

'I can't breathe'

Outrage after UK police handcuff dying student

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● American tech tycoon Elon Musk has posted on X an offer to fund a private prosecution against the police over its handling of the murder.



18-year-old student Henry Nowak being handcuffed by police before his death, following a false claim of racial abuse, in Southampton, south England.

AFP | Southampton, United Kingdom

Body camera footage of a dying student who was handcuffed by British police after being stabbed by a Sikh man and falsely accused of racially abusing his murderer sparked outrage yesterday.

Eighteen-year-old Henry Nowak is heard repeatedly telling police "I can't breathe" in the footage captured as he lay mortally wounded in December after a night out with his football team members.

A judge on Monday jailed his killer, 23-year-old Sikh Vickrum Digwa, for at least 21 years for stabbing Nowak to death with a ceremonial knife with a 21cm (8 inch) blade.

When police arrived at the scene in the south coast city of Southampton, Digwa lied to officers, telling them Nowak had racially insulted him and that he



Vickrum Digwa

was the victim.

The footage, which was played during Digwa's trial, shows police accepting the aggressor's accusation, and rather than helping Nowak initially placing him in handcuffs despite his pleas that he had been stabbed and could not breathe.

One officer can be heard

asking Nowak: "You've been stabbed, whereabouts?" before adding: "Don't think you have, mate."

Moments later the young student collapsed and became unconscious.

Speaking after Digwa was sentenced at Southampton Crown Court, Nowak's father Mark described the police treatment of his son as "shocking".

He called Nowak's treatment "inhumane and degrading... his murderer, however, was afforded decency. He was believed".

The family gave permission for police to release the bodycam footage.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned the "awful, shocking case" on X on Monday, saying it was right the independent police complaints watchdog was investigating officers' "response to (Nowak's) senseless murder".

Main opposition Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch and far-right Reform UK leader

Nigel Farage called for changes to police diversity policies.

Farage said there needed to be an end to "anti-white prejudice" and recognition that "white lives matter".

American tech tycoon Elon Musk has posted on X an offer to fund a private prosecution against the police over its handling of the murder.

Digwa was due in court again Tuesday with his brother, Gurpreet Digwa, 27, and his father, Moga Singh, 52, on weapons offences. All three face charges of possession of offensive weapons including a flick knife, an extendable baton, knuckledusters, a machete, swords and kusaris.

Digwa's family apologised to Nowak's family for the killing and for bringing the Sikh community into "disrepute".

The convicted killer's mother, Kiran Kaur, 53, will be sentenced on July 17 for assisting an offender by taking the knife back to the family home.

Trump names inexperienced ally as intelligence director

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump appointed a loyalist with no national security experience as head of US intelligence on Tuesday -- and said he would also retain his existing jobs overseeing federal housing and mortgage policies.

Federal Housing Finance Agency chief Bill Pulte, who also leads the mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, was named as the acting director of national intelligence, replacing Tulsi Gabbard.

Gabbard, herself a controversial pick for the job, resigned in late May, ending a tenure that saw her appear to be at odds with Trump over his war on Iran.

"William has deep experience managing the most sensitive matters in America, the safety and soundness of the Markets," said Trump in a post on his Truth Social platform, adding that Pulte would continue to serve in his housing-related roles.



Bill Pulte

Pulte, 38, is an outspoken ally of the president who has been known for publicly attacking Trump's political enemies, with some US media describing him as the president's "attack dog."

Pulte has accused Trump's political enemies, including Democratic Senator Adam Schiff and New York Attorney General Letitia James, of falsifying documents on mortgage applications.

He has also championed the mortgage fraud case against US Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, based upon which Trump attempted to fire the monetary policy maker.

Pope names first lay woman to head Vatican department

AFP | Vatican City, Holy See

Pope Leo XIV yesterday named a Mexico-born news executive to head up the Vatican's powerful communications department -- the first lay woman to hold a post in the Roman Curia.

Maria Montserrat Alvarado, currently president of the Catholic media outlet EWTN News, will take up her post on November 1, the Vatican said in a statement.

She was born in Mexico City and studied in the United States.

Vatican News said the appointment was "continuing the path of reform and renewal initiated by Pope Francis", Leo's predecessor.

"Alvarado is the first non-religious woman to be appointed pre-

fect of a dicastery of the Holy See," the Vatican news service report said.

The Dicastery for Communication oversees the Vatican's vast print, radio and television services, which broadcast to a global audience.

It also runs the Vatican press office.

In the months before he died on April 21 last year, Francis named two nuns to key Vatican positions and criticised a "chauvinistic mentality" within the Catholic Church.

Sister Raffaella Petrini became president of the governance of the Vatican City state and Sister Simona Brambilla was named head of the department overseeing the world's Catholic religious orders and congregations.



Exoplanets can have magnetic fields, 'hot Jupiter' winds reveal

AFP | Paris, France

Planets beyond our solar system can have magnetic fields similar to those closer to home, astronomers said Tuesday after observing extreme winds on scorching worlds known as "hot Jupiters".

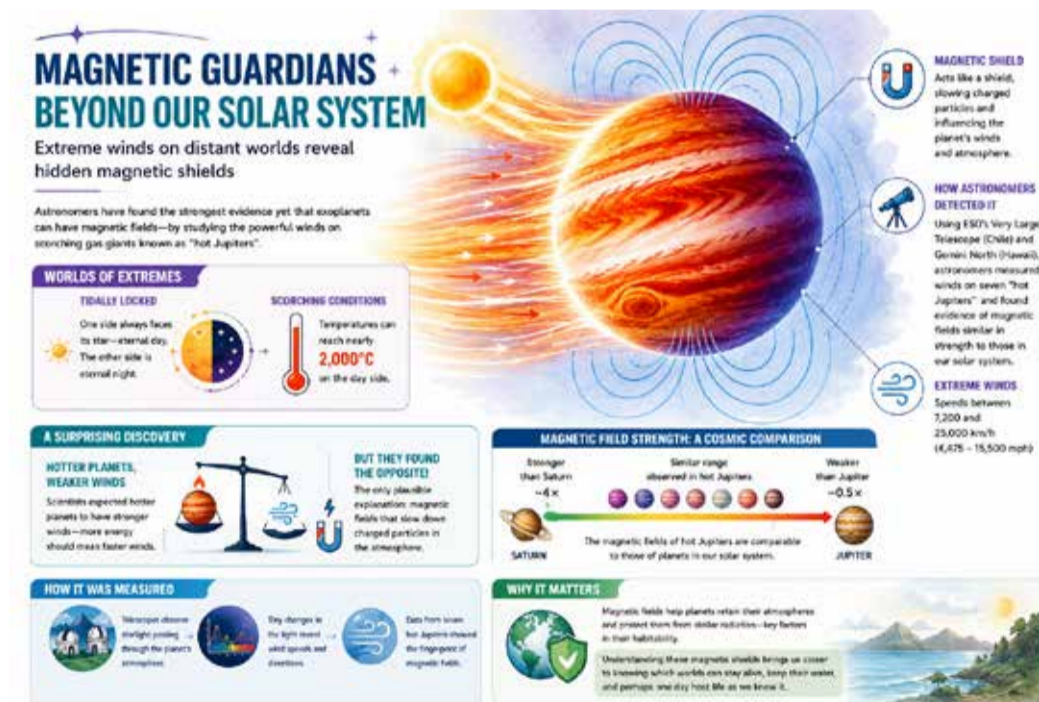
The observations offer the strongest evidence yet of magnetic fields outside our cosmic backyard, a subject which has long eluded scientists.

"It's the first time we can compare the magnetic environments of other worlds -- a key step toward ultimately understanding which planets can stay alive, keep their water, and perhaps even, one day, host life as we know it," said astronomer Julia Seidel of France's Cote d'Azur Observatory.

By deflecting the charged particles that bombard planets, magnetic fields play a "very complex role in atmospheric retention," Seidel, the lead author of a new study in Nature Astronomy, told AFP.

In our solar system, Earth, Jupiter and Saturn have active magnetic fields -- but Venus and Mars do not.

However exactly what is



happening on far-away worlds known as exoplanets is difficult to measure.

Seidel and her colleagues did not originally intend to measure magnetic fields, but instead set out to look into wind.

The team studied seven "hot Jupiters", gas giants where temperatures can hit nearly

2,000 degrees Celsius. They have "compositions completely unknown in our solar system," Seidel explained.

These planets are so close to their stars that they are tidally locked.

This means they always have one side facing their star -- similar to how the same side of the

Moon always faces Earth.

So it will always be a blisteringly hot day on one side of these planets, while the other sits in eternal night.

This extreme difference creates very violent winds, ranging from 7,200 to 25,000 kilometres (4,475 to 15,500 miles) an hour, the scientists found.

Bear goes on rampage in Japan, injuring four people

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

A bear attack left four people injured in two factories and a residential area in northern Japan's Fukushima on Tuesday, police and media reports said.

A record 13 people were killed by bears in Japan last year, and there has been a jump in sightings as the animals emerge hungry from hibernation.

"A bear-related human injury incident... occurred in Fukushima City, injuring four people," the prefectural police said in a statement.

The bear was first spotted in a car parts

factory, prompting an emergency call explaining that "employees had been bitten", the Yomiuri Shimbun daily reported citing police and fire department officials.

As the bear continued its rampage, two other people were injured, one in a residential area and the other on the premises of an electronic equipment manufacturer nearby, the Yomiuri said, adding that the animal was thought to have remained inside the factory.

The report said one of those attacked was heavily injured, while the rest suffered only mild injuries.

