

Flowers and other items at a memorial for missing three-year-old Sherin Mathews (file photo)



# Texas father changes story

## Washington

**T**he US father of an adopted toddler found dead after being reported missing has changed his story to say he watched his daughter die after choking on milk.

Wesley Mathews initially told officers his daughter Sherin had disappeared after he made her stand outside their home in Dallas, Texas, at 3am as a punishment.

The three-year-old's body was found on Sunday in a tunnel about half a mile from her home, in the Suburb of Richardson, following a massive police search operation. Her cause of death is yet to be released.

Mathews was initially charged with endangering a child's life shortly after he reported her missing on October 7.

However on Monday Mathews voluntarily attended

the Richardson Police Station with his lawyer and changed his statement, according to a police warrant.

The 37-year-old said he had been trying to get Sherin to drink milk in their garage in the early hours of the morning, and that she had initially refused before then starting to drink with Mathews physically assisting her.

The warrant said: "The three-year-old began to choke. She was coughing and her breathing slowed. Eventually, Wesley Mathews felt no pulse on the child and believed she had died."

"Wesley Mathews then admitted to removing the body from the home."

Mathews charge has now been changed to causing felony injury to a child, which carries a maximum of life in prison.

Sherin was adopted from an Indian orphanage by Mathews and his wife last year. The couple said as she was severely malnourished when they took the toddler in they put her on a special diet to help her gain weight, which involved feeding her during the night.

After she was reported missing, Mathews initially told police that he had made Sherin stand by a tree in an alleyway outside their home at 3am as a punishment for refusing to drink her milk.

He said he discovered she had disappeared when he went to check on her 15 minutes later but did not report her missing until after sunrise. The father also told officers he knew that coyotes had been seen in the alley where Sherin was left. (*The Telegraph*)

## Einstein happiness note sold for \$1.6m

### Jerusalem

**W**hile the importance of Albert Einstein's theory of happiness may be relative, it fetched US\$1.3 million at a Jerusalem auction on Tuesday.

The Nobel-winning scientist's musings, on a handwritten note, may not be as famous as his groundbreaking theory of relativity, but they still shed light on one of the great modern minds.

Winner's Auctions and Exhibitions said Einstein was travelling in Japan in 1922 when he was told he would



The note on happiness written by Albert Einstein, in 1922 be awarded the Nobel Prize in physics. In Tokyo, Einstein scribbled the note in German to a bellboy after he did not

have cash to give him a tip.

"A calm and modest life brings more happiness than the pursuit of success combined with constant restlessness," it reads.

Gal Wiener, CEO of the auction house, said Einstein told the bellboy that because of his fame, the handwritten note "will probably be worth more than a regular tip."

Wiener said bidding began at US\$2,000 and quickly escalated, with the bidding war lasting around 25 minutes. (AP)

## #PollToday



**Do you think a ban on texting while crossing the street is a smart move to reduce accidents?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"When I say, 'I will kill you if you destroy my country,' and 'I will kill you if you destroy the young of my country,' I am asking everybody to find me a fault in those two statements,"

Rodrigo Duterte  
Philippine President

## Rest in sight

**Louisiana campus shooting leaves 2 dead**



A student and a campus visitor were fatally shot at Grambling State University, and the gunman is on the loose, officials said.

## Plague kills 124 in Madagascar

At least 124 people have died since August from a plague epidemic, while more than 1,000 suspected cases have been recorded in 14 of Madagascar's 22 regions

## Anne Frank's diary to be read at games

A passage of Anne Frank's diary will be read before all Italian matches this week after an anti-Semitic incident at Rome's Olympic Stadium on Sunday.

## Tesla solar power arrives in Puerto Rico

Entrepreneur Elon Musk has followed through on his plan to boost power resources in Puerto Rico after it was devastated by Hurricane Maria.

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## Ex-US President George HW Bush groped actress

### Washington

**F**ormer US President George HW Bush has issued an apology to an actress who accused him of groping her from his wheelchair while attending a screening, according to reports.

Heather Lind, 34, said the incident occurred four years ago at an event to promote the TV series "Turn: Washington's Spies," according to *Daily Mail*, which saved a screenshot of a lengthy *Instagram* post she wrote and later deleted.

It is the latest in an outpouring of sexual harassment allegations against powerful male figures in entertainment, fashion and finance that followed the downfall of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, who stands accused of assaulting and raping actresses.

Lind added she decided to share her story after seeing Bush Sr, 93, appear onstage at a benefit concert to raise money for victims of the hurricane-ravaged southern United States and Caribbean. (AFP)

## Thailand kicks off five-day funeral for King Bhumibol



Police officers rehearse for a symbolic cremation ceremony for the late King in front of a royal crematorium replica site.

### Bangkok

**T**hailand has observed a year of mourning for King Bhumibol, who was regarded as a pillar of stability during a reign of seven decades.

Thailand yesterday marked the start of a lavish, five-day funeral for King Bhumibol Adulyadej with a Buddhist religious ceremony attended by senior members of its royal family.

King Bhumibol, who died last year aged 88, will be

cremated on Thursday on a royal pyre within a cremation complex of gold pavilions in front of Bangkok's Grand Palace, in a ceremony that is expected to draw about 250,000 mourners.

Thailand has observed a year of mourning for King Bhumibol, who was regarded as a pillar of stability during a reign of seven decades that witnessed political upheaval and rapid development in the Southeast Asian nation. (Reuters)

## Honolulu bans texting while crossing the road

### Washington

**H**onolulu in Hawaii has become the first city in the world to ban people from looking at their phones or other digital devices while crossing roads.

The law, passed in July in an attempt to reduce injuries and deaths that occur while people are distracted, came into force yesterday.

First offenders will face fines of up to \$15-\$35 (£11-£26) while repeat offenders face fines of up to \$99.

Urgent calls to the emergency services are

exempt from the ban.

The Distracted Walking Law states that "no pedestrian shall cross a street or highway while viewing a mobile electronic device".

The National Safety Council in the US added "distracted walking" to a list of injury risks in 2015, the same year a study in the *Journal of Safety Studies* found that hundreds of American pedestrians a year were injured while engrossed in their phones. (BBC)