary, makeshift homes.

And in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, Palestinian refugees will wake up to life in a cramped refugee camp with limited facilities, many still holding among their possessions the keys to the homes from which they and their families were expelled in 1948.

In 2005, on behalf of all of these Palestinian communities, a coalition of 170 Palestinian civil society organisations launched a call for the world to support and solidarity by implementing a campaign of boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) until Israel ends its occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza; recognises the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality under the law; and recognises the right to return of Palestinian refugees.

BDS is now a vibrant global movement made up of trade unions, academic associations, churches and grassroots movements across the world.

The call for BDS was launched because of the reality that the international community, including the British government, has consistently failed to take action to meaningfully hold Israel to account despite passing resolutions and issuing statements condemning Israel’s violations of international law.

Instead of holding Israel to account, many governments provide Israel with political, diplomatic, military and fi nancial support. When those in power refuse to act to stop this injustice, what is needed is a global citizens’ response.

Israel has identifi ed the growing strength of the BDS movement as a major strategic threat and has launched a global eff ort to suppress BDS activity.

Alongside the introduction of draconian laws at home, curtailing the activities of human rights activists supporting the campaign, it has worked with allies around the world through the introduction of laws suppressing protest.

The British government introduced regulations last November that sought to curtail the right of local government pension funds to divest from companies complicit in the occupation. PSC successfully challenged these regulations, winning a judicial review in June of this year which ruled them unlawful.

Alongside this use of “lawfare” has been the propounding of a narrative that seeks to reframe support for BDS as an act that is divisive, hostile and bigoted. Two key arguments are routinely used to support this narrative.

The fi rst is to deny the legitimacy of any analogy between South African apartheid and Israeli apartheid. Israel, we are told, is a beacon of justice and equality due to the fact that Palestinian citizens can vote, hold seats in the Knesset, and sit in the judiciary.

In reality, the Israeli legal rights centre, has identifi ed over 65 laws that specifically discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel, who make up 20 per cent of the population.

One such law is the Acceptance to Communities Law that legitimises Jewish towns in Israel of a certain size in excluding Palestinians from residing within them. Forty-three percent of Israeli towns have residential admis-

The next line of argument is that BDS targets the Israeli state and that the problem is not the state itself, but Benjamin Netanyahu’s government.

Rather than supporting BDS, we are told we should be supporting progressive forces such as the Israeli Labour Party which opposes Israel’s illegitimate policies towards the Palestinians.

This line of argument ignores the reality of how the Israeli Labour Party has followed the rightward drift in the Israeli political mainstream in positioning for votes.

It also ignores the reality that the Israeli Labour Party has been more than a willing accomplice in Israel’s settlement programme. Former Israeli premier Ehud Barak complained only last month that the state ceremony celebrating 50 years of the occupation of the West Bank did not give enough credit to Labour governments who “consolidated and led the settlement enterprise”.

Yesterday was the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. Our message is one of respect for the call made by the Palestinians themselves.

We respect the Palestinian call for BDS because we believe that to do otherwise, to continue to provide cultural, economic and political support for Israel’s system of apartheid is to be complicit.

BDS is not a hostile action towards a people, but is one of non-co-operation with a system which is profoundly unjust and immoral.

The confl ict between Palestine and Israel, to which we all seek an end, is one rooted in the unjust domination of one people over another, a domination supported by claims of ethnic, cultural or religious entitlement. This is where the analogy with South African apartheid holds true.

As the South African theologian Desmond Tutu said: “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”

S.AWSAN BASTAWY writes on the importance of the BDS movement for Palestine
‘It’s one thing to say I want democracy. It’s another to organise and force it’

JOHN REES talks to the Star about the left’s perspective on John Lilburne, the Leveller revolution and 17th-century England

by Alison Banville

In part two, published in tomorrow’s edition, John Rees talks to Alison Banville about the importance of Lilburne today.

John Rees, national officer of the Stop The War Coalition, political activist and historian, has just published his new book John Lilburne and the Levellers: Reappraising the Roots of English Radicalism 400 Years On. As a long-time admirer of Lilburne, the Agitator of the New Model Army and the civilian Levellers, I was eager to talk to him about their struggles to establish a democratic republic, their legacy, and their relevance today in these times of great social and political upheaval; times in which grassroots political activism is forcing change at the highest levels.

I took with me questions from members of Veterans For Peace, which organised the Putney Debates 2017 event at which Rees recently spoke. I also asked my former history and politics tutor at Goldsmiths College, Professor Alan Downie (also one of Rees’s supervisors for his PhD on the Levellers which became his book, The Leveller Revolution, Verso published last year) what he would like to ask him.

Hi John, is there any new material on Lilburne in your book? There’s yes, a lot of stuff has been published in academic journals which isn’t really available to the public. I did my own research and turned up a few interesting things.

I wrote the book because the last general history of the Levellers was written by Jeremy Black in 1977 and Pauline Gregg’s biography was also published in 1961. So there haven’t been new biographies of Lilburne since then.

Since the ‘60s there’s been a huge debate about the Levellers in which the so-called “revisionist” historians have attempted to overturn a lot of the things that Brailsford, Greg and Christopher Hill (author of classic text, The World Turned Upside Down) were writing about. In part, the book attempts to re-establish a left interpretation of what the Levellers were doing.

I wanted to ask you about that. Levellers is claimed by right-wing libertarians. Can you talk about re-establishing the leftist Lilburne? Some people on the left, like the MEP Daniel Hannan, are big fans of Lilburne. [Hannan is president of the Institute For Free Trade and member of the Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe].

The grain of truth is this: the English revolution is a seminal moment in the establishment of capitalism in this country, and the Levellers certainly were small property holders themselves. And certainly were against monopolies. But what they meant by monopoly was that the economy was structured so that the crown had the right to grant a monopoly to chartered companies, and it was only if you were part of that company that you could legally pursue that trade. So it was a semi-feudal economic structure in which the crown had the right to grant you the ability to earn your living.

The Levellers wanted to bust open the monopolies and wanted a free market. But in doing so they were trying to break down the power of the crown.

Now, of course, people who love a free market today are not trying to break any of this power down; they’re trying to re-establish the people who came to power because of the English revolution and other developments.

So, in context, what the Levellers were trying to do was a radical thing. De-contextualised, and the same thought repeated 400 years later is not a radical thing. So, it’s a warning against de-historicising what they were doing.

And then there’s the bit about democracy. So these people repeating these phrases, do they really stand in relationship to power in this society in the same way the Levellers stood, or are they actually people who, if repeating the same words, are backing up that power?

Here’s a question from Professor Alan Downie at Goldsmiths College: “I always think the central question about Lilburne is whether, and in what sense, he was a democrat rather than a petty bourgeois reformist humanitarian?” Lilburne’s claim to being a democrat is pretty well established. When the Levellers advanced The Agreement of the People, when they argued at Putney that the franchise should be at least massively expanded, if not universal — including women but male universal suffrage — you have to say that in a society where there had never been any democracy whatsoever, that was a pretty radical democratic stance.

And the language Thomas Rainsborough uses at Putney: “For truly I think that the poorest he that is in England hath a life to live as the greatest.” And that any man who puts himself under a government should have a hand in choosing it. That is really where democratic language first enters English politics, without a doubt.

Is it fully formed? No, because something just after birth doesn’t look like it when it’s grown up as an idea and they were the first people to do that. So their formulation of democracy wasn’t as full or explicit as it later became.

But it is the identifiable infant; and what’s more important than that, in a way, is that the method of attaining democracy was popular mobilisation.

These were people who were not in the business of begging for reforms; they were in the business of mobilising as many people as they could to force change. And that is a democratic strategy as well as a democratic demand.

It’s one thing to say I want democracy; you can plead for it, you can beg for it, you can petition for it, you can have a word in the ear of the powerful or you can go into the streets with petitions and pamphlets and organise crowds and try and force it. Or indeed mutiny in the army. So, I would say, both in aim and method, they were primitive democrats, if you like, but they were democrats.

Downie also wanted to ask you about the franchise debate at Putney and whether the words “servants” included all those who sold their labour — ie, the prostes? You can’t seriously talk about a working class in 17th-century England, if by that you mean a collectively present and conscious group of wage earners.

There were people who worked for wages, but they were not drawn together in huge factories. They weren’t in huge conurbations because outside London they barely existed. London was only 350,000 people — the whole population of England was five million.

So the whole idea of mass collective withdrawal of labour, strike action — the characteristic tool of an organised working class — just didn’t exist.

So, what did exist? You have land-owning aristocrats and the monarchy; you have very big merchant class, not producing in factories but trading, by and large. Then you have — look out of a system dominated by landowning aristocrats and big merchants granted royal monopoly — you have artisans and journeymen, which were the characteristic class of the Levellers.

These are people who are producing in their own home; they are composed of yeoman farmers, where Oliver Cromwell comes from, and the masters and apprentices in the city. They are all the locked out class. They’re relatively well off; they’re a literate class. They’re a habitually angry class. They’re not a radical thing. So, it’s a warning against de-historicising what they were doing.
VAUGHAN MELZER has been photographing people, political demonstrations and peace and labour movement activities and events a long time, with her photos appearing in the Morning Star and other publications.

She has met a whole number of fascinating individuals, often little-known in the wider world despite having devoted their lives to the struggle for socialism. Believing that their contribution should be known and their lives celebrated, she has created a portfolio of photographic portraits over the years, now on display at the Marx Memorial Library in the exhibition Those Who Never Died: Their Hopes of a Socialist World Never Died.

When her lifelong communist mother died, she felt the loss also of her political mentor. Thus her project to visit, interview and photograph socialists born between 1915 and 1950 who became dedicated socialists in their youth and maintained that commitment throughout their lives, despite decades of an inimical ideological climate and media indifference.

She visited people from London to Glasgow and Liverpool to Worcester in her desire to help preserve that story of left-wing activism.

Meltzer created these portraits of individuals who formed their ideas in the wake of the first world war, the Great Depression, the Hungry Thirties and the struggle against fascism and that turbulent history is written in their faces. She was particularly interested in what influenced them and how they became committed to the socialist movement. Brief biographical notes accompanying each portrait describe their fascinating and unique stories. The portraits, in black and white and colour, make no attempt to embellish or artificially enhance their sub-lighting and the very “ordinariness” of most of them is not hidden but deliberately stressed.

Their seriousness, modesty, resolution and optimism radiates from their faces so that we feel we are able to peer into their inner lives.

The free exhibition Those Who Never Gave Up: Their Hopes of a Socialist World Never Died runs at the Marx Memorial Library, Clerk¬enwell Green, London EC1, until December 14.

Opening times: marx-memorial-library.org

JOHN GREEN

THEATRE REVIEW

Sex workers tell it like it is... well, almost

Sex Workers Opera

Oval House Theatre

52-54 Kennington Oval

London SE11

4*

THE Sex Worker’s Opera was originally devised in 2014 and has previously been staged at the Courtyard, the Arcola and the Pleasance Theatre. Its restaging here, at the Ovalhouse, is a testament to its vital message.

What you get in this production isn’t slick, polished performance. But it’s not meant to be. Rather, this is a powerful piece of agit-prop theatre, which demands its audience listen to the voices of sex workers and to a politics rooted in their personal experience.

The piece is performed by a mixture of sex workers and professional actors and the show directly draws on the lived experiences of those workers, as well as augmenting their experiences with others from around the world.

The agit-prop structure of the piece means it is performed in a mix of styles. So while, the production loosely follows Simone and Natalie, sisters who’ve fallen out over one’s sex work, it also blends drama, song, testimony, movement and pole dancing.

This is really provocative and serves to foreground the vibrancy of this political community, making sure that we hear their voices, not merely others commenting on them — a vital political move, in and of itself.

These voices and stories are most powerfully present in the testimonials in which individuals simply, powerfully tell us about their work. Indeed, the production is often more effective in its simpler moments — at the beginning of the second half, one of the performers describes for the audience the workshops they’ve been running with sex workers from around the country and then invites us to listen to songs produced in those workshops.

It really demonstrates the power of theatre to build political community.

At times though, the script needs editing and the arguments developing. We often return to survival as a (vital and undeniable) motive for undertaking sex work, but that’s never really brought into dialogue with the powerful anti-capitalist and sex-positive messages we find elsewhere.

Perhaps more exploration of the relationship between race and sex work might also have been productive.

But that said, the demand to be heard and not judged, the deconstruction of the stereotypical image of a sex worker and the way the production highlights how sex workers are so often blamed for sexist male behaviour are all compelling.

A thoughtful piece of work, the Sex Worker’s Opera asks us to engage with and listen to sex workers, not judge or speak for them.


KATHERINE M GRAHAM
Sudoku

Tough

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Solution tomorrow...

Tell us what you’d like to see more of in your paper and email editorial@peoples-press.com
The trade union battle that beat the Tories

ROGER SUTTON writes ahead of tomorrow’s 45th anniversary celebration of the Pentonville Five’s release from prison

HISTORY

Yesterday’s answers:
1. What is ‘velour’?
2. On a circuit diagram, what is indicated by a zig-zag line?
3. True or false: a ‘blogoscope’ has nothing to do with blogs.

1. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, a building generally has to have at least forty storeys if it is to be classed as what? A skyscraper
2. On a circuit diagram, what is indicated by a zig-zag line? A resistor
3. How many pieces does each player have in a game of chess (pictured) before play begins?

Sixteen
HAVENS
Rich safe from the tax man

RECENT revelations prove that Tory cuts to fraud investigation have not left enough resources to go on searching for the big fishes’ monies, showered ofshore or hidden by other nefarious methods, and owed to the nation in taxes — the billions that could pay for essential needs such as the NHS, schooling, and homes for all the people who are currently in B&Bs, slum dwellings or on the streets.

It’s strange how patriotism has a different meaning to the rich, the powerful and the Tories. Still, as long as there’s enough to go after the small fry, that’s all that matters, isn’t it?

STEPHEN B FRANCIS Sutton

DEFENCE BUDGET
More troops won’t make Britain safe

THE Tory MPs rebelling over “defence” cuts fail to mention that Britain already has the seventh-highest military budget in the world (LM Star November 28). It’s a shame they don’t show the same willingness to resist cuts to services that really make us safe, whether fire services, rape crisis centres or the welfare budget.

“Defence” is a euphemism for war. Increasing the size of the armed forces will not make anyone in Britain any safer, far more troops the armed forces will not make Britain safe from threats. Increasing the size of the armed forces will not make anyone in Britain any safer, far more troops the armed forces will not make Britain safe from threats.

CUTS WE CAN GET BEHIND: Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson meets crew members onboard HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Trident renewal, but she sadly failed to urge the government to divert military money to things that would offer real defence from real threats.

This would involve challenging the underlying causes of war, such as poverty, global inequality and climate change.

SYMON HILL
Co-ordinator, Peace Pledge Union

TAX
Be wary of ‘evasion’ and ‘avoidance’ difference

FOLLOWING an article in the Morning Star on tax (November 14) I think there is a real danger of the issue being bogged down and sunk in semantic confusion between tax “avoidance” and tax “evasion.”

Tax evasion is illegal and tax avoidance is what everyone from the individual to the large organisation employs an accountant for: to avoid paying unnecessary tax while remaining inside the law.

I agree with Amazon that it believes the government to change the law so that the most gross examples of tax avoidance become tax evasion.

EMMA PETERS
London ENS

ELDERLY CARE
Request for stories on coping

I WOULD welcome articles and letters in the Morning Star about the problems of caring for the very elderly.

My mother is 93 and prone to falls and other problems associated with old age. I am the only person living at home with her and am finding it difficult to adapt to being a decent carer with all the practical applications of concern that it requires.

Fortunately, unlike many, we are not particularly financially worried — as yet — but it’s still quite a testing situation.

CHRIS PURNELL
Orpington

Sudoku solution

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5 2 3 4 8 7 1 6 9

Well Versed
edited by Jody Porter

Industrial Heritage
by Paul McGrane

When a fat slab of anthracite fell the others got on with the dig and let him find his own way to local anaesthetic and a saw. His father, too, had been a miner of limestone, then of coal, but was coughing blood long before his son was old enough to work.

Only three of us at school had dads down the mine. Coal was home delivered on a truck and barrowed by dad to the shed. I learned that if you crack one sweetly you might find a perfect leaf. Blackened in my sleeves for the rest of the day.

There’s a word for why my dad retired early, pneumoconiosis (miner’s lung).

params Paul McGrane is co-founder of Forest Poets in Walthamstow, and The Poetry Society Membership Manager.

LOOMING RECESSION: A cartoon from the Daily Worker of November 30 1937

City reporter warns working class of wage cuts as depression begins

THE headline to the piece on November 30 1937 from the Daily Worker’s City correspondent announced: “Depression has begun! — So look out for attack on wages.” As a City analyst, the reporter was confident enough to write: “You can take it from me that the City has made up its mind that the coming depression has already started,” despite the “sunshine talk” of government and press.

Investors were reading the signs of frenetic activity as the market having “reached its peak.” The City was watching, “lynx-eyed, for a decline in new orders for capital goods,” which had already happened in construction and ship-building, pushing the price of iron and steel and other materials up heavily.

In many sectors, a “creeping paralysis” had resulted with orders being held up until buyers knew which way things were going. The US was still in the grip of its Great Depression, which had begun eight years before, and had experienced a recent sharp setback.

Even the “comfortable theory” that the arms programme was going to keep industry booming for five years had now been abandoned.

In the meantime, the main solution would be to pass on the burden to the working class in the form of wage and public-sector cuts.

You can read digitised pages from the Daily Worker (1930-45) and Morning Star (2000-present), as they appeared in print, at mstar.link/DWMSarchives. Ten days’ access costs just £5.99 and a whole year is £72.

80 YEARS AGO TODAY...
Football

Palace behaviour a ‘return to the dark days’

by Our Sports Desk

SUSSEx Police branded the fan disorder during Crystal Palace’s visit to Brighton on Tuesday night a “return to the dark days of football.”

Chief Inspector Simon Nelson, who led the policing operation for the fixture, described how “groups of masked people” sought confrontation and supporters tried to gain entry to the Palmer Stadium with “pyrotechnics, knives and knuckledusters.”

Nelson also revealed that at one stage a large number of people, seemingly without tickets, overran turnstiles in the ground’s south stand to access to the away supporters’ section.

Disturbances also broke out at Brighton railway station, where frustration grew among fans set to miss the start of the match.

Six people, including one 15-year-old boy, were arrested, while two stewards — one from each club — had to be taken to hospital, one with three fractured ribs.

Nelson said: “I have been involved in football policing at all levels and have been a match commander for Albion matches for 12 years, but I have never come across such concerted attempts to cause disorder and engage in violent behaviour.

“This was a return to the dark days of football and is not acceptable.”

Meanwhile, the Football Supporters Federation said yesterday it was investigating claims that some fans with tickets were held by police for more than 45 minutes before being marched back to the station and “encouraged to board trains regardless of their destination.”

Sumo

Harumafuji calls it a day under cloud of inquiry

by Our Sports Desk

SUMO grand champion Harumafuji has decided to retire from sumo after allegations that he assaulted a lower-ranked wrestler and tarnished the image of Japan’s national sport.

“I have caused much trouble to society,” said the Mongolian at a packed press conference yesterday. “I want to apologise to various people in the sumo federation who have supported me. As a grand champion, I have done something that shouldn’t be done.”

The news dominated Japanese television talk shows and evening newspapers for weeks as the nation expressed shock at claims against a yokozuna grand champion, whose behaviour in sports and society is expected to be exemplary.

Harumafuji was accompanied by his stablemaster Isegahama, who made a tearful apology and said Harumafuji, as a yokozuna — the highest level in sumo — must accept the consequences of his actions.

Harumafuji allegedly struck compatriot Takanoiwa with his palms, fists and a karaoke machine remote control at a drinking party in late October, fracturing his skull and causing other injuries.

“As a senior wrestler, I felt it was my responsibility to teach him proper behaviour,” Harumafuji said of the encounter.

The 33-year-old Harumafuji reportedly became agitated when Takanoiwa repeatedly checked his mobile phone while the two were talking.

The Japan Sumo Association, which imposes strict rules on wrestlers, is conducting an investigation, but Harumafuji decided to retire before the probe.

Born Daavaannym Byambadorj, Harumafuji debuted in 2001 and has won the championship nine times, with his most recent victory at the autumn tournament in September. He was promoted to yokozuna in 2012.

Football

Lawley and Parris show pride at goals

Duo combined for Lionesses’s share of the spoils in rout

LIONESSES Melissa Lawley and Nikita Parris expressed their pride after Tuesday night’s 5-0 victory over Kazakhstan.

Lawley enjoyed a dream full debut, opening the scoring in Colchester, while Parris picked up two, helping England on their way to three wins in three World Cup qualifying matches.

Mutiny City’s Lawley told the FA: “It’s obviously a very proud moment for me and my family that I get my senior debut tonight.”

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POLICE HAND STOKES FILE TO PROSECUTORS

Now up to CPS to decide if England star should face charges

by Our Sports Desk

DETECTIVES investigating an incident outside a Bristol nightclub involving England all-rounder Ben Stokes have passed a file to the Crown Prosecution Service for advice on charging, Avon and Somerset Police said yesterday.

The all-rounder, who was dropped from the England squad and suspended from playing for his country following his arrest on September 25, is currently in New Zealand where he was hoping to play in a domestic competition this weekend.

It remains unclear whether the Crown Prosecution Service will now decide to charge Stokes and if the 26-year-old will be able to play any part in England’s Ashes series against Australia.

Stokes was arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm, with the England and Wales Cricket Board set to conduct their own disciplinary inquiry once the police investigation is concluded.

An Avon and Somerset Police statement read: “We’re now in a position to provide an update on our investigation into a disorder in Bristol which happened during the early hours on Monday September 25.

“A 27-year-old man suffered a fractured eye socket in the incident on Queens Road, Clifton.

“A 26-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm and was later released under investigation.

“Three other men, aged 26, 27 and 28 have all voluntarily attended police stations for interview.

“Today we have passed a file to the Crown Prosecution Service and are now seeking charging advice.”

Stokes was initially named in England’s 16-man squad to tour Australia but was removed once the ECB had looked into the Bristol incident.

England crashed to a 10-wicket defeat to Australia in the Ashes opener in Brisbane. With the second Test starting in Adelaide on Saturday, the very earliest Stokes could possibly return would be for the third Test in Perth, which begins on December 14.

For that to happen, there would need to be a decision not to charge Stokes, which would bring the police investigation to a conclusion. The ECB’s cricket discipline commission would then have to backdate any suspension.

For now, Stokes is hoping to play for Canterbury Kings in a 50-over Ford Trophy clash against Otago Volts on Sunday, although nothing has been finalised yet.

Worcestershire’s Alex Hepburn has been charged with raping a woman after an investigation by West Mercia Police.

The county said the all-rounder has been suspended on full pay after being charged with two counts of rape alleged to have been committed on Saturday April 1 this year.

FOOTBALL

Pardew aims for silverware as new boss

NEW West Brom boss Alan Pardew is targeting silverware and vowed to take the Baggies to the next level after being unveiled in the post yesterday.

The 56-year-old signed a deal until 2020 after he replaced the sacked Tony Pulis with Albion two points above the Premier League relegation zone.

It ends 11 months out of management since he was axed by Crystal Palace, the team he faces in his first game in charge on Saturday.

He said: “My best teams play on the front foot and try and put teams under pressure. Sometimes they get a bloody nose doing that and that’s what I’ll deliver here at West Brom.”

WINTER OLYMPICS:

Promoted Jackson cried at bronze

by Our Sports Desk

GREAT BRITAIN’S four-man bobsleigh pilot John Jackson admitted he “cried for five minutes” after learning yesterday that he and his teammates are set to land retrospective Winter Olympic bronze medals.

Jackson, along with Joel Fearon, Stuart Benson and Bruce Tasker, finished fifth at Sochi 2014 but the disqualification of two Russian crews who finished above them means that pending appeal the British team will be upgraded to third place.

The International Olympic Committee announced on Tuesday that it had disqualified three members of the fourth-placed Russian crew, led by Alexander Kasjanov, as a result of the findings of the Oswald Commission hearings into state-sponsored doping during the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics.

The move follows the stripping of Alexander Zubkov’s gold medal-winning sled in similar circumstances last week, and means that Great Britain is set to take a fifth medal from Sochi, making it the most successful Winter Games in GB history.

Jackson said: “I’ve just sat down and cried for the last five minutes — that’s how emotional it feels.

“I thought I’d got my head round it — that we missed out and we can’t go back — but it’s just hit me how hard we worked and how much we put into the season to achieve that goal.”

Jackson, a former Royal Marines commando who steered his team to within 0.11 of the podium in Sochi, retired after the Games, but teammates Tasker and Fearon are both still part of the current squad hoping to win more medals in Pyeongchang next year.

The team has confirmed its intention to appeal its relegation to the fifth place.