

#PollToday



Do you support government decision to increase expats medical cost?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can't Say



2016 was the year the Anglo-Saxon world woke up. 2017, I am sure, the people of continental Europe will wake up

Marine Le Pen
French presidential

Rest in sight

Pakistan market bomb kills 20, 40 injured



A bomb exploded at a market on yesterday in a mainly Shiite area of Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt, killing at least 20 people and wounding 40 others, officials said.

Mauritius premier to step down for son

Mauritius Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth announced on yesterday he would be stepping down to make way for his son Pravind, a move that could spark turmoil in the island.

Raids in Austria as 'terror' suspect grilled

Austrian police raided several addresses yesterday as they grilled a suspected Islamic extremist thought to have been planning an attack, authorities said.

Breast implant victims win payout from German firm

A French court on Friday ordered German safety certifier TÜV to pay 60 million euros in compensation to 20,000 women who received defective breast implants.

For more, catch us online at:

www.newsofbahrain.com

[/nobonline](#)

[/newsofbahrain](#)

Italy Avalanche: 23 still trapped

Four more survivors

Penne

Italian rescuers pulled four survivors from an avalanche-hit hotel yesterday and said they remained hopeful of finding alive at least some of the 23 people still trapped under the ruins.

The latest rescues lifted the total number of survivors to 11.

But there were 23 people still unaccounted for, according to a first official statement on the number of missing.

Morale among the teams of mountain police and firefighters remained high after Friday's dramatic rescue of all four children who were inside the Hotel Rigopiano, in central Italy, along with the mother of two of them.

But the rescue operation, now in its third day, was increasingly resembling a race against the clock amid fears that anyone still alive could succumb to the cold before being found.

Two men and two women were rescued alive in the early hours of yesterday.

There were no reports of any other signs of life but officials emphasised that was no reason to give up hope.

Enrica Centi, a spokeswoman for the mountain rescuers involved in the operation, said: "There is still hope because although no more voices have been heard, there may be people trapped behind or under a cement wall which would make it impossible to hear them."

Extreme conditions

Heavy snow and poor visibility that grounded helicopters in the area was hampering the rescue effort.

"The operation continues to be very complicated," said Fabrizio Curcio, head of the civil protection agency. "The rescuers are working in extreme conditions."

Teams of firefighters and police are combing a debris-strewn area bigger than several football pitches as a result of the devastating force of the avalanche, which pushed the three-storey hotel

some 10 metres (30 feet) from its foundations.

And Friday's rescue showed that even once someone is located, it can take many more hours to complete their extraction amid an ever-present risk of further masonry collapses.

The latest operations bring to 11 the total number people who survived the disaster, including two hotel guests who were outside when the avalanche struck just before nightfall on Wednesday.

Five bodies had been recovered by lunchtime Saturday.

Kids in games room

In a first official update on the numbers at the hotel when the avalanche struck, the prefecture in the nearest city, Pescara, said 23 people remained unaccounted for.

Earlier estimates had put the missing figure at between 11 and 20 with the uncertainty caused by doubts over the guest register and whether any casual visitors were in the bar

or restaurant.

The first rescuers battled through a snowstorm to reach the hotel early on Thursday and since then, progress has been painfully slow because of the risk of masonry and snow slides.

The children likely survived because they were in or around a games room which was not crushed by the avalanche.

"There were three of us kids playing pool. One of the mums was there but all the other adults were in another room," nine-year-old Edoardo Di Carlo said after his rescue.

The avalanche followed four earthquakes of more than five magnitude in the space of four hours earlier on Wednesday.

The death toll from the quake, not including the victims at the hotel, rose to five on Saturday.

Some 33,000 homes were still powerless and 8,000 troops and emergency services were deployed to help the affected region. - (AFP)



Mexican drug lord 'El Chapo' pleads not guilty in US

New York

Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, one of the world's most notorious criminals, pleaded not guilty in a US court yesterday to a raft of firearms, drug trafficking and conspiracy charges that could see him jailed for life.

Less than 24 hours after being extradited by Mexico, the 59-year-old drug baron looked tired as he stood in blue prison scrubs flanked by his US public defenders for the brief, 10-minute hearing in a federal court in Brooklyn.

US prosecutors say Guzman's Sinaloa cartel is responsible for distributing hundreds of thousands of kilos of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana throughout the United States, reaping billions of dollars in profits.

Chapecoense play first game since plane crash

Brasilia

Chapecoense, the Brazilian football club cruelly decimated by a plane crash, stride back on the field yesterday in a new line-up for their first match since the tragedy.

Intense public and media attention was greeting the friendly match against Palmeiras, to be played in the Arena Condá stadium in Chapeco.

Their plane went down on November 28 in mountains near Colombia's city of Medellin.

Seven held over infamous diamond heist

The Hague

Seven people have been arrested over the robbery of \$72 million (67 million euros) in jewellery, one the world's biggest ever heists, from Amsterdam's airport nearly 12 years ago, authorities said yesterday.

The diamonds and jewellery were taken during the hold up of a KLM armoured car in a high-security portion of Schiphol airport in February

2005, police said in a statement.

Though the thieves were armed, no one was hurt in the heist.

Police "carried out, on Friday January 20 and Saturday January 21, 2017, a total of seven arrests in connection with the diamond theft at Schiphol airport in February 2005 and money laundering," the statement said.

The five male and two

female suspects, all Dutch nationals, were arrested in Amsterdam and Valencia, in eastern Spain.

While some of the stolen diamonds were found in an escape vehicle immediately after the heist, the rest -- valued at \$43 million remain unaccounted for.

Four people had been arrested soon after the incident, one of the Netherlands' worst cases of theft.



Representational image