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Lead Stories

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Boy dies after falling into river in North Yorkshire, England

Last weekend, an eight-year-old boy died after falling into the River Wharfe in North Yorkshire, England. The river is known for its depth and strong undercurrent. The accident took place on Aaron Page's birthday, following celebrations with over twenty family members.

Page made his way to the river near Skipton around 3pm BST (1400 UTC) on Saturday; his brother, aged thirteen, was the first to call for assistance after spotting Aaron in the water. Emergency services subsequently assisted in searching for Aaron; the body was recovered at approximately 6:25 pm the same day. Members of the ambulance service failed to resuscitate him, pronouncing him dead at the scene.

"This was a happy family day out to celebrate a birthday at a local beauty spot [...] and unfortunately this young boy has got into difficulty in an area of water," stated Inspector Kevin Franks of North Yorkshire Police. "Despite efforts from members of the public and some quite sterling efforts from the emergency services and everyone else there, sadly we've been unable to bring him out alive."

Inspector Mike Woodhall of Harrogate police cautioned; "[n]o matter how safe a river seems sometimes there are inherent dangers."

Slovenia votes in favour of Croatian border deal

Slovenians yesterday voted in a referendum in favour of a border deal with Croatia. The Border Arbitration Agreement allows for international arbitrators to resolve a 20 year border dispute that dates back to the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Parliaments in both countries approved the deal, which will be binding on both countries. In March, Slovenian Prime Minister Borut Pahor's centre-left government yielded to demands for a referendum on whether to accept a border deal. "Solving the border dispute with Croatia is the basis for a lasting peace, security and friendship of both nations," Pahor said. "If it is rejected, it is questionable how long I or my successor will need to reach another agreement which, I believe, could not be better." he added.

The national Electoral Commission said that after 99.9 per cent of votes were counted, 51.5 per cent voted for the deal and 48.5 were against it. It is impossible for the remaining 2,000 votes, cast by Slovenians living abroad, to change the outcome.

Slovenia is situated between Italy and Croatia, where the dispute involves land on the Istrian peninsula in the northern Adriatic and the small Bay of Piran in the Adriatic Sea. A panel of five international experts will define the new land and maritime borders and could force Croatia to cede some of the sea it views as its own. In the past, Croatia has called for the border to be drawn down the middle of the bay. However, Slovenia, which has a much shorter coastline, feared that

this would deny its ships direct passage to international waters.

Slovenia is the only former Yugoslav state to have joined the European Union (EU), while Croatia hopes to conclude EU accession talks this year and join the twenty-seven member union in 2012. A rejection could have delayed Croatian membership. Slovenia has blocked Croatia's membership talks over the border issue in the past. Croatian President Ivo Josipović welcomed the outcome as "a victory for Slovenia, Croatia and Europe."

Brussels and Washington welcomed the deal. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission said, "This is an important step forward. We now look forward to a final settlement of the dispute. Resolving this bilateral issue is an important signal for the region and the relations between Slovenia and Croatia."

Ban on YouTube spreads to Google services in Turkey

Access to search engine Google has been limited and most of Google's online services cannot be accessed in Turkey. The access limitation happened due to the blocking of an IP set that belongs to Google. These IP addresses were shared between YouTube and other Google services.

The Turkish news site Hürriyet Daily News reports that Turkey's Telecommunications Communication Presidency (TCP) (a government agency that manages Turkish ISPs) indefinitely shut off access to several Google services. The shut-off came after the banning of YouTube for alleged insults against Turkish Republic founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. TCP released an official statement Friday, saying it had



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blocked access to some Google IP addresses "because of legal reasons". Under Turkish law, it is an offence to "insult Turkishness."

Softpedia states that the limited access to Google could be a result of the government trying to block specific DNS addresses that relate to Google, as part of its ongoing attempts to block YouTube. Since Google services share common software and IP addresses, the search engine itself suffers from access restrictions. Turkish citizens are concerned that this move of the governmental agency was another step towards a complete ban on Google, as exists in China.

Several Internet sites have been banned in Turkey in recent years, and although some of them were subsequently unbanned, most of them remain inaccessible. *Engelli Web*, a website listing banned sites reports that currently YouTube (since May 2008), Last.fm (since June 26, 2009), and Spanish newspaper El Mundo (since May 14, 2010) are among the banned sites in Turkey. MySpace and WordPress were also among banned sites for a period of time. Websites will be blocked following a court decision or if TCP decides to block on its behalf.

RetweetToday reports that Turkish citizens on Twitter have also reported access problems. Comments about the blockage are being shared using hashtags such as TurkeyCensorGoogle and TurkeyGoogleBan, as well as NoGoogleNoWeb.

Chilean football team arrives in South Africa

Chile's football team, coached by Marcelo Bielsa, arrived in South Africa on Sunday. The teams leading scorer in South Africa qualifying, Humberto Suazo, is currently injured and it is not known when will he play. Suazo scored 10 times.

'La Roja' arrived at Nelspruit, where they were warmly welcomed by local authorities, Chilean residents, and many Chilean fans. "They arrived very well, very relaxed," said Chilean Ambassador Francisco Marambio to AFP. "I welcomed them and I wished them the best," he added.

Chile last played in a World Cup at France in 1998, where they managed to reach eighth place.

"Suazo seems ok, and he's recovering," said Marambio, who talked to Bielsa and Harold Mayne-Nichols, President of the Chilean Football Association. "We aren't a surprise, we aren't the favorites, but we can be," said Mauricio Isla, one of the players.

Commons Picture of the Day



Panorama of Toronto.

Image credit: Martin St-Amant

Quote of the Day

Our civil laws will never be supple enough to fit the immense and changing variety of facts. Laws change more slowly than custom, and though dangerous when they fall behind the times are more dangerous still when they presume to anticipate custom.

~ Marguerite Yourcenar ~

Word of the Day

isometric adj

Of, or exhibiting equality in dimensions.

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