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Three arrested in al-Qaeda bomb plot

Three alleged al-Qaeda members have been arrested in Norway and Germany for suspected involvement in a bomb plot. Norway's Police Security service said that they were arrested for "preparing terror activities." The three men had been watched both by Norway and the United States for over a year, and officials said that peroxide bombs were planned to be used.

It was unclear if the men, of which one had Norwegian citizenship, with the other two possessing permanent residence permits, had selected a target. One of the suspects was of Uyghur origin, another is Iraqi-Kurdish, and the third is from Uzbekistan.

Two of the suspects were arrested in Oslo while the other one was captured in Germany in collaboration with authorities there.

Norwegian and United States officials say that this bombing plot is linked to last year's failed New York subway

bombing scheme and another failed plot to bomb Manchester, England. These failed schemes also involved peroxide bombs.

Norway's Police Security Service released a statement that said "[i]t is important to emphasize that those groups in Norway that may constitute a threat to national security are small and primarily involved in support activities to foreign countries. We would therefore like to stress that today's apprehensions will not result in a different assessment of the current threat situation in Norway, and that the threat level will still be considered low."

Solar-powered plane completes 26-hour flight

An experimental solar-powered airplane, called the *Solar Impulse*, landed in Switzerland on Thursday after completing a successful 26-hour test flight. The flight was a proof-of-concept displaying that a solar-powered aircraft can accumulate enough power from the sun during the day to power it through the night. The team that designed and built the aircraft believes that, in theory, the plane could fly indefinitely, given that there is enough sunlight to power it.

The flight is the longest and highest flight by a piloted solar-powered aircraft, with an average altitude of about 28,000 feet, and an average speed of around 25 miles per hour. Pilot Andre Borschberg, a former fighter pilot in the Swiss air force, said "I've been a pilot for forty years now, but this flight has been the most incredible of my flying career. Just sitting there and watching the battery charge level rise and rise

thanks to the sun. I have just flown more than 26 hours without using a drop of fuel and without causing any pollution."

The plane can only carry one passenger, and contains 12,000 solar cells. However, the plane does have its setbacks; a blog on the project's website reported after seventeen hours of flight that "Andre's feeling great up there. His only complaints involve little things like a slightly sore back as well as a ten-hour period during which it was minus twenty degrees Celsius in the cockpit. That made his drinking water system freeze up and worst of all his iPod batteries die."

The project's intention is to show that emissions-free air travel is a feasible concept; however, the team does not believe that current propulsion methods will be replaced by alternatives in the near future.

Abducted four-year-old Missouri girl found alive, person of interest shoots himself

The Amber Alert issued for four-year-old Alisa Maier of Louisiana, Missouri was canceled after Maier was found alive at a gas station late Tuesday night, just over 24 hours after her kidnapping. A person of interest in the incident shot himself when approached by police on Wednesday afternoon.

The young Maier was playing with her six-year-old brother, Blake, when investigators say she was kidnapped at around 8 p.m. CDT (0200 UTC) Monday evening. The brother ran inside the home to alert his parents after seeing an unfamiliar person drive away with his sister. Police say that the boy

was the only witness to the incident, and provided them with a vague description of the suspect and vehicle in the case. Both of Maier's parents were inside their residence at the time of the abduction, and did not notice the incident until their son came in for help. Maier's mother attempted to pursue the kidnapper while waiting for police to arrive, but was unsuccessful.

An Amber Alert was issued shortly afterwards, and over 100 searchers, some volunteers, began scouring through Louisiana on Tuesday morning. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) also joined in the investigation. Currently, the Louisiana Police Department, Missouri State Highway Patrol, FBI, and St. Louis County Police Department, are all involved in the investigation.

At around 9:45 p.m. CDT (0245 UTC) Tuesday, Maier was found alive and apparently unharmed wandering near a car wash in Fenton. St. Louis County police were alerted to the area after several people reported that a small boy had been left unattended at the gas station. After talking with the child, police realized it was the missing Maier. She was taken to SSM St. Clare Medical Center for evaluation, released, and then taken to the St. Louis County Police West County Precinct. Early Wednesday morning, she was taken to another hospital, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, for more tests. Police said that Maier's hair was cut, possibly to make her look like a boy, but have not said whether she was sexually assaulted.

Maier's family was said to be "elated" over the girl's safe return. They recently moved into the town of 4,000, where they have family, but Alisa Maier was born in Ohio. Louisiana is about 80 miles (128.7 kilometres) north of St. Louis and is situated next to the Mississippi River.

On Wednesday afternoon, law enforcement officials were following

a man driving a dark car to a home in Hawk Point, Missouri when the man reportedly shot himself around 4:30 p.m. CDT (2130 UTC). The man, called a "person of interest" in the case, was then transported to a Lake St. Louis hospital. Authorities have not officially released the man's identity, but sources identified the individual as Paul Serling Smith, a 38-year-old registered sex offender previously convicted of sodomy. The shooting occurred about midway between where the kidnapping took place and where Maier was found. Smith was listed in "critical condition" Wednesday night, and later died.

Smith was reportedly spray-painting his car silver when three police officers approached him. He refused to put down a handgun he was carrying and shot himself in the head. According to one official source, police were able to find the man through a tip from one of Smith's relatives.

Spain advances to first World Cup Finals

Spain defeated Germany 1–0 in the semifinals to advance Spain to its first World Cup Finals in its history. Played in Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, South Africa, the game was a re-do of the 2008 European Championship final, in which Spain also won 1–0. About 60,960 people, including Spain's Queen Sofía, were in attendance.

The game got off to an interesting start after an Italian fan invaded the pitch in the fourth minute, briefly interrupting the game. A first half dominated both by the German defense and the increasingly powerful offense kept both teams scoreless at halftime. Spain used the second half to threaten the German goal. In the 57th minute, Spain's David Villa came within inches of scoring on an Andrés Iniesta cross, and Sergio Ramos was equally close to convert Xabi Alonso's pass. Carles Puyol scored the lone goal in the

73rd minute by heading in Xavi's corner kick. As the game came to an end, the German team was visibly distraught, while fans of the Spanish team partied until late at night, waving flags and singing "Ole! Ole! Ole!".

Villa later said, "This is one of the greatest moments for Spain, for us to be in the final of the World Cup, it's history. And we want to make more history in the final."

In addition to being Spain's first finals appearance, the Netherlands' defeat of Uruguay on Tuesday advanced the Netherlands to the finals as well. As neither team has won the World Cup before, this match-up ensures that either the Netherlands or Spain will come out having won the World Cup for the first time. It will also be the two teams' first ever match against each other in the World Cup. Uruguay and Germany will play each other for third place on Saturday at 18:30 UTC, while the finals will be on Sunday 18:30 UTC.

Georgian woman celebrates 130th birthday

Antisa Khvichava, a woman from the country of Georgia, is said to be celebrating her 130th birthday, which would make her the oldest known person on Earth, past or present.

Reportedly born in 1880, documents state that Khvichava picked corn and tea for a living in 1965, at the age of 85. Prior to Khvichava, the record holder for the oldest known person to have lived on the planet was Jeanne Calment of France, who lived to be 122-years-old. If confirmed, Khvichava would take the top spot with an eight year lead. The Justice Ministry in Georgia backs up her claim.

Khvichava lives in a small village in Sachino, in the Tsalenjikha district with her entire family, including her 70-year-old son Mikhail, 10 of her grandchildren, 12 great-

grandchildren and her other six great-great-grandchildren.

"I've always been healthy, and I've worked all my life — at home and at the farm," said Khvichava to the Associated Press. Although she spends most of her time in bed, Khvichava can walk without aid, but has some difficulties. Despite her age, her family says she is "clear minded" and can "think rationally."

NBA free agency: Bosh, Wade to sign with Miami Heat

National Basketball Association (NBA) free agents Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade will sign with the Miami Heat, the pair announced yesterday.

ESPN first reported the decision early yesterday. The players confirmed the deal in the afternoon with a joint appearance on the network. The Miami Heat did not comment per NBA rules which prevented teams from discussing contracts prior to Thursday at 12:01 a.m. (ET), at which point contracts may be signed.

Bosh, a power forward, comes to the Heat after playing the first seven years of his career with the Toronto Raptors. It is still unclear whether Bosh will sign a contract outright with the Heat, or if he will sign with the Raptors then be traded to the Heat. Raptors and Heat officials are attempting to negotiate a sign-and-trade deal which will allow the Raptors to receive players or draft picks for losing Bosh, and will allow Bosh to receive as much as \$25 million more in a contract.

Wade, a point guard, returns to the Heat, the team where he has played his entire NBA career. Wade was considering a move to the Chicago Bulls, but in the end decided to stay in Miami. He told ESPN, "It became the best decision for me, especially when Chris said he wanted to come down."

Both men feel that this situation will give them the best opportunity to

win NBA titles. Said Bosh, "It's not about the money. It's not about anything else except for winning. I'm a winner. Dwyane's a winner. We're going to bring winning to Miami."

Magnitude 5.4 earthquake hits Southern California

An earthquake occurred on Wednesday evening in Southern California with a magnitude of 5.4. According to the United States Geological Survey, the earthquake occurred at 16:53 local time (23:53 UTC). At least two dozen smaller aftershocks, none greater than a magnitude of 3.6, have struck the same area since the quake.

The earthquake occurred at a depth of 14 kilometers (8.7 miles), and the epicenter was located 20 kilometers Northwest of Borrego Springs; 23 kilometers Southeast of Anza; 33 kilometers Northeast of Lake Henshaw; and 94 kilometers to the northeast of San Diego.

There were no initial reports of any major damage. San Diego skyscrapers are reported to have swayed as a result of the earthquake.

Wikinews reporter Mike Morales, who was in the area at the time of the tremor, reported: "I remember it happened around five o'clock. It was nothing much, just a little rolling feeling."

According to Kate Hutton of the California Institute of Technology, this earthquake was caused by an earlier quake in April with a magnitude of 7.2. Hutton says that "changes in the fault line" from April's quake, caused today's quake to occur. The April quake was centered in the southern Imperial Valley south of Mexicali, Mexico near the Colorado River.

US jobless claims lower than forecast, futures rise

The Dow Jones Industrial Average

rose back up to 10,018.28 Wednesday, rising 275 points after the United States Department of Labor said initial jobless claims were lower than expected.

The report, which showed a modest dip in initial jobless claims, was better than what a poll of economists had predicted. The economists, who were polled by Thompson Reuters, had predicted 465,000 initial jobless claims in the month ending July 3; the number the Labor Department released was 454,000.

The four-week average of initial claims also fell 1,250 to 466,000, the Labor Department said on its website.

Also, after the International Monetary Fund raised its 2010 world growth estimate to 4.6% from 4.2%, international markets rallied. The S&P 500 rallied along with the Dow, up 3.13% to 1,060.27. However, the Nasdaq stayed flat at 2,159.47.

Spectator injured in 30-foot fall at Texas Rangers baseball game

A fan fell 30 feet from the club-concourse level into the lower-level seating area at the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington in Texas during the Texas Rangers' home game against the Cleveland Indians Tuesday night.

The incident occurred in the bottom of the 5th inning with Nelson Cruz at bat for the Rangers. Cruz hit a foul ball into the crowd. The fan leaned over the railing to grab the ball and fell over the railing and into the crowd 30 feet below. Play was immediately stopped and suspended for 16 minutes. The man, whose identity has not been released, was conscious and could move all extremities. He was stabilized and taken to John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

In a press conference following the game, team president Nolan Ryan told reporters that "He's over at the emergency room having tests done. The preliminary indications are that

it could have been a lot worse. We really don't know at this point in time. I think that obviously he'll remain in the hospital for observation. We're hopeful that what injuries he has are minimal."

Four other spectators, including a young boy, were treated for minor injuries at the scene.

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