AROUND THE WORLD

Lead leak from Notre Dame fire prompts lawsuit

A French activist group has filed a lawsuit over health threats from toxic lead released in Notre Dame Cathedral’s devastating fire. Hundreds of tonnes of lead melted when the April fire destroyed the cathedral’s roof and spire, and exceptionally high lead levels were later recorded in the surrounding air. The association Robin des Bois said on Monday it filed a lawsuit in a Paris court for deliberately endangering human life. The group says local officials should have immediately imposed protective measures. The lawsuit doesn’t name a specific suspected perpetrator.

Don’t say ‘very’ or ‘got’: UK official’s rules for staffers

The new leader of Britain’s House of Commons has a painstaking list of grammar and etiquette rules for his staff. A memo for employees in Conservative Party Jacob Rees-Mogg’s office directs them to avoid using words such as “very”, “hopefully” and “got” and to address men with the courtesy title “esquire.” The list, published on Friday by ITV News, also advises staff to “use Imperial measurements,” put a double space after periods.

‘Brownface’ ad sparks anger in Singapore

An advertisement featuring an actor of Chinese origin with his skin darkened to portray different races has sparked anger in multi-ethnic Singapore, prompting an apology from the country’s state-owned broadcaster. Race is a sensitive issue in Singapore. The ad was part of a government-initiated campaign for cashless transactions in the city-state. The actor’s skin was darkened to depict an Indian man and a Malay woman wearing a headscarf, and he also portrayed a Chinese man and a Chinese woman.

Chilean navy confirms oil spill in pristine region

Chile’s navy on Sunday confirmed the spillage of 40,000 litres of diesel oil into the sea in a remote and pristine area of the country’s Patagonia and said it is working to mitigate the effects. The navy said it received a call from the mining company CAP on Saturday reporting the spill. The area is one of the planet’s most untouched with important biodiversity.
BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: Children play on see-saws at the US-Mexico border in Ciudad Juarez on Sunday