Lufthansa pilots begin strike

The pilot’s union of German airline Lufthansa have begun a four-day strike over pay and job security. Operations at subsidiary airlines Lufthansa Cargo and Germanwings are also affected by the strike.

The strike began at midnight on Monday (18:00 Sunday EST) after negotiations between the airline and union, Vereinigung Cockpit, over the weekend failed to resolve the threat. According to the union, the strike was over reduced flying time for the pilots, triggered by Lufthansa’s recent acquisition of several smaller airlines, which the union says is causing traffic to be diverted from union-operated routes. Additionally, the union was seeking a pay increase of 6.4% and guarantees that German labor conditions would apply to Lufthansa crews from abroad, which would reduce the incentive for outsourcing to foreign crews. In a statement issued by Lufthansa, however, the airline said that the union also demanded a greater say in the operation of the airline, which Lufthansa was unwilling to agree to.

The strike is expected to impact travelers on other airlines, as Lufthansa is a major player in the Star Alliance, and code-share operations with other airlines operated by Lufthansa would be affected by the strike. The strike involves more than 4,000 pilots, most of whom have been working without a contract for nearly a year. According to a union spokesman, upwards of 90% of the union’s members voted to strike. The strike is expected to cost Lufthansa around US$33-34 million (about €24-25 million) a day, not counting the impact at other airlines.

UK Wikinews Shorts: February 22, 2010

Wikinews Shorts are brief news reports. The following two stories are part of the Wikinews Shorts.

Man found guilty of murder in east London, England

A man has been found guilty of a murder that occurred in the east of London, England. Kobina Essel, aged 19 and known by the nickname of “Aggro”, was found guilty of stabbing 33-year-old Jamie Simpson with a ten-inch kitchen knife at a Matalan shop in the Dalston district on March 22, 2008. The trial was held in the Old Bailey, a famous courthouse in London.

The attack followed a robbery involving a gang of criminals, including Essel. Three other criminals have been found guilty of manslaughter. Two of those have been identified as 20-year-old Anthony Maina and Simeon Jumah, aged 25. Another individual, who is 17, has had his anonymity protected. Several others have been convicted of conspiracy to rob but not of having any role in the killing.
A woman has died from injuries sustained eight days ago in a house fire in West Dunbartonshire, Scotland. The victim, who has been identified as 51-year-old Aileen Lindsay, was critically injured in the fire at her house, which occurred in the village of Balloch, near to Loch Lomond.

Lindsay was taken to Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where she was given treatment for smoke inhalation and burns. However, she died in the hospital on Sunday, according to a statement from Strathclyde Police. Five other members of Aileen's family who were involved in the fire managed to survive. Police investigations to try and determine the cause of the fire are ongoing.

Word of the Day

**caldera**

*geology* A large crater formed by a volcanic explosion or by collapse of the cone of a volcano.

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Quote of the Day

How shall Integrity face Oppression? What shall Honesty do in the face of Deception, Decency in the face of Insult, Self-Defense before Blows? How shall Desert and Accomplishment meet Despising, Detraction, and Lies? What shall Virtue do to meet Brute Force? There are so many answers and so contradictory; and such differences for those on the one hand who meet questions similar to this once a year or once a decade, and those who face them hourly and daily.

~ W. E. B. Du Bois ~

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