

Ryanair could ground more planes

Dublin

Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said he could not rule out axing more flights, but added any additional cancellations would not be linked to ongoing pilot roster problems. O'Leary said in Dublin that he "cannot guarantee there won't be further cancellations, but there won't be any further cancellations as a result of this rostering issue", a spokesman confirmed.

**World's richest woman dies aged 94**

Paris

L'Oréal heiress Liliane Bettencourt, the world's richest woman whose old age was clouded by dementia, has died at the age of 94, her family said. "Liliane Bettencourt died last night at home," her daughter Françoise Bettencourt Meyers said. Bettencourt was the 14th richest person in the world, according to Forbes magazine, which estimated her net worth in March at \$39.5 billion (33 billion euros).



5 years ago I left parliament with mixed feelings today I return as directed by (the ANC) as a servant of the SA (South African) people. I return determined to contribute to implementing decisions of (the ANC) particularly as it relates to radically improving our people's lives."

-Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma,

Ex-wife of South African President Jacob Zuma, who was re-appointed a lawmaker in parliament



POINT BLANK

Quotes

from Ryanair's outspoken boss Michael O'Leary

London

Michael O'Leary is Irish low-cost airline Ryanair's outspoken chief executive, who is known as much for his colourful turns of phrase as his business acumen. Here is a selection of his reported quotes:

On customers

"People say the customer is always right, but you know what -- they're not. Sometimes they are wrong and they need to be told so."

"You're not getting a refund, so f*** off. We don't want to hear your sob stories. What part of 'no refund' don't you understand?"

"One thing we have looked at is maybe putting a coin slot on the toilet door."

"Do we carry rich people on our flights? Yes, I flew on one this morning and I'm very rich."

On the French

"You can't prevent the French from striking! Well, they don't allow the French military to go on strike. Mind you, no one would notice anyway."

"I think the most influential person in Europe in the last 20 to 30 years has been Margaret Thatcher, who has left a lasting legacy that has driven us towards lower taxes and greater efficiency. Without her we'd all be living in some French bloody unemployed republic."

On the industry

"We fight constantly with governments and idiot Brussels bureaucrats who want to put up the cost of air travel."

"The best thing you can do with environmentalists is shoot them."

"We expect our profits to grow by 20 to 25 percent. That's not just good, that's practically obscene in an industry in which few people make money. This isn't an airline, it's a drug baron's business."

On himself

"I don't give a f*** if no one likes me. I am not a cloud bunny.... I don't like airplanes. I never wanted to be a pilot like those other platoons of goons who populate the airline industry."

"I don't mind dressing up in something stupid or pulling gormless faces if it helps. Frankly, I don't give a rat's arse about my personal dignity."



Google to buy part of HTC for \$1.1 billion



Taipei

Taiwan's struggling smartphone maker HTC said yesterday it would sell part of its smartphone business to Google for \$1.1 billion as the US giant looks to take greater control of its hardware business.

Google will take on half of HTC's research and development staff -- about 2,000 people -- many of whom have already been working on the Silicon Valley firm's Pixel handset, as well as intellectual

property (IP) licensing.

HTC said in a statement the deal is expected to be completed early next year, pending regulatory approval.

"For Google, this agreement further reinforces its commitment to smartphones and overall investment in its emerging hardware business," HTC spokesman Peter Shen told a press conference in Taipei.

"In addition to the talented and experienced team of

professionals, Google will continue to have access to HTC's IP to support the Pixel smartphone family. This agreement also represents a significant investment by Google in Taiwan as a key innovation and technology hub."

The Taiwanese firm is working on its new flagship phone and will also continue to invest in areas such as virtual reality, artificial intelligence and internet of things, Shen added.

Apple shares slip on smartwatch reviews

San Francisco

Apple shares slipped Wednesday after mixed reviews of its latest smartwatch and amid concerns pre-orders of coming iPhone 8 models were lagging.

Apple Watch Series 3 set to hit the market on Friday boasts the ability to connect directly to telecommunications networks to let users remain connected without a smartphone for phone calls, music and other functions.

During a live demonstration at a media event earlier this

month, an Apple executive on a stand-up paddle board in the middle of a lake chatted via the smartwatch with a colleague on stage in San Francisco.

But, reviews posted on Wednesday expressed problems with Apple Watch Series 3 connecting to mobile

networks. Lauren Goode of tech news website The Verge wrote that while trying out the new Apple Watch she experience "notable connectivity issues," with the device trying to link with unknown WiFi hot-spots instead of a telecommunications network.



The new Apple Watch Series 3