



Lead Stories

11 die in truck-van crash in Kentucky

Greek debt deal reached

6.2 magnitude earthquake hits northern Chile

UK Wikinews Shorts: March 27, 2010

11 die in truck-van crash in Kentucky

At least 11 people have died in a crash between a van and a tractor-trailer on Interstate 65 south of Munfordville, Kentucky. The collision occurred around 5:16 a.m. CDT (1016 UTC) yesterday morning near the 63-mile marker.

According to officials the tractor-trailer crossed the median and struck the 18 passenger van head-on. The truck then hit a rock wall and burst into flames. The driver of the truck is reported to have died along with 10 passengers in the van. The family in the van were Mennonites from Kentucky on their way to a wedding in Iowa.

Officials said that one infant was killed but two other children in the van aged four and five that were in child restraint seats survived with minor injuries. Northbound Interstate 65 was to be closed until at least 4 p.m. CDT (2100 UTC) according to the Kentucky Department of Transportation.

Greek debt deal reached

A meeting in Brussels has produced a plan, supported by all 16 countries

in the eurozone, to make available up to 22 billion euros in financing to support Greece, which is laden with debt.

The deal would come into force only if Greece was unable to borrow money from commercial lenders, and would require approval from all 16 eurozone countries. While no figures were included in the agreement, anonymous officials said the total package would be around 22 billion euros, of which European countries would provide two-thirds. The remainder would be supplied by the International Monetary Fund.

Germany and France were the architects of the document, which was subsequently approved by the other members of the eurozone. While it is seen as a partial retreat for countries such as France that previously opposed any IMF participation in the loans, it is nevertheless regarded as a breakthrough in negotiations. Germany had been insistent on relatively strong terms for the plan, a large amount of which was in the final version.

Despite the agreement, there are no plans for it to take immediate effect, as the Greek government has not requested financial aid, and officials said that they hoped the option would never have to be used. The president of the European Central Bank, Jean-Claude Trichet, said that "the mechanism decided today will not normally need to be activated."

6.2 magnitude earthquake hits northern Chile

A strong earthquake struck the Atacama Region in Chile at 11:52 (14:52 UTC), provoking widespread

hysteria. The United States Geological Survey reported that the tremor reached a magnitude of 6.2. The epicentre is located on the mainland 76 kilometers south of Copiapó and at a depth of 59 kilometers. However, the University of Chile Geological Survey reported that the seism reached a magnitude of 5.9.

Thousands of inhabitants of Copiapó ran evacuation plans in offices and schools. The seism set off many alarms in cars and enterprises, according to radio stations. Parents went to take their children out of the schools. It was reported earlier that cornices fell down from buildings, businesses lost merchandise and cellphone network encountered problems in the area.

The ONEMI reported no damages or injuries, but some roads collapsed. Power and water distribution were not affected. Eva Cansino, ONEMI boss, told TVN that the citizens' reactions demonstrated particular sensitivity to seisms, and she pointed out that it helps to minimize the risks in similar situations. She added that this seism was not an aftershock of the February 27 Maule or March 11 Pichilemu earthquakes, which destroyed many places in the central and south areas of Chile.

Santiago felt the earthquake to a lesser degree. The earthquake was felt between the Antofagasta and O'Higgins regions.

ONEMI also reported the intensities of the seism in three regions according to the Mercalli scale:

- Antofagasta: Taltal, III grades;
- Atacama: Copiapó and Tierra Amarilla, VI grades; Vallenar,

V grades; Caldera, IV grades;

- Coquimbo: La Serena, V grades; Combarbalá and Río Hurtado, IV grades; Ovalle, III grades; and Punitaqui, II grades.

Joaziel Jamett, from ONEMI, reported that the tsunami alert was discarded in the coast of the Atacama Region, at the 12:45 local time (15:45 UTC). "SHOA (Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada de Chile / Chilean Army Hydrographic and Oceanographic Survey) has discarded any tsunami in the Atacama Region, therefore we have to keep the people quiet", reported Jamett to Bío Bío Radio.

Today marks one month from the earthquake and tsunami combo that hit the most of Chile central and south part. This is the second seism that has occurred in the north of Chile in the last few weeks, after the 6,3 on March 4.

Almost ten minutes before this earthquake, at 11:39:08 (14:39 UTC), another March 11 earthquake aftershock was felt between the O'Higgins and BíoBío regions. It reached 4.3 grades, and had a depth of 32.4 kilometers. The epicentre was located 16 kilometers at the southeast of Pichilemu. It lasted about 15 seconds. Another aftershock occurred at the 13:14 (16:14 UTC), reached 3.7 grades, had a depth of 10.8 kilometers, and the epicentre was located 12 kilometers at the east of Pichilemu. It lasted about 5 seconds.

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A compilation of there brief news reports for Saturday, March 27, 2010.

Winning British EuroMillions lottery ticket worth £39.7 million claimed

A winning EuroMillions lottery ticket,

worth approximately £39.7 million (US\$59.2 million, €44.1 million) has been claimed in the United Kingdom. The resulting lottery numbers were (in ascending order) 8, 16, 18, 37 and 43, with the two Lucky Star numbers being 2 and 6. A spokesperson for the National Lottery said: "Subject to a claim being received and validated, the prize could be paid out when the banks open on Monday. The winner can then decide whether or not to go public and share their news."

The EuroMillions lottery draw takes place in nine European countries including the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal and Switzerland.

Man imprisoned for racially aggravated assault in Bedfordshire, England

A man has been given a jail sentence after being found guilty of committing a racially aggravated assault during a protest in Bedfordshire, England. 19-year-old Kier McElroy hit Venkateswara Muppalla in the head with a signboard that he was in possession of in the city of Luton on May 24, 2009. McElroy pleaded guilty to the offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm but stated that he was not being racist. During the trial, which was held in Luton Crown Court, he admitted to a separate charge of affray, which was a consequence of his actions on the day. He stated that he had been intoxicated with alcohol at the time.

On March 5, 2010, Kier McElroy was found to be guilty of the charge of racially aggravated assault occasioning actual bodily harm by the jury in the court. On Friday, he was sentenced to sixteen months in prison.

One killed, two injured in car crash in Dorset, England

A man has been killed and two other people have been injured as the

result of a car accident involving two vehicles in Dorset, England. The three people were involved on the car crash on the B3157 road between the village of Portesham and the town of Weymouth at approximately 1700 GMT on Friday. Members of the police and ambulance service were alerted to the scene of the crash, which involved a black Ford Fiesta and another sports car, shortly afterwards. The sole 58-year-old male occupant of one of the vehicles, who currently cannot be identified, was deceased at the scene of the crash. The other two people, a woman aged 54 and man aged 64, were travelling in the other vehicle. They were both injured and were taken to hospital but are not thought to be suffering from life-threatening injuries.

Inspector Eddie Henley, who was subsequently present at the scene of the crash, stated: "This is a two vehicle collision with one fatality. There was one vehicle where the one male occupant received fatal injuries. The other vehicle had two casualties with injuries that are serious but not believed to be life threatening."

Commons Picture of the Day



The Macchu Picchu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Cusco in Peru, at twilight. Image credit: Martin St-Amant - Wikipedia

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