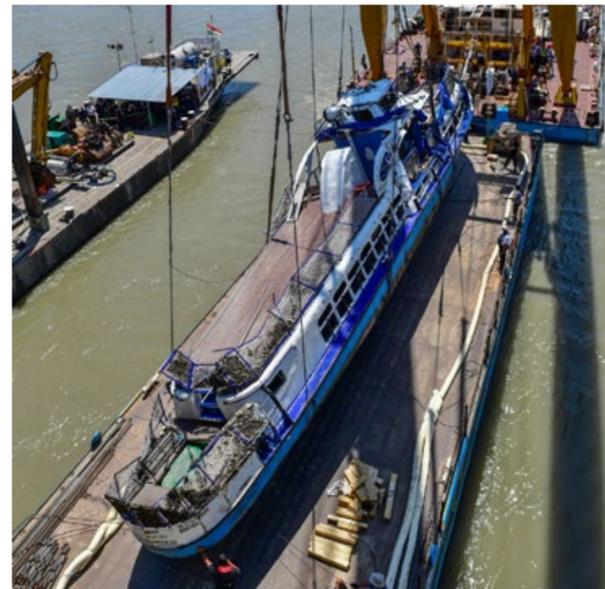
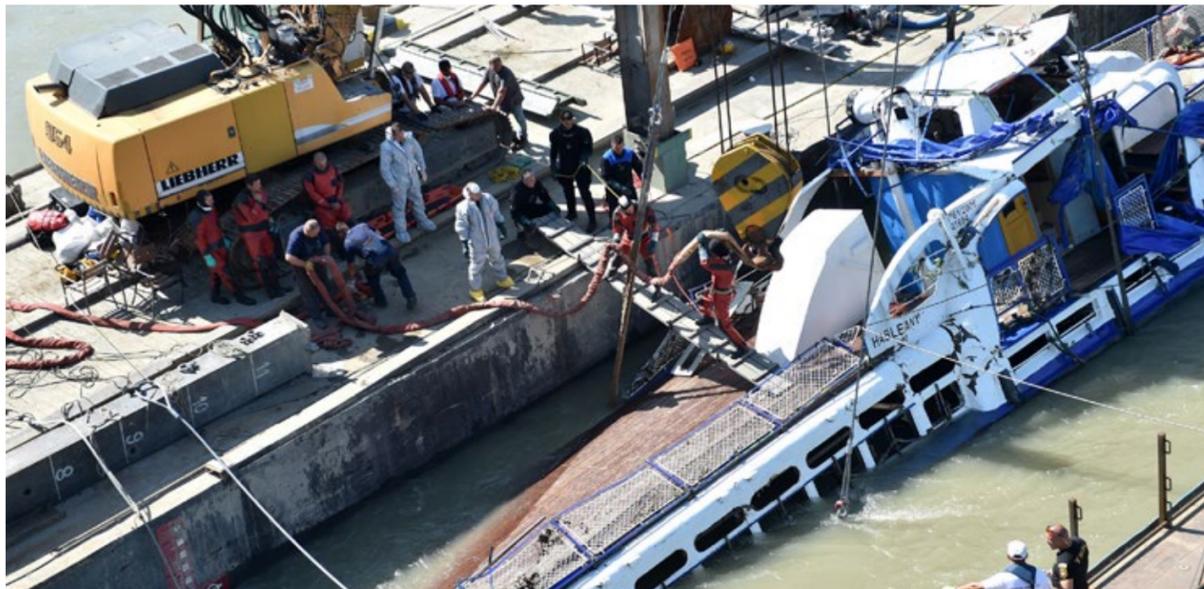


More bodies found as Hungary lifts sunken boat



In pictures, rescue teams working during the operations to pull out the sunken Mermaid sightseeing boat on the Danube river in Budapest

● **Police were seen removing another four bodies from the vessel**

● **The Mermaid was carrying mostly South Korean holidaymakers when it capsized**

● **Those on board included a six-year-old girl travelling with her mother and grandparents**

Budapest, Hungary

Hungarian police recovered more bodies on Tuesday as they lifted a sightseeing boat that sank in the

river Danube in Budapest last month in an accident that has claimed at least 24 lives.

Police were seen removing another four bodies from the vessel while four people are still missing about two weeks after the tragedy, the worst such incident in Hungary in 75 years.

The lifting operation began at around 6 am (0400 GMT) and six hours later the Mermaid tourist boat was almost entirely out of the water.

Early on in the operation, police were seen by an AFP photographer at the site removing four bodies from the vessel.

Several dozen rescue workers could be seen taking part in the operation, including members of a team sent from South Korea.

The Mermaid was carrying mostly South Korean holidaymakers when it capsized and sank on the evening of May 29,

just seconds after colliding with a bigger river cruise boat on a busy stretch of the river.

Those on board included a six-year-old girl travelling with her mother and grandparents, and the Mermaid's Hungarian captain.

Only seven of the 35 people on board are known to have survived the accident, with the prospect of finding any more passengers alive seen as practically zero.

Strong river currents

Hungarian police, who are leading the salvage operation, initially estimated the lifting operation would take around six hours, but work is expected to continue well into the afternoon.

Temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) and strong river currents have slowed the operation,

The captain of the river cruise boat, the Viking Sigyn, has been arrested on suspicion of "endangering waterborne traffic resulting in multiple deaths"

which has been stopped several times.

At one point, one member of the rescue crew fell into the fast-flowing water and had to be rescued after almost being swept away.

Divers have periodically been entering the vessel to search the bodies of any victims still inside. Damage was visible to the rear part of the Mermaid where the collision occurred.

Since the accident divers had been unable to enter the submerged boat due to the strong

current in a river swollen from weeks of rain.

The salvage crew instead focused on fixing wire harnesses underneath and around the vessel to prepare it for hoisting by a crane mounted on a barge.

Once out of the water and removed to a secure location the Mermaid will be examined by police who have already launched a criminal probe into the cause of the accident.

The captain of the river cruise boat, the Viking Sigyn, has been arrested on suspicion of "endangering waterborne traffic resulting in multiple deaths".

On Monday the Sigyn was again searched by Hungarian police.

After the incident, the boat had travelled on to Germany before returning to Hungary according to its schedule.

According to Hungary's as-

sociation of passenger shipping companies, the sinking of the Mermaid is the first such accident to cause mass fatalities in Hungary for 75 years.

For many in South Korea the tragedy has brought back memories of the 2014 Sewol ferry sinking which killed more than 300 people in one of the deadliest maritime disasters in the country.

The Mermaid accident happened on a popular part of the Danube river for pleasure trips, from where passengers can view the city and parliament building illuminated at night.

Dozens of small sightseeing boats ply the river through Budapest every day.

Larger river cruise boats travelling on the Danube between Germany and the Black Sea typically spend several days moored in the capital.

Travellers' images exposed in US data breach: reports

Washington, United States

Images of tens of thousands of travellers crossing the United States' border have been stolen from an immigration subcontractor in a data breach, US media reported on Monday.

The images were snatched from the network of a subcontractor for US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), after the company copied data to its database without the agency's



A display shows a facial recognition system for law enforcement during a technology conference in Washington on November 1, 2017

consent, according to *The New York Times*.

The data included images of drivers in their cars and license plates taken over a six-week period at an undisclosed border crossing, the newspaper said.

An unnamed official said as many as 100,000 people may have had their images stolen, the Times reported.

"As of today, none of the image data has been identified on the Dark Web or internet," CBP

said in a statement quoted by the Times. CBP hasn't identified the name of the subcontractor hacked but the newspaper identified it as Perceptics, which makes license plate readers and works with the agency on border security matters.

Facial recognition is being deployed in airports around the US, aiming to help speed boarding and arrivals and also monitoring for suspects and people who may have overstayed their visas.

German serial killer nurse appeals life term for 85 murders

Berlin, Germany

Germany's most prolific serial killer in the country's post-war history has appealed his life sentence for 85 murders, a district court said Tuesday.

Former nurse Nils Hoegel, 42, was convicted last week for killing patients chosen at random by lethal injection.

The murder spree of patients aged between 34 to 96 took place between 2000 and 2005 before he was finally caught in the act.

"I can inform you that the defendant has now lodged an appeal," Melanie Bitter, a spokeswoman for the court in Oldenburg, said Tuesday without adding further details.

Last Thursday's judgement brought the official number of victims to 91 as Hoegel had previously been convicted for six other murders.

Police suspect that Hoegel's final death toll may be more than 200.

However, it may never be known exactly how many people he killed because many likely victims were cremated before autopsies could be performed, and because of gaps in Hoegel's memory.

Four passengers die in 'unbearable' heat on Indian train

● **Temperatures touched 50.3 degrees Celsius in the Rajasthan town of Churu recently, just below India's record of 51 degrees.**

New Delhi, India

Four people died in 'unbearable' heat while travelling by train in northern India, which has been in the grip of a heat-wave for two weeks, officials and passengers said yesterday.

The four died Monday while travelling from Agra -- the city of the Taj Mahal -- to Coimbatore in the country's south.

"Heat seems to be a factor," Indian Railways spokesman Ajit



Four passengers on the Kerala Express have died in Jhansi due to extreme heat

Kumar Singh said, "it is really unfortunate".

"When the train was approaching Jhansi, we got a call from the on-board staff that one of the passengers is uncon-

scious," Singh said.

"We rushed medical staff to the station but they found that three of the passengers were already dead."

A fourth person died later in

hospital.

Temperatures have hovered around 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in Jhansi, in northern Uttar Pradesh state, in recent days. Singh said the Kerala

Express train had no technical problems, but the tourists were not in air-conditioned coaches.

A passenger who was a part of the group that boarded in Agra said the train was stiflingly hot.

"Shortly after we left Agra, the heat became unbearable and some people started complaining of breathing problems and uneasiness," the passenger was quoted as saying by News18 television.

"Before we could get some help, they collapsed."

One of the dead was 81 years old, the channel said.

Much of India has been sweltering in temperatures that have risen above 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in northern Rajasthan state. A number of deaths from heatstroke have been reported.