

MICHAEL DALDER/REUTERS
to the Gulenist movement, which the government says was responsible for the attempted coup. But many of them are instead widely considered to be opponents of Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. A 29 March government decree returned just 688 purged academics, around half of them graduate assistants, to their positions.

BUSINESS

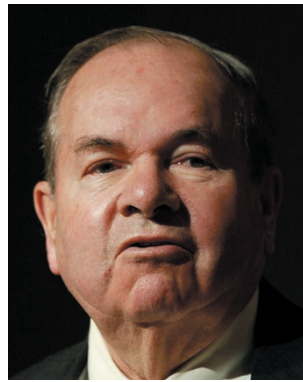
Deep learning

Google is increasing its stake in artificial intelligence (AI), funding two new projects in Toronto, Canada. The technology giant announced on 30 March that it will contribute US\$5 million to the Vector Institute, a non-profit centre affiliated with the University of Toronto that will focus on AI and deep learning. The institute's chief science adviser, computer scientist Geoffrey Hinton, will also be conducting research on deep learning and artificial neural networks at the newly launched Google Brain Toronto, the latest satellite campus of the Google Brain project.

PEOPLE

Nobel physicist dies

Physicist Alexei Abrikosov (pictured), who shared the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physics for



his work on superconducting materials, has died, aged 88. The Russian physicist, who joined Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois in 1991, had in the 1950s developed a theory of superconductivity in the presence of magnetic fields. He helped to develop 'type II' superconductors, which are used in magnetic resonance imaging and particle accelerators.

ENVIRONMENT

Pesticide reversal

In a policy U-turn, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will now allow a common pesticide, chlorpyrifos, to remain on the market while research on its safety continues. The EPA had proposed a ban on chlorpyrifos in October 2015, and was under a court order to issue a decision by 31 March. On 29 March, EPA administrator

Scott Pruitt rejected the agency's earlier conclusion that the chemical could affect human cognition, particularly among farm workers and children. "We are returning to using sound science in decision-making — rather than predetermined results," Pruitt said.

FACILITIES

Floral collection

London's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has launched an online portal that is to include information on all of the world's known seed-bearing plants by 2020. The Plants of the World Online project currently includes entries on African plants, orchids, grasses and palms, adding up to around 27% of the world's 391,000 vascular plants, drawn from Kew's extensive herbarium and fungarium collections. Kew hopes eventually to have online names, descriptions, ranges and other data — such as correspondence from its archives — from its collections of 200,000 slides, 100,000 living plants and 2 billion seed samples.

HEALTH

Malaria guidelines

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released an update of its

2007 guidelines on malaria elimination. Whereas that report focused on countries that were approaching disease elimination, the latest guidance provides advice for all nations in which malaria is endemic. Among recommended strategies for countries that have high transmission, the WHO now lists mass drug administration — intake of malaria drugs as a preventative measure — as a way to curb the mosquito-borne disease in certain regions. In countries with very low transmission, the agency advises that cases detected through rapid diagnostic tests be confirmed by microscopy.

SPACE

Mars landing sites

The European Space Agency announced two possible landing sites for its first Mars rover mission, ExoMars 2020, on 28 March. The joint mission with Russia will land at either Oxia Planum or Mawrth Vallis. Both sites are vast plains in the planet's northern hemisphere; satellite data suggest they are made of clay that would once have been full of water, and possibly favourable to life. Mawrth Vallis lies at a higher latitude and had previously been deemed unsuitable because of engineering constraints. It was reconsidered after the mission was delayed from 2018 to 2020, which changed the craft's ultimate angle of approach. The final site will be picked in 2019.

CLARIFICATION

The Seven Days item 'GM impasse' (*Nature* 543, 594; 2017) neglected to mention that the European Commission will now decide on whether to authorize the GM maize varieties.

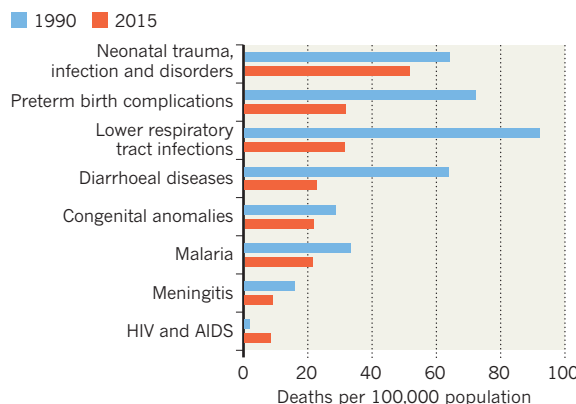
NATURE.COM
For daily news updates see:
www.nature.com/news

TREND WATCH

The number of annual deaths in children under 19 roughly halved globally between 1990 and 2015, falling from 14.2 million to 7.3 million. Massive progress has been made in cutting deaths from malnutrition and communicable diseases in children under 5, but improvements are less dramatic in newborns, according to the study, published in *JAMA Pediatrics* on 3 April. Progress also varied by region, says the report, which analysed data from 195 countries: most deaths occurred in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

CHILD DEATHS HALVED

The annual number of under 19s dying globally has fallen over 25 years, but the rates of improvement vary by cause of death.



SOURCE: HTTP://DX.DOI.ORG/10.1001/JAMA.PEDIATRICS.2017.0250