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World briefs

Flexible wings for jets

CALIFORNIA -- Engineers have lifted an idea from the birds, bees and Wright brothers in the design of the wings of a fighter jet being tested over the Mojave Desert.

The F/A-18A with warping wings began test flights this month. The experiments could lead to aircraft equipped with wings that bend and shape themselves to manoeuvre in flight, rather than using flaps, slats and ailerons that do the job on today's planes. -- Sapa-AP

Big payout for 'dad'

SYDNEY -- In what may be an Australian first, a Melbourne man won a handsome damages payout from his former wife after a DNA test proved he was not the father of two of their three children.

Liam Magill sued Meredith Magill for deceit after 10 years of maintenance payments, Australia's AAP news agency reported.

He was handed Aus\$70000 (R390000) in compensation for pain and suffering.
-- Sapa-DPA

Mahler score found

JERUSALEM -- A rare musical find -- a score containing Gustav Mahler's own handwritten revisions -- has been unearthed at a music academy in Israel, officials said.

The score, Mahler's First Symphony,

had been unknowingly filed away for over 40 years in the archives of the Academy of Music and Dance here and was accidentally uncovered by a teacher preparing for a class. -- Sapa-AP

JFK film restored

LONDON -- A news film of the assassination of President John F Kennedy, one of three primary motion picture documents of that day in Dallas 39 years ago, is being restored.

The *Muchmore film*, as it is known, will be remastered with digital technology that will stabilise it and restore scratched and damaged images, the owners, Associated Press Television News, said yesterday. -- Sapa-AP

Catholics to de-baptise

ROME -- Italy's bishops are to allow Catholics to "de-baptise" themselves, according to newspaper reports

yesterday.

The announcement was made by members of the Italian Bishops Conference on Thursday.

The move, described as "difficult to swallow" by some bishops, followed complaints from people who said they were not being allowed to change a decision taken by their parents when they were still in their infancy. --
Sapa-DPA

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