

SCANS

Second attack may spell end for chimps

A SECOND unprovoked attack on a human may mean euthanasia for two chimps at the Jane Goodall Chimp Eden sanctuary in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.

Margi Brocklehurst, the managing executive of the institute said yesterday that another employee was attacked last month. - Mercury Correspondent

Fishermen rescued

TWO fishermen from Lambert's Bay on the West Coast were guided back to shore yesterday after losing their way in thick fog on Wednesday, the National Sea Rescue Institute said.

Rescuers found them on their small, open fishing boat, nine nautical miles north of Lambert's Bay. - Sapa

Inquiry adjourned

THE Seriti Commission of Inquiry into the 1999 arms deal was adjourned yesterday after Captain Andrew Reed completed his testimony, said spokesman William Baloyi.

The hearings will continue on Wednesday. The commission is investigating allegations of corruption. - Sapa

NSRI rescues ill sailor

A FILIPINO sailor with a suspected burst stomach ulcer was evacuated from a bulk carrier off Port Elizabeth, the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) said.

Spokesman Craig Lambinon said the MV India, sailing from Brazil to Singapore, had diverted to Port Elizabeth. - Sapa

Backpay clarified

INDEPENDENT Municipal and Allied Trade Union leaders have met members at King's Park Stadium.

They had to clarify that not all employees would receive backpay relating to the conditions of service decision this week, union president Stanley Khoza said. - Mercury Reporter

Meat labelling call

LONDON: Religious leaders in Britain yesterday called for all meat to be labelled with details of the method of slaughter after it emerged that halal and kosher meat were often not marked.

Jewish and Muslim groups said consumers should know this at the point of sale. - Sapa-AFP

SOCIAL WORKER TESTIFIES

Oscar 'was distressed, mourning'

MURDER-accused Oscar Pistorius was emotionally distressed and heartbroken after shooting his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, a social worker told the High Court in Pretoria yesterday.

"From the moment I saw him, I saw a heartbroken man who was suffering emotionally. I saw a man who was in mourning and was sorry for the loss," said Yvette van Schalkwyk.

"He spoke to me about the plans they had with Reeva for the future and about her parents and the suffering of her family."

Van Schalkwyk said that she had been upset by media reports suggesting that Pistorius was not sincere in his apologies and was faking emotions and tears.

Prosecutor Gerrie Nel objected to Van Schalkwyk's testimony. He said her evidence was irrelevant, but he was overruled by Judge Thokozile Masipa.

Van Schalkwyk said she met Pistorius on February 15 in police cells, a day after the Paralympian shot Steenkamp. Under cross-examination by Nel, Van Schalkwyk said she had not dealt with other accused people in a "family murder case".

Earlier, Professor Christina Lundgren, head of anaesthesiology at Wits University, told the court it was problematic to ascertain the time of a deceased person's last meal based on gastric emptying and the time of death.

Lundgren said she could not support the State's assertion that Steenkamp ate about two hours before her death. She referred the court to different literature suggesting that it would be speculative to gauge the time of eating and emptying of gastric contents of a deceased person.

Lundgren was called by Pistorius's defence to give expert evidence on factors which influenced gastric emptying.

The anaesthetist said it had not been proved that a stomach took four hours to empty. She said there was consensus on gastric emptying requiring a minimum of six hours after eating.

"About 10 percent of a low-fat meal would remain in the stomach after four hours," she said.

Factors that could delay gastric emptying included sleeping, exercise, anxiety and pain, smoking, and medication.

Lundgren said that Steenkamp's last meal - chicken stir fry - could have delayed gastric emptying if it contained indigestible fibre.

She said it had also been said Steenkamp did yoga before going to bed. This could also have delayed gastric emptying.

That Steenkamp was premenopausal could also have played a part.

In March, Professor Gert Saayman, who performed the post-mortem on Steenkamp, said the model's bladder would have been empty had she gone to the toilet between 30 minutes to an hour before her death.

He said she could have eaten her last meal about two hours before her death. He qualified this, saying that estimating the time of gastric emptying was not an exact science and that he was relying on his years of experience and studying.

Testifying last month, Pistorius was unable to explain why there was food in Steenkamp's stomach when she died.

Nel suggested she "must have eaten within two hours of her death". Pistorius insisted the couple had eaten about 7pm on February 13. Steenkamp died at about 3am the next day. - Sapa



PISTORIUS

FINE STATE OF AFFAIRS



Long-distance taxi drivers blockaded roads around the Durban station yesterday after a commotion with metro police after being fined for illegal parking. Motorists travelling on Umgeni Road, Mathews Meyiwa Road (First Avenue) and Fynn Street had to use alternative routes as taxi drivers threw stones at passing cars. PICTURE: SBUSISO NDLOVU

Family tell of slain couple's love, laughter, fun

Sphelele Ngubane

THE family of the Malvern couple shot dead on a guest farm in Harrismith last month say the love their parents gave them was unconditional.

Michele du Preez, speaking at the memorial service for the couple at the Kloof Harvest Church yesterday, said Brian Pope had adopted her and her brother, John.

"There were no moments when I felt I was adopted because he loved and disciplined us the same way.

"My dad was a good and a kind man."

The Popes, who had been together for 17 years and married about two years ago, were on holiday when they were murdered.

Brian's son, Warren, 37, who survived the frenzied attack, said his father had been like a friend to him.

"Family meant everything to him," he said.

He said his father had a passion for being on the road and meeting people.

He described Tillie as some-

one who "made amazing ribs".

"When she invited us for dinner, we would ask what she was cooking and, if she said she was making ribs, we would be over in four minutes," Warren said.

"We are getting along, taking it day by day. Without God's grace, family and friends, we would not cope."

The couple's grandsons, Jordan, 15, and Joel, 13, read letters to their grandparents.

"You were an inspiration to us," said one.

"You embraced us dearly

and you always put a smile on my face."

The other said: "I remember when you picked me up from school and took me to the animal park."

"Thank you for spoiling me so much."

"I will miss all the fun and laughter in the family. Sleeping on the mattress in the lounge till late watching TV."

The man arrested after the couple's murders has abandoned his bail application and is to appear in the Harrismith Magistrate's Court on June 6.

Witness tells of amnesia

Sharika Regchand

A FARM attack in Ixopo a year ago was so traumatic for a woman who worked at the farm that she could not remember it, the Pietermaritzburg High Court heard yesterday.

Margaret Fennell, 70, testified in the trial of Nkosinathi Emmanuel Mngadi, 29, and Sifiso Alfred Ngubane, 24, of KwaMashu, who are charged with the murder and robbery of farmer Peter Charles Hackland, 61, at Cromleigh farm in Ixopo on May 7.

Fennell said at about 12.30pm, the Hackland family would have been having lunch. She could not remember anything else.

"I believe that with the psychological and emotional trauma, amnesia can result. I was being hit on the face. It must have been traumatic seeing what was happening in the kitchen. I sustained injuries. I was hit on the left side of the face. There was an open wound above my left jaw."

She added that she remembered how painful it was after visiting a doctor, but could not remember being driven there.

Before the incident, she said, she did not suffer from memory loss.

"Since it happened, I am apprehensive about my memory returning and how it would affect me."

Earlier in the week, the farmer's daughter, Louise Hartwig, testified.

She said she was preparing lunch when she realised her father was shouting. She went outside and saw him between the two accused.

She and Fennell were dragged into the pantry and assaulted.

The trial is continuing.

POACHING ORPHAN



This 3-month-old rhino was taken to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre in Limpopo on Wednesday night after his mother had been poached. He was found next to her body. He was doted by Dr Peter Rogers and taken to the centre where he spent the night with curator Christo Schreiber and a surrogate 'mother', Skaap, right. Yesterday, the centre said he was 'in a calmer state' and that the challenge was to find the fat-free milk to sustain him.



11 die in W Cape bus crash

ELEVEN people have been killed after a bus crashed between George and Oudtshoorn. "Ten people died at the scene and another person died in hospital," Western Cape traffic chief Kenny Africa said yesterday.

"Another 18 passengers were injured, nine seriously." Of the 18, four were children.

The crash happened on the N12 at 1.50am.

ER24 spokesman Werner Vermaak said that paramedics received a call about the incident at 2am.

The bus was going around a bend, about 15km outside Oudtshoorn, when a vehicle in front apparently swerved. The bus driver lost control and the vehicle tipped on to its side.

Vermaak said that paramedics and police had to climb into the bus to free some people who were trapped in the debris.

Among the injured was a 5-year-old boy who was found lying in the bus next to the body of his mother.

"He was awake but sustained serious fractures."

He was taken to a hospital in George.

Vermaak said the bus had apparently been travelling from Cape Town.

At the time paramedics were attending, about 50 people were believed to still be inside, excluding the deceased.

Paramedics said the road between George and Oudtshoorn would be closed for several hours. - Sapa

Designers dress up Durban July

Mercury Reporter

DESIGNERS chosen to participate in the elite Invited Designer Showcase, presented by Lipsy, at the Vodacom Durban July have been named.

The race, to be run on July 5, is arguably the city's leading fashion platform, having married gambling and glamour successfully for many years.

The designers this year are Durban's Andre Martin, Casey Jeanne, Karen Monk Klijnstra, Kathrin Kidger, Vino Moodley, and Zama Mathe.

David Tlale and Paledi



Durban designer Andre Martin, who created the street-wear brand Life, with his son, Cole.

PICTURE: MARILYN BERNARD

Segapo represent Joburg. They will show off garments reflecting the race day theme of "The Big Screen" at the Durban July Fashion Showcase on June 18 and 20 at Greyville

Racecourse. "The July is not only a horse race but a very high-end fashion event," said Tlale.

"The event gives credible exposure to established designers and gives everyone a chance to be a fashionista for the day," said Martin.

Monk Klijnstra said that the theme lent itself to "complete creative overdrive".

Krejcir lawyers' tough call

THE State must reduce more than 56 000 pages of evidence in Radovan Krejcir's kidnapping and attempted murder trial or his defence will try to get the case struck off the roll.

The Czech fugitive, Desai Lufhondo, Siboniso Miya and Hawks members Samuel "Saddam" Maruping, George Nthoroane and Jan Mofokeng appeared on the same charges yesterday.

The charges relate to allegations that the six were involved in abducting a man and torturing him in June.

Their trial was due to begin in the Johannesburg High Court, sitting in the Palm Ridge Magistrate's Court, but the accused's legal team applied for the case to be struck off the roll before these proceedings began.

Krejcir's legal team said it would be impossible for them to read through the evidence material given to them only last week, more than 56 000 pages of information downloaded from cellphones of the six, to prepare for the trial. - Mercury Correspondent

Film a strong contender

A FILM set in the Eastern Cape, *Of Good Report*, has been nominated for 13 awards at the Africa Movie Academy Awards.

"We are honoured, as this is the biggest recognition a film can receive in the continent," New Brighton Pictures founder and the film's producer Luzuko Dilima said yesterday.

The film, about a male high school teacher in rural South Africa who has an affair with girl pupil, was banned by the South African Film and Publication Board at the Durban International Film Festival in

July last year. The board said that a scene between the teacher and pupil constituted child pornography.

Film director Jahmil XT Qubeka appeared on stage at the Durban festival with his mouth taped in a gesture of protest.

The ban was eventually overturned and the film classified as suitable for viewers aged 16 or older.

The film won seven awards at the South African Film and Television Awards last month. - Sapa

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