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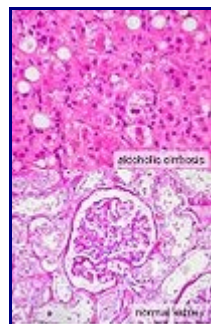
A cargo aircraft registered in Zimbabwe crashed today at Shanghai International Airport in China. Three of the crew have been killed. Another four people were hospitalised after the plane went down on takeoff



[Namibia votes in presidential election](#)

Voters are heading to the polls today in Namibia to elect a president and parliament. The ruling South West Africa People's Organization is expected to win presidential and parliamentary elections, but a new opposition party is mounting a challenge.

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Hepatorenal syndrome is a life-threatening medical condition that consists of [rapid deterioration in kidney function](#) in individuals with

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[cirrhosis](#) or [fulminant liver failure](#). HRS is usually fatal unless a [liver transplant](#) is performed, although various treatments, including [dialysis](#), can help over the short term. While HRS can affect individuals with cirrhosis (regardless of cause), severe [alcoholic hepatitis](#), or fulminant hepatic failure, it usually occurs when liver function deteriorates rapidly due to an acute injury, such as an infection, [bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract](#), or overuse of [diuretic](#) medications. HRS is a relatively common complication of cirrhosis, occurring in 18% of cirrhotics within one year of their diagnosis, and in 39% of cirrhotics within five years of their diagnosis. Deteriorating [liver](#) function is believed to cause changes in the [circulation that supplies the intestines](#), altering [blood flow](#) and blood vessel tone in the [kidneys](#). Two forms of hepatorenal syndrome have been defined: Type 1 HRS entails a rapidly progressive decline in kidney function, while type 2 HRS is associated with [ascites](#) that does not improve with standard [diuretic](#) medications. The risk of death in hepatorenal syndrome is very high; the mortality of individuals with type 1 HRS is over 50% over the short term, as determined by historical [case series](#). The only long-term treatment option for the condition is liver transplantation.

Wikiquote - QoTD



Far away in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.

~ [Louisa May Alcott](#) ~

Today's News

Obama declares tougher emission targets before Copenhagen summit

[Barack Obama](#) has set tougher emission targets in a White House speech. He said, the USA intends to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions "in the range of" 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050. Obama will attend the [Copenhagen international climate meeting](#) next month, and is going to offer these figures as an official climate change policy.

Obama has also set interim targets for better intermediate control. These are a 30% cut by 2025 and a 42% cut by 2030. But Obama's climate change speeches aren't going very far: Mr Obama is not planning to be present at the summit during the last days, when the world leaders might most possibly finally make a treaty to replace the [1997 Kyoto Protocol](#).

To compare, the European Union speaks about cutting its emissions by 20% cut by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

But the starting point of the EU and of most of other nations is 1990, while Obama's numbers are in terms of 2005 emissions. The plans proposed by Obama are with a steeper end compared with EU, thus making a slower start.

Emissions cuts targets

Year	USA in terms of 2005	USA in terms of 1990	European Union in terms of 1990
2020	17%	4%	20%
2050	83%	80%	80%

Observers say some accumulation effect can be caused by domestic policies, which take long to implement on a proper scale, but then give a faster emissions cut. Such policies can include improvements in vehicle fuel efficiency, industries-specific limitations, etc.

The White House announcement also contains the list of US representatives at the Copenhagen conference:

- President [Barack Obama](#)
- Interior Secretary [Ken Salazar](#)
- Agriculture Secretary [Tom Vilsack](#)
- Commerce Secretary [Gary Locke](#)
- Energy Secretary [Steven Chu](#)
- Environmental Protection Agency Administrator [Lisa P. Jackson](#)
- Council on Environmental Quality Chair [Nancy Sutley](#)
- Office of Science and Technology Policy Director [John Holdren](#)
- Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change [Carol Browner](#)

A schedule of US Center presence was made up for certain dates in December, so that the exact ways to

achieve the cuts will be discussed.

Suspected bomb derails Moscow-St Petersburg train, kills at least 25

An express train travelling from [Moscow](#) to [St Petersburg](#) in [Russia](#) derailed yesterday, leaving at least 25 people dead and 100 more wounded. Authorities suspect a terrorist attack after a possible bomb crater was found beside the line.

The trainwreck occurred in the countryside of [Tver](#), near [Bologoye](#). Around 650 passengers were on board the Nevsky Express which was travelling during peak time along one of Russia's most-traversed rail routes. Ninety of the injured are hospitalised, with hundreds of rescue workers attending and three victims being airlifted by helicopter.

Survivors say they heard a loud bang just before the crash. "There was an explosion under the locomotive," the driver said as he called the Emergencies Ministry from his mobile phone. "I do not know what we hit. We are derailed. The locomotive and carriages, I do not know yet what else, everything is in smoke."

The prosecutor-general has launched a terrorism investigation. Vladimir Yakunin, head of state-owned Russian Railways, said the chief line of enquiry is "To put it simply, a terrorist attack." "There is objective evidence that ... a blast from an explosive device is one of the explanations for the Nevsky Express incident," he said.

The [Interfax](#) agency reported the crater was a metre wide. Russian journalists reporting from the scene were unable to locate it. President [Dmitry Medvedev](#) has ordered a full investigation and assistance for the victims. The

Health Ministry said that over a dozen people remain missing.

Russian railway infrastructure is poorly maintained and plagued by negligence and alcohol abuse, according to [The Guardian](#). There is also a high concern of terrorism, especially from rebels in [Chechnya](#). Two Chechnyan rebels are accused of a 2007 bombing that derailed a train on the same line, wounding 27 people.

Zimbabwean cargo plane crashes in Shanghai; three dead

A cargo aircraft registered in [Zimbabwe](#) crashed today at [Shanghai International Airport](#) in [China](#). Three of the crew have been killed.

Another four people were taken to the Pudong Xinqu People's Hospital after the plane went down on takeoff and burst into flame. Firefighters responded with retardant foam and thick smoke could be seen rising from the airport. The plane, which had been flying to [Bishkek](#) in [Kyrgyzstan](#), broke apart in the accident.

The crash occurred between 7:40 a.m. and 8:12 a.m. The four surviving crew are reported to be conscious. None are Chinese citizens. Police are currently securing the scene.

Ferry capsizes in Bangladesh, at least five dead and 50 missing

A ferry has sunk in [Bangladesh](#) earlier today, killing at least five people, according to authorities. About fifty more people were missing after the incident.

Police said that the accident occurred as the vessel, called the *MV Coco-4*, came near a river station at Bhola

Island, located 300 kilometres from the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka. The ferry was reportedly overcrowded, and the boat tipped to one side as all its passengers moved to disembark.

"It was overcrowded with over 1,000 passengers. It tilted and part of it sank due to crowd pressure as it arrived near the Nazirpur river station," said a local police chief, Zakir Hossain, to the [Agence France-Presse](#) news agency. He also added that "many passengers have managed to land safely. But we believe some others who were staying in the cabins were trapped under water. We are trying to rescue them," Rescue teams and divers are reportedly searching underwater for bodies.

Ferry accidents are not infrequent in the country; incidents have usually been due to overcrowding, or the use of old vessels. "At festival time it is really difficult to stop passengers and relevant ferry operators from flouting rules," said an officer for the Bangladesh water authority.

Namibia votes in presidential election

Voters are heading to the polls today in [Namibia](#) to elect a president and parliament. The ruling South West Africa People's Organization is expected to win presidential and parliamentary elections, but a new opposition party is mounting a challenge.

Voters turned out in large numbers before dawn to cast their ballots. Local journalist John Grobler said many waited for hours to vote because of logistical problems. "Voting is slow in just about all the polling stations, but especially so at the polling stations where they don't have any laptop computers to verify the potential voters on the actual roll, which means

they have to go to the physical paper. And that, of course, takes time," he said.

President [Hifikepunye Pohamba](#) is running for a second five-year term. His South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), which has governed Namibia since independence nearly twenty years ago, is expected to win a two-thirds majority in parliament.

However, SWAPO is being challenged by a new party, the Rally for Democracy and Progress. The RDP was formed two years ago after its leader, Hidipo Hamutenya, lost his bid to become SWAPO leader upon the retirement of Namibia's first president, Sam Nujoma.

Voting will continue for a second day on Saturday and preliminary results are expected sometime next week.

UN nuclear chief says negotiations with Iran at 'dead end'

The head of the [International Atomic Energy Agency](#), [Mohamed ElBaradei](#), said earlier on Thursday that the organization has reached a "dead end" in a probe into [Iran's](#) nuclear program. The IAEA's board is meeting to consider a resolution condemning Iran's nuclear program.

In remarks to the IAEA's board, ElBaradei expressed frustration over Iran's failure to cooperate with the Vienna-based agency. ElBaradei leaves office in a few days, at the end of this November, and his remarks have grown sharply more critical of Iran in recent months.

Today, he said he was disappointed that Iran had not agreed on a deal to further enrich its uranium overseas.

The deal has the support of the [United States](#), [Russia](#) and [France](#) and it aims to provide a safeguard that Iran's uranium is not being used to make a nuclear weapon.

"It is now well over a year since the agency was last able to engage Iran in discussions about these outstanding issues. We have effectively reached a dead end, unless Iran engages fully with us," he commented.

"In my view the proposed agreement presents a unique opportunity after many years of animosity and hostility to address a humanitarian need and create a space for negotiation. This opportunity should be seized and it would be highly regrettable if it was missed," he said.

ElBaradei's comments come as the IAEA board is considering a draft resolution on Iran. According to press reports, the draft urges Iran to stop construction of the uranium enrichment site, and to confirm that it has no other hidden nuclear activities. Diplomats are reportedly confident the measure will be passed, but Iran's ambassador to the IAEA told a [German](#) newspaper that Tehran would reduce its cooperation with the IAEA to a minimum if that happens.

Some members of the international community believe that Iran is trying to build a nuclear weapon; Tehran, however, maintains that its efforts are for peaceful purposes only.

Golfer Tiger Woods injured in car crash

[American](#) golfer [Tiger Woods](#) has been injured in a car crash near his home in [Orlando, Florida](#). Woods was reported to have been leaving his home around 2:30 a.m. (EST) in his 2009 [Cadillac Escalade](#), when he collided with a fire hydrant and a tree down the

street.

Woods was taken to Health Central Hospital, and treated for facial lacerations. Early reports described his injuries as "serious", but he was released from a local hospital a short time later, and his publicist, Mark Steinberg, has since described the accident as "minor". There are also reports that the car's [airbags](#) did not deploy, which suggest a low speed collision. Windemere Mayor Gary Bruhn told CNN, "I think it's nothing more than an accident."

Police say alcohol did not play a role in the accident. An investigation is ongoing and reports say that charges could be filed against Woods.

77 dead after flooding in Saudi Arabia

The worst flooding in 27 years in [Saudi Arabia](#) has left at least 77 people dead, and dozens more could be missing. The floods came after torrential rains on Wednesday.

The rainstorms mainly affected western parts of the country, including the cities of Jeddah, Rabigh and Mecca, and the surrounding area. Inclement weather hampered the start of the Muslim Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca; however, none of the dead people had been attending the event.

The deaths were mainly caused by collapsed homes and high waters, according to officials. Witnesses say many of the casualties had been trapped in vehicles. Many cars had been swept away and city roads were flooded, blocking traffic.

The Saudi Arabian Civil Defence Authority reported that emergency crews managed to rescue over 900 people.

Word of the Day

languish ▼

1. To lose strength and become weak; to be in a state of weakness or sickness.
2. To pine away in longing for something; to have low spirits, especially from lovesickness.
3. To live in miserable or disheartening conditions.
4. To be neglected; to make little progress, be unsuccessful.

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