



Lead Stories

Irish airline Aer Lingus to cut more staff

UN official: 90 Rwandan rebels killed in DRC by army troops

Former teacher jailed for murdering father in London, England

Irish airline Aer Lingus to cut more staff

Aer Lingus, an Irish airline, has announced that it will cut about 230 staff in the near future in compulsory job losses, bringing the total number of layoffs from the airline to 670. 440 other workers will face voluntary job losses.

The company believes the job reductions will save it 97 million euros. Chief Executive Officer Christoph Mueller said the move would start "within days" and the airline would return to profitability "relatively soon."

The airline, which is Ireland's second-largest, also announced today that its operating loss for last year went up by four times, to 81 million euros. The labour union IMPACT, which represents cabin crew for Aer Lingus, is to meet with the airline's management tomorrow regarding the company's move. The union also remarked that time available to "broker a solution is extremely limited."

Aer Lingus revenue dropped to 1.21 billion euros after an eleven percent drop last year, according to the airline, even though passenger numbers increased to 10.4 million. According to the Bloomberg news service, Aer Lingus' net cash reserves went down to 335 million euros.

UN official: 90 Rwandan rebels killed in DRC by army troops

Madnodje Mounouba, a spokesman for the United Nations' mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), said yesterday that DRC army troops killed 90 Rwandan Hutu rebels in the eastern part of Congo.

He said that the deaths occurred during a two-week army operation by the DRC army targeting the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) group, which was conducted with assistance from UN peacekeepers. The spokesman added that 68 rebels also surrendered, and two rebel bases were destroyed.

"In Nord-Kivu, two operations have been completed [at] Kashebere and Mayengara, with the following results: on the FDLR side, 23 killed, 40 surrendered and two bases destroyed," the spokesman said.

The Hutus have been accused of killing hundreds of DRC villagers in the eastern part of the country; last year, DRC and Rwandan troops conducted a short offensive against them.

Eastern DRC has frequently seen violence since the 1994 Rwandan genocide, as the militias believed to have played a part in them moved across the border.

Former teacher jailed for murdering father in London, England

A man who was formerly a physical education teacher has been given a jail sentence for murdering his father in the south-west of London, England. The sentencing was made after a court trial in the Old Bailey, a famous courthouse in London.

55-year-old Robert Walsh, who suffers from a mental disorder called schizophrenia, stabbed his 84-year-old father Joseph Walsh with a potato knife fourteen times in April 2009, in the suburb of Earlsfield. The latter gained wounds to his liver and to one of his lungs. He died as a result of his injuries the following month. Robert had stated that he had consumed 10 pints of cider before committing the attack.

After the attack, he commented to the police officers about his father: "I must be mad. How is my dad? I went berserk. I stabbed him. He has been winding me up all day." Members of the police force visited Robert twice on the day that the murder occurred. The court heard that, during the attack, a person who lived nearby heard the sound of glass smashing at 1400 BST on the day of the attack. The resident also heard Joseph proclaiming: "Help, stop this".

Robert pleaded guilty to the offence of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility. Speaking to him in the courthouse, Recorder of London Judge Peter Beaumont stated: "The family tragedy is almost unimaginable." Beaumont then gave Walsh an indefinite prison sentence.

Commons Picture of the Day



Usain Bolt in celebration after his 100m victory at Beijing Olympics 2008. Literally seconds after Bolt crossed the line at the Beijing Olympic Games men's 100 meters to break the world record. Licensed under CC-BY-SA 2.0. Image credit to Richard Giles.

Quote of the Day

Who knows, my God, but that the universe
is not one vast sea of compassion
actually, the veritable holy honey, beneath
all this show of personality and cruelty?
~ Jack Kerouac ~

Word of the Day**ebony** *n*

1. A hard, heavy, deep black wood from various subtropical and tropical trees, especially of the genus *Diospyros*.
2. A tree that yields such wood.
3. A deep, dark black colour.

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