



Lead Stories

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Two ill after eating burgers laced with multi-purpose cleaner in Bathurst, Australia

A prank by three young kitchen staff at Hungry Jack's fast food restaurant in the Central-Western New South Wales city of Bathurst went wrong when two customers required medical treatment after eating burgers they had laced with multi-purpose cleaner.

According to staff at the Emergency Department of Bathurst Hospital, two Hungry Jack's customers became ill Sunday night after eating burgers contaminated with a chemical believed to be multi-purpose cleaner. One of the patrons was in a serious condition upon arrival at Bathurst Hospital due to being allergic to an ingredient in the cleaning product. "He presented to the emergency department as he was having an allergic reaction after eating a burger from Hungry Jacks, he was in a really bad way when he

arrived here and if he had waited much longer it could have been much worse," said a Greater Western Area Health Service employee. "We called Hungry Jacks and they said that three of their employees had been goofing off and sprayed multi-purpose cleaner inside the burgers so we then treated the patients for poisoning."

Both customers are expected to make a full recovery. During an investigation undertaken by Wikinews reporter Nathan Carter, it was learned that the chemical sprayed into the burgers was KAY multipurpose cleaner which is reported to cause nausea, diarrhoea and mucosal and gastric irritation. The Material Safety Data Sheet for KAY multipurpose cleaner lists Antonic Surfactants as its hazardous ingredient.

In New South Wales, it is a criminal offence to make food intended for sale unsafe punishable by 2 years imprisonment. Due to restrictions on the publication of the name of young people involved in crimes in New South Wales, the names of kitchen staff can not be published. Wikinews was told by Hungry Jack's staff that the staff involved in the incident remained employed by Hungry Jack's. Josh, a Hungry Jack's manager at the Bathurst restaurant, told Wikinews that his boss Adam was aware of the food contamination issue and would be taking steps to address it.

Car bomb in Buenaventura, Colombia kills at least six

At least six people were killed earlier today after a car bomb was detonated in the Colombian city of Buenaventura.

The incident occurred close to the mayor's office, and damaged a local attorney general office, as well as several taxis in the street. Al Jazeera reports that at least twenty people were wounded, although other news services, such as the Christian Science Monitor, said there were at least forty injured.

The head of the country's armed forces, General Freddy Padilla, blamed the Marxist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) group for the attack, saying that "[s]urely this was the FARC." However, nobody has yet claimed responsibility for the blast.

Colombian president Alvaro Uribe, meanwhile, offered a reward worth US\$150,000 for information leading to the arrest of those responsible. He told media in Medellin that "we can't let our guard down."

Guillermo Mendoza, who is the country's chief prosecutor, commented that he wouldn't rule out the cause of the blast being either a gang fight, or an attack by drug traffickers as retaliation against his office.

Disputed island disappears beneath sea on India-Bangladesh border

The island of New Moore, an uninhabited territory near the Bay of Bengal between India and Bangladesh, has vanished, according to Indian scientists.

The island, located south of the Hariabhangra river, has been claimed by both Bangladesh and India for almost thirty years, since it first appeared in the seventies as a mud flat created by variable currents in the river delta. The School of

Oceanographic Studies in Calcutta commented that the disappearance of the island was confirmed by satellite imagery.

"There's no trace of the island anymore. After studying satellite images, I reconfirmed this from fishermen," said Sugato Hazra, the director of Jadavpur University's school of oceanography studies. According to the Times of India, the island only appears above the water surface if there is an unusually low tide. "What these two countries could not achieve from years of talking has been resolved by global warming."

Hazra claimed that, until 2000, sea levels in the area increased approximately three millimetres annually, but in the past year the figure was augmented to about five millimetres. The director said that ten other islands in the vicinity of New Moore were in danger of being submerged as well. An average of three millimetres per year over 30 years would be 9cm.

Hazra attributed the island's disappearance to global warming, saying: "Coastal erosion and rising temperature in the Bay of Bengal between 2000 and 2009 led to the Purbasha island getting submerged. Temperature in the region has been rising at an annual rate of 0.4 degree celsius."

In 1996, another isle nearby, Lohachara, was submerged beneath the waters, displacing its inhabitants; meanwhile, the Ghoramara island had lost about half its land, Hazra said. "We will have ever larger numbers of people displaced from the Sunderbans as more island areas come under water."

According to officials, eighteen percent of the Bangladeshi coastal land will be submerged if sea levels increase by one metre by 2050, and twenty million people will be displaced.

However the US National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration's nearest tide gauge at Vishakhapatnam, India, (which has measured sea levels since 1937) shows a mean sea level rise of 0.54mm (+/-0.52) mm/yr - an indicated rise of approximately 1.5cm in 30 years.

Osama bin Laden threatens retaliation if 9/11 suspects executed

In an audio tape posted on Al Jazeera, a voice identified as that of Osama bin Laden has warned the United States that al-Qaeda will retaliate if the US decides to execute the alleged mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks.

"The White House has declared its wish to execute [Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other alleged conspirators]. The day the United States takes such a decision, it would be also taking the decision that any of you falling into our hands will be executed," said a voice on the 74-second-long tape, which is believed to be Bin Laden's.

Osama also denounced US president Barack Obama, for "oppressing our prisoners that you are holding, beginning with the mujahid [holy warrior] hero Khaled al-Sheikh Mohammed." He said that US politicians "oppressed us and still do, especially by backing Israel, which occupies the land of Palestine".

"God willing, our attacks against you will continue as long as you maintain your support to Israel. America should not dream of security until we enjoy it as a reality in Palestine," the tape continued. "They used to think that America across the oceans is protected from the rage of the oppressed until our reaction was loudly heard at your home on the 9/11 with God's help."

Khaled Sheikh Mohammed is expected to stand trial in the US, along with four accused co-conspirators, in 2011. It is currently unclear whether he will be tried in a

civilian or military court; prosecutors say they will seek the death penalty.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs responded to the message in a statement. "The president has rightly increased our tempo and put pressure on the al-Qaeda network. We see that al-Qaeda has nothing to spread but hate and that's why the administration will keep up the pressure to destroy the al-Qaeda network," he commented.

Dubai World to receive \$9.5 billion in government aid

The government of Dubai announced that it intends to provide \$9.5 billion to Dubai World to allow the government-owned investment company to restructure its debt.

The announcement comes as part of Dubai World's plan to restructure more than \$23 billion of debt, including converting nearly \$9 billion of debt into equity, after its collapse last fall. The package includes \$8 billion of funding to Nakheel, Dubai World's real estate subsidiary, as well as \$1.5 billion to Dubai World as a whole. The restructuring plan also seeks to, within eight years, repay all of Dubai World's creditors.

According to the government of Dubai, \$5.7 billion of the aid was from a former \$10 billion loan to Dubai World, with the remainder being internally funded. The plan would transfer ownership of Nakheel, formerly a subsidiary of Dubai World, to the direct control of the Dubai government.

Response to the deal was largely positive, with one analyst saying the move "boosts sentiment because this is a strong commitment." Christopher Davidson, author of books on Dubai and Abu Dhabi, said that while the new funding would "keep the wolves outside the gates a little longer," the government could not be the sole funder of Dubai World and Nakheel.

Sequel of aftershocks hit O'Higgins, BíoBío and Maule regions in Chile

Santa Cruz, Chile – An aftershock earthquake that reached a magnitude of 4.9 on the Richter magnitude scale struck Chile yesterday at 11:14 local time (15:14 UTC). The epicentre was in the Maule Region. The aftershock lasted about fifteen or twenty seconds.

According to the ONEMI (National Emergencies Office), it had an intensity of five Mercalli grades in the coastal area of Pelluhue, four in Cauquenes, Chanco, San Javier, and Longaví, and three in Péncahue. The US Geological Survey reported that the epicentre was located in the sea, at a depth of 25,5 kilometers, and 115 kilometers west of Talca.

There were no reports of damage or injuries. Previously, at 08:30 am local time (12:30 UTC), another aftershock reached 5.0 on the Richter scale and was clearly felt in the Bío Bío Region. The epicenter was located at a depth of 35 kilometers, and 55 kilometers northeast from Concepción.

A minor aftershock, with epicentre in Pichilemu, reached a magnitude of 3.6 in the Richter scale at 15:11 local time (19:11 UTC), as reported the University of Chile's Geological Survey.

Damages in Chile surpass the 30.000 million U.S. dollars. The most affected regions by the aftershocks are the Bío Bío Region, Valparaíso, Maule and O'Higgins. Almost 350 aftershocks have been felt in these areas since the February 27 earthquake.

At 23:58 local time (03:58 UTC), a medium intensity aftershock between 2 and 6 grades in the Richter scale occurred, in the Maule, O'Higgins, Valparaíso, and Santiago Metropolitan regions. The epicenter was located near Talca, as ONEMI reported, where the aftershock was felt with more intensity. In Curicó,

Río Claro and Yervas Buenas, it reached 5 grades in the Richter scale; in Parral, Linares, Retiro, and Cauquenes, it reached 3 grades; in Rancagua and San Fernando, 4 grades; in Pichilemu, 2 grades; and in Santiago de Chile and San Antonio, 2 grades. ONEMI has not reported damage or injuries.

Another 4 medium intensity aftershocks took place after Talca's: at 01:17 AM local time (05:17 UTC), reaching 3.9 grades, with epicentre near Constitución; 4.7 grades at 09:59 local time (13:59 UTC), with epicentre near Pichilemu; at the 10:57 local time (14:57 UTC) reaching 5.1 grades, with epicentre almost twenty kilometers at the north of Cobquecura; and a 3.9 grades at the 12:20, with epicentre near Pichilemu.

Private guard kills Somali pirate in Gulf of Aden

A private security guard, defending the Panamanian based MV *Almezaan*, killed a Somali pirate who was attempting to hijack the ship on Tuesday. This is the first time that a private contractor has killed a pirate in the Gulf of Aden.

The pirates came up to the ship with two small vessels and one large "mother-ship". As the small boats approached the *Almezaan*, the ship's contractors opened fire, and killed one of the pirates. Then European Union and Yemeni naval vessels surrounded the pirates, who attempted to flee. They were then apprehended.

The EU's Naval Force Somalia released a statement saying that "[t]he body has been transferred to [the Spanish naval ship] *Navarra*, an investigation indicated that the individual had died from small caliber gunshot wounds."

The incident came after pirates captured Turkish and Bermudan ships earlier Tuesday, capturing a total of 46 people.

Wikipedia and sister projects back online after server failure

This article mentions the Wikimedia Foundation, one of its projects, or people related to it. *Wikinews* is a project of the Wikimedia Foundation.

From approximately 1:00 p.m. (18:00 UTC) to 4:00 p.m. (22:00 UTC) Eastern Standard Time (EST), the popular free encyclopedia Wikipedia, alongside its sister projects (including Wikinews), went offline due to major server outages. Downtime was later attributed to overheating at the Project's central data center in Amsterdam.

According to a post made by Mark Bergsma at the Wikimedia Foundation's technical blog, the servers "shut themselves down" to avoid further heat damage.

Administrators reportedly attempted a shift of traffic to the Project's servers in Florida. However, "it turned out that this failover mechanism was now broken, causing the DNS resolution of Wikimedia sites to stop working globally."

According to the Project's official Twitter account, programmers were able to resolve most of the server problems by around 4:00 p.m. EST. Since the situation with the servers in Amsterdam is still ongoing, some users may still experience lingering service glitches due to "caching effects".

Commons Picture of the Day

*Dew droplets on a dead insect found underground in the Roppe fortifications.
Image credit **Bresson Thomas***

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