

France stunned by deadly school bus crash

The wreckage of the school bus in Millas, near Perpignan, southern France.

Paris

French authorities were investigating yesterday how a train was able to smash into a school bus, killing five children and ripping their vehicle in half in an accident that has devastated the local community.

Four teenagers died on Thursday in the collision at a level crossing in the village of Millas near the southern city of Perpignan, and local authorities said a fifth child died of their injuries Friday.

Fifteen other children, all aged between 11 and 17, were injured when the bus was torn in two and the train pulled off its rails in France's worst accident involving a school bus in France for three decades.

The bus driver and three train passengers were also hurt.

"The families of those

caught up in the accident are going through something absolutely terrible," said Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, who visited Millas on Thursday.

The accident site was sealed off as police examined whether a technical or human error was to blame.

It has not been confirmed whether the automatic barriers were open at the time of the crash, though national rail operator SNCF said the crossing was "functioning normally", citing witnesses.

Most of the students were from the local Christian Bourquin junior high school, where pupils were in shock as they headed in on Friday.

"I went to sleep at two or three in the morning. I was watching the news, I wasn't able to sleep," said teenager Lorena Garcies, dressed in black.

Her cousin and another friend were on the bus, but escaped with broken bones and trauma.

"I'm trying to be strong for them," she said.

The injured bus driver, a 48-year-old woman, has not yet been questioned, but Perpignan prosecutor Jean-Jacques Fagni said investigators had spoken to the train driver.

"There was good visibility," said regional chief Carole Delga.

"This level crossing wasn't really dangerous and no technical problems had been raised," she told Europe 1 radio.

She nonetheless pledged to modernise dangerous crossings, as a debate broke out about whether enough has been done to secure some 15,000 similar level crossings in France. (AFP)

Corpse resembling a dinosaur found in India

New Delhi

The discovery of a mysterious creature resembling a dinosaur with flesh still on its bones has left scientists baffled.

The partially-preserved corpse was uncovered by an electrician cleaning out a sub-station left untouched for 35 years.

The creature - which was found in Jaspur, a small city in Uttarakhand, India - has now been sent for analysis, including carbon dating, which will reveal its age.

Experts say that although it looks like a small dinosaur that could be near impossible as



The creature resembling a dinosaur was found with flesh still on its bones in an abandoned electric substation

flightless dinosaurs have been extinct for 65 million years.

Dr Parag Madhukar Dhakate, a Conservator with the Indian Forest Service, said that the creature would remain

an enigma until scientific analysis had been completed.

He said: "It looks like a dinosaur, but we can't say anything until all the tests are done." (mirror.co.uk)

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Do you think bitcoin price would reach \$20000 by next week?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



"It's very hard to discern what North Korea's intent is without, as I said, having a real dialogue. We are open to dialogue. And we hope they will agree to have a dialogue."

Joseph Yun
US envoy for North Korea

Rest in sight

US jets intercept Russian warplanes



A pair of US warplanes intercepted two Russia jets over a part of Syria they were not supposed to be operating in, the Pentagon said.

Nasa find first alien solar system

Scientists on Nasa's Kepler mission have spotted an eighth planet around a distant star, making it the first alien solar system known to host as many planets as our own.

Venezuela first lady's nephews jailed for drugs

Two nephews of Venezuela's first lady have been sentenced to 18 years in prison following their convictions in New York on drug conspiracy charges.

Catholics detained carols in Indian state

Indian police detained dozens of Catholics singing Christmas carols for allegedly trying to convert people, as fears grow over religious freedom in the South Asian nation.

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Sonia Gandhi retires as India's Congress party chief



Congress president-elect Rahul Gandhi with mother Sonia

New Delhi

The leader of India's main opposition Congress party, Sonia Gandhi, has retired from her post, the party confirmed on Thursday.

Her son, Rahul Gandhi, has been elected unopposed as the new president and will officially take charge on Saturday.

Sonia Gandhi, 71, has been the party president since 1998. She was elected to parliament in 1999.

She is, however, not retiring from politics and will continue as a member of parliament, the party said.

Gandhi entered politics in 1994, three years after her husband, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was assassinated.

Her power derived from being the head of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, which has led the Congress party and has ruled India for most of the years since it became independent in 1947. (BBC)

Deer greet jumbo jet



A photographer has captured the moment the final flight of a Boeing 747 was greeted on the runway by a family of deer. The KLM jumbo jet, registration PH-BFR, making its last flight after 23 years of service, had just touched down at Enschede Airport Twente, Netherlands, when three roe deer crossed its path on the runway. The aircraft is the first of KLM's fleet of 747s to be scrapped at the airport.

Asteroid 3200 Phaethon will skim past Earth today

Washington

An enormous asteroid is set to brush past Earth today, Nasa has warned.

The asteroid, called 3200 Phaethon, measures three miles (five kilometres) in diameter, and is classed as 'potentially hazardous.'

At its closest at 22:00 GMT (17:00 ET) today, the asteroid is estimated to be around 6.4 million miles away from our planet - 27 times the distance between the Earth and the moon.

It will be the closest this asteroid has been to Earth

since December 16, 1974, when it was around 5 million miles away, although we were blissfully unaware at the time.

In a statement about the asteroid, which was first discovered in 1983, a spokesperson for Nasa said: "With a diameter of about 5km, Phaethon is the third largest near-Earth asteroid classified as "Potentially Hazardous".

During its fly-by the space agency hopes to take detailed images of the asteroid. (MailOnline)