



Monday, January 2, 2017

Ferry burns near Jakarta, killing passengers

Sunday, January 1, 2017

A ferry caught fire near Jakarta, Indonesia this morning. The National Disaster Mitigation Agency said at least 23 had died and at least seventeen remain missing.

The *Zahro Express* caught fire shortly after leaving Muara Angke port in Jakarta. It was heading to Tidung Island, in the Kepulauan Seribu chain. Police said the fire began in the engine area.



Fishing boats at Muara Angke port, from file. Image: Wie146. (CC BY-SA 2.5)

A manifest listed 100 passengers, but officials estimated over 200 were on board. Sumarsono, acting governor of Jakarta, dismissed suggestions the vessel was overloaded. Its blackened wreckage was towed back to Muara Angke.

Rescuers continue to search for bodies. As of earlier today, nine of the injured remained in hospital. Three bodies have been identified as Jaksen Wilhelmus, Masduki, and Alia. Jaksen and Masduki are both from West Java. The National Disaster Mitigation Agency said ten ships continue to search for bodies or survivors.

"Fifteen minutes after the boat set sail, people at the back of the boat started making noise," one survivor said. "Then I saw smoke, there was more and more, the boat was crowded and people were

fighting for life jackets." Another told Reuters passengers panicked when the fire broke out, and were met with a sudden conflagration when flames reached fuel.

Boat accidents are common in the island nation. The National Transportation Safety Committee reported to *The Jakarta Post* today that shipping accidents were up from fifteen in 2015 to 28 in 2016. Lead marine investigator Aldrin Dalimunte told the paper some boats are well-maintained but run by poorly-trained crew who lack the motivation and knowledge to prevent accidents.

Helsinki court jails anti-drug chief Jari Aarnio for drug smuggling

Saturday, December 31, 2016

The Helsinki District Court on Thursday sentenced Jari Aarnio, once head of the city's anti-drugs taskforce, to ten years in prison for smuggling hashish and related crimes.



A courtroom at the Helsinki District Court, from file. Image: MakeF. (CC BY-SA 2.5)

Aarnio, who maintains his innocence, was among thirteen defendants prosecuted over the import and distribution of Dutch hashish totaling about 800 kg in 2011–12. Ordered into immediate custody, Aarnio was convicted of all 22 charges he faced. Five were of aggravated drug offence, with other offences including official misconduct, threatening a suspect, and aggravated evidence tampering.

In addition to prison time, Aarnio was ordered to hand over more than €1.3m

and a Porvoo property. Colleague Mikael Runeberg was convicted of nine corruption offences and also jailed, receiving a three-and-a-half year sentence. The court found Runeberg attempted to set up an innocent man in the case. Aarnio tried to hide the identities of co-conspirators and prevent investigations proceeding.

Aarnio, 59, worked his way up to his position in the Helsinki Police Department over a 30-year anti-drugs career. It is his second jail term for corruption. He was found guilty of aggravated fraud in an unrelated case from 2013 connected to his interest in a firm selling surveillance technology to the police. Also convicted of aggravated abuse of public office and aggravated acceptance of bribes, his sentence in that case was set at three years by the Helsinki Court of Appeal.

Aarnio says he intends to appeal and had argued he acted lawfully. Riitta Leppiniemi, defending, said the court may have failed to understand his department's work. The court ruled the convicts offended "with premeditation while unscrupulously abusing the position of a police officer." It also said they "took advantage of the judicial system and forcible police measures" and "contributed to reducing public trust in police operations and were therefore damaging for the entire society," in a press release.

The prosecution sought a thirteen-year term. Aarnio was taken from court to Vantaa Prison.

Transparency International ranks Finnish officials the second-least corrupt worldwide. Only Denmark is ranked higher.

U.S. responds to Russian election hacking with expulsions, sanctions

Saturday, December 31, 2016

On Thursday, the U.S. government expelled 35 diplomats suspected of being Russian spies, and sanctioned the G.R.U. and F.S.B. intelligence agencies. Also sanctioned are several G.S.U. officials and three companies that work with it.

This is one of many actions the Obama administration has taken in response to a CIA report issued two weeks ago that concluded the Russian government hacked servers belonging to the U.S. Republican and Democratic parties. The CIA report said this was to turn the 2016 presidential election toward president-elect Donald Trump. The alleged spies have been declared "persona non grata"; they and their families have until Sunday to leave U.S. soil but are not under arrest.

"The United States and friends and allies around the world must work together to oppose Russia's efforts to undermine established international norms of behavior, and interfere with democratic governance," said Obama.

Earlier this year, hackers broke into the private servers of both the Republican and Democratic political parties but only released negative information about the Democratic presidential candidate, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The

CIA would later name the Russian government responsible. One U.S. intelligence official told Reuters this asymmetrical release of information is why the CIA concluded the goal of the hack was to help Trump win the election rather than simply to disrupt the U.S. electoral process. "Putin believed he would be much friendlier to Russia, especially on the matter of economic sanctions," said another. The U.S. State Department issued a statement saying the expulsions were also in retaliation for harsh treatment of U.S. diplomats in Russia, citing police stops, assaults, and the public disclosure of their personal information on television.



File photo of Vladimir Putin, 2003. Image: Ricardo Stuckert/Agência Brasil. (CC BY 3.0 BR)

The U.S. State Department also called for the closure of two compounds, one in Glen Cove, New York and one in Maryland near Washington D.C., where Russian diplomats go to play tennis and relax, saying they are used for "intelligence activities." Russia's United Nations ambassador, Vitaly Churkin, criticized the decision, citing the families with children who are currently there for the Christmas holiday.

Vladimir Putin's Foreign Minister, Sergei L'gov,

suggested Russia expel 35 U.S. diplomats, a form of retaliation that would have been typical during the Cold War. Putin rejected that idea, calling it "irresponsible democracy," instead saying he would wait for Trump to take office before deciding how to respond. The overall tone from the Moscow has been disdainful, with the head of the Russian Parliament foreign affairs committee, Konstantin Kosachyov saying "this is the agony not even of 'lame ducks,' but of 'political corpses.'"

According to *New York Times* reporter David E. Sanger, these sanctions may pose a problem for president-elect Donald Trump. After his inauguration, Trump must either withdraw the sanctions or tacitly endorse them by allowing them to remain in place. Trump enjoys a warm relationship with Russian president Vladimir Putin expressing both admiration for Putin personally and tolerance of his official decisions, such as the Russian military action in Crimea.

"It is time for our country to move on to bigger and better things," said Trump of the interest in the hack. "Nevertheless, in the interest of our country and its great people, I will meet with leaders of the intelligence community next week in order to be updated on the facts of the situation."

Trump previously expressed skepticism regarding Russia's responsibility for the hacks, having said they could have been committed by "someone sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds." Of the CIA, which issued the report, "These are

the same people that said Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction."

This places Trump at odds with many other members of the Republican Party, such as senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham, who issued a joint statement calling for investigations into Russian interference in U.S. elections. Unlike the Democrats, who have largely applauded the expulsions, most Republicans wanted a much swifter and harsher response.

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan said Russia has paid only a "small price" for the hack, asserting that Obama has been too soft on Russia throughout his presidency. The expulsions, unlike economic sanctions, do not apply to the country as a whole, only to specific people and organizations.

Trump has praised Putin's decision to wait until Barack Obama is out of office before responding to these sanctions as "very smart."

William Salice, creator of Kinder Surprise eggs, dies at 83

Sunday, January 1, 2017

On Thursday, William Salice, credited with creating Kinder Surprise eggs, died at age 83 in Pavia, Italy because of a stroke, according to his foundation "Color Your Life Campus". Salice had worked with the businessman Michele Ferrero in the 1960s, the creator of the Nutella cream and owner of Ferrero Rocher. Ferrero died in 2015.



A halved Kinder Surprise chocolate egg, revealing a plastic cannister containing a toy.
Image: Mysid. (CC0/Public Domain)

In 1974, Kinder Surprise was launched with plastic toys, which are sold within the eggs to surprise children. Due to this, the sale of Kinder eggs is prohibited in the US. A 1938 US law prohibits the sale of food containing objects in its interior. It is also prohibited in Chile, due to an obesity-reduction law brought in last year. Last year a three-year-old girl died in France, swallowing the plastic toy.

In 2007, after his retirement, Salice founded Color Your Life Campus from his retirement bonus of €400,000 in Italy. It aims to help young people between the ages of thirteen and eighteen discover and develop their own talents. Salice's career spanned 46 years.

Since 2013, the Kinder Surprise Company has been taking care of continuing the manufacture and processing of chocolate eggs. According to the company, the chocolate egg has 32% milk and 15% cocoa in its composition.

Poland pays €100m for Czartoryski art collection

Friday, December 30, 2016



Lady with an Ermine
Image: Leonardo da Vinci. (CC0/Public Domain)

Poland yesterday announced the purchase of the Czartoryski art collection for about €100million (US\$105m; £85m). It is worth an estimated €2billion.

Amongst the roughly 86,000 artworks is *Lady with an Ermine* by Leonardo da Vinci. *Lady with an Ermine* alone is thought to be worth more than the government paid for the full collection; it is insured, the government said, for about €330m. Also included are around 250,000 books and other texts.

Adam Karol Czartoryski, representing his family, as head of the Czartoryski Foundation owning the collection, negotiated the sale with the Ministry of Culture. Czartoryski "felt like making a donation" and was entitled to, he said. The Czartoryski Foundation's board resigned in protest. The board said they were not consulted and disapproved of the price.

The current Law and Justice government was reported in national press as prepared to part with up to a billion zloty (US\$235 million) to acquire the foundation. Culture Minister Piotr Glinski said "It is a fraction of the market price of the collection".

Law and Justice, who gained power a year ago, had expressed interest in acquiring the works, housed in Krakow and on public display. The government is running a nationalisation programme for cultural items and major companies.

Purchasing the Czartoryski collection required a state budget amendment and, according to the Ministry of Culture, months of talks. The move "ensures the right of the Polish nation to the collection," said Glinski.

The collection was assembled over the course of more than 200 years. It also features *Landscape with the Good Samaritan* by Rembrandt and works by French artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

Lady with an Ermine, from 1490, is one of four known da Vinci portraits of women. Stolen during Nazi rule, it was recovered and returned. It features Cecilia Gallerani, mistress to Duke of Milan Ludovico 'The White Ermine' Sforza. Sforza's nickname explains

the titular creature painted in Gallerani's arms, which was added to the painting by da Vinci; an earlier, painted-over version does not have it.

Uruguay ex-ruler Gregorio Alvarez dies at age 91

Friday, December 30, 2016

Military health authorities on Wednesday announced the death of Gregorio Alvarez, military ruler of Uruguay from 1981–85. He was 91 years old.

Alvarez was serving a 25-year term imposed in 2009 for 37 homicides, and other human rights violations. He was initially detained in 2007 suspected of kidnapping dissidents living in exile in Argentina. Hundreds vanished during his term.

“ a rapist, a murderer, a torturer, a 'disappearer' doesn't redeem himself by dying ”
—Prosecution lawyer Oscar Lopez Goldaracena

In 1972 his brother died at the hands of militants. The following year he

participated in a coup, leading an assault on the national legislature. Then-President Juan Maria Bordaberry ousted Congress and ruled with military backing. Alvarez led the army for a time before himself taking over the presidency.

Hardline rule led to protests in 1984, eventually resulting in a fresh democratic election. This was won by



Modern-day Montevideo, from file.
Image: Maryam Laura Moazed. (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Julio Maria Sanguinetti; Alvarez resigned with fifteen days left to serve. A 1986 law prevented his prosecution

without legislative approval, and he lived openly in Montevideo.

Pressure from relatives of those missing led to his 2007 arrest. Convicted of killing Argentinian-resident exiles, he maintained his innocence. He died in a Montevideo hospital.

"With the greatest respect, a rapist, a murderer, a torturer, a 'disappearer' doesn't redeem himself by dying," said Alvarez prosecution team lawyer Oscar Lopez Goldaracena. "Kidnapping children, robbing babies, disappearances, raping men and women[....] He had an interminable list of crimes", said activist Beatriz Benzano, who says she was detained and sexually assaulted under the Alvarez regime. "[...H]e died with the secret of all the people he 'disappeared' and killed," she said.

The murders were part of Operation Condor, a South American joint venture to repatriate fleeing dissidents.

Modern-day Uruguay is ruled by a left-wing coalition comprised largely of Alvarez opponents, including ex-militants from Tupamaro. Tupamaro was the group that killed Alvarez's brother.

Actress and singer Debbie Reynolds dies, one day after daughter's death

Thursday, December 29, 2016

Acclaimed actor and singer Debbie Reynolds died at the age of 84 yesterday at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, California. Her son, Todd Fisher, said around noon yesterday she suffered a stroke brought on by the stress of the death of her daughter, Carrie Fisher.

Reynolds' credits include lead roles in films *Singin' in the Rain*, *Bundle of Joy*, and *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, the last of which earned her an Academy Award nomination. She worked to preserve Hollywood history and memorabilia for posterity and, like Carrie Fisher, as an advocate for mental health awareness.



Debbie Reynolds at home in 1987.
Image: Allan Warren (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Born Mary Francis Reynolds in 1932, she was given the stage name "Debbie" by Warner Brothers director Jack Warner, which she would later say was done without her permission. She would go on to spend twenty years with MGM studios. Reynolds received a Tony Award nomination for her acting in the 1973 revival of *Irene*. Reynolds' business interests included owning various private museums of film memorabilia as part of her personal Hollywood history preservation project. She would often purchase and hold items such as Marilyn Monroe's dress from *The Seven Year Itch* and Elizabeth Taylor's Cleopatra headdress until they could be displayed to the public. More recently, she was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2000 for a *Will & Grace* recurring role and appeared as the main character's mother in HBO's *Behind the Candelabra*. She worked as a voice actress on animated productions such as the children's show *Kim Possible* and the more adult *Family Guy*. She was honored with the 2016 Academy Awards Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild in 2015.

In Reynolds' personal life, her first husband and father of her two children, Eddie Fisher, very publicly left her for her friend Elizabeth Taylor. She declared bankruptcy in 1997 after a failed casino project.

Carrie Fisher was an actor, author, and mental health advocate best known for acting in the *Star Wars* film series and for her novel *Postcards from the Edge*, which had a character inspired by her mother, Reynolds. Fisher was taken ill while flying from London to Los Angeles and died on Tuesday. Fisher and Reynolds did not speak for several years, though this rift was long over by

the time of Fisher's death. According to Todd Fisher, he and his mother had been discussing his sister's funeral at his home shortly before the stroke; Reynolds said to him, "I miss her so much, I want to be with Carrie."

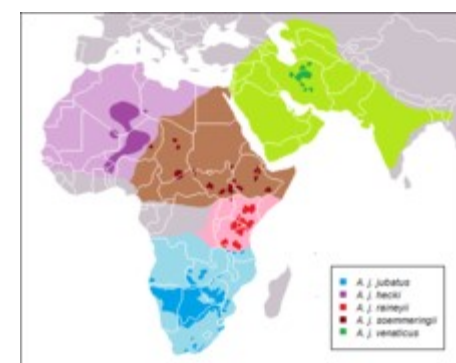
Reynolds is survived by son Todd Fisher and granddaughter Billie Lour.

Around 7,100 cheetahs remain, say experts

Thursday, December 29, 2016

According to a study published on Monday in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), is down to 7,100 individuals remaining worldwide, most of them in Africa and, rarely, in Asia.

The number establishes cheetahs as much less commonplace than just over one hundred years ago. There are now scientists calling for the largest cheetah subspecies to receive "endangered" status on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List of Threatened Species.



Map showing the range of cheetah subspecies
Image: Mariomassone. (CC BY-SA 3.0)

The US National Wildlife Federation reports an estimated worldwide population of 100,000 cheetahs in the late 19th century. The new study, led by Zoological Society of London (ZSL) researcher Sarah Durant, with contributors including the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Panthera Corporation, indicates a decline of more than 91%. Most of the remaining cheetahs live in most of Africa, more than half in southern Africa, while a subspecies is found in Asia, including a small part of Iran, though these are seen much more rarely.

According to the study's authors, the habitat preservation strategy that can be so effective in other species does not work on cheetahs because of their wide range. About 77% of wild cheetah's ranges are outside protected areas. According to Cheetah Conservation Project Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe's cheetah population dwindled from an estimated 1,500 in 1999 to 150–170 in 2013–2015, a roughly 85% decline. The group based its survey on such resources as photographs, tourist sightings, safari guides, cattle herders, and village chiefs.



Female cheetah
Image: Charles Sharp. (CC BY-SA 4.0)

The Asiatic cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) has been nearly eliminated in Asia; under 50 Iranian cheetahs remain. The cheetah subspecies went extinct in India more than fifty years ago, says International Business Times.

The new study asks the IUCN to change the status of cheetah from "vulnerable" to "endangered" in an effort to protect cheetahs. The IUCN lists both the Northwest African cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus hecki*) and the Asiatic cheetah as "critically endangered" in their Red List.

Causes of cheetah decline have been mostly habitat loss, killings of cheetahs by humans, human hunting of cheetah's resources such as antelope, illegal fur trade, illegal cub trafficking, and roadkill. According to the Cheetah Conservation Fund, about 85% of an estimated 1,200 trafficked cheetah cubs have died within the past ten years, perishing en route.

Their exotic aesthetic renders cheetah very valuable. A trafficked cub can fetch \$10,000, according to the BBC. According to DW, cheetah skin and meat are valuable as well.

Complicating conservation efforts, cheetahs are carnivores and difficult to maintain in captivity. According to one report, the 77% of wild cheetah habitat is outside the range of protected wildlife areas and reserves. The cheetahs' secretive nature makes

finding conclusive evidence on cheetahs difficult, says Durant.

Cheetah is the world's fastest springing species and predator. One cheetah was recorded sprinting at 29 meters (95.1 ft) per second. They slow down if needed to hunt, and can maintain high speeds for hundred of metres. The running speed of cheetahs has not prevented their decline.

South African killer, rapist, serial escapee Ananias Mathe dies

Thursday, December 29, 2016

Ananias Mathe, an infamous South African criminal, died on Tuesday in hospital. His offences included rape and murder, and he escaped custody several times.

Mathe, from Mozambique, had been suffering digestive problems for weeks according to the prison service. He died on Tuesday in the King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban. He was resident in a high-security prison in Kokstad, away from Gauteng where he committed most of his crimes.

Transferred to Kokstad after several escapes between 2002 and 2006, Mathe twice tried to break out of the high-security facility. In 2013 he tried to tunnel out of his cell, and three months ago he tried to lower himself out his cell with tied bedsheets. Other crimes included robbery, housebreaking, and fatally poisoning thirteen dogs.

Erickson Zungu, the National Freedom Party's spokesperson for KwaZulu-Natal, criticised the lack of capital punishment in the country and said this should be available for offenders like Mathe. "It is the undisputed fact that government could have saved a lot of state resource and time if the government opted for the death penalty[...] taxpayers money spent daily on Mathe could be used wisely," Zungu said.

His party is seeking public consultation and government consideration of the issue.

Wikinews is a free news source, that you can write.

About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including you) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.

License

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Articles published in this Print edition were created by Wikinewsies. Other content released under the Creative Commons

CC-BY-2.5 license.

The text is released under the CC-BY-2.5 license. To read about the license, visit

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>

Various images in this document are available in different Creative Commons license, mentioned below each image.

Wikinews®, and the Wikinews logo are registered trademarks of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.



Scan the QR Code to visit English Wikinews.