

News

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ESWEATHER

TOMORROW
Wind speed (mph) 00
Temp (°C) 00
Seas: Calm
Slight
Moderate
Rough

LONDON TONIGHT
It will be dry with lengthy clear spells. Max 16C, min 5C

TOMORROW
Dry and fine at first. Cloudier later. Max 18C, min 12C

FRIDAY
A dry, warm day with sunny intervals. Max 22C, min 13C

SATURDAY
Mist clearing. Then dry and warm. Max 21C, min 10C

SUNDAY
Dry with plenty of sunshine and blue sky. Max 19C, min 8C

MONDAY
A dry day with spells of sunshine. Max 18C, min 8C

LIGHTS
Sunset & lighting-up: 6.27pm, rises 7.10am
Moon rise: 5.20am, sets 5.24pm
High water: London Bridge 12.50am (6.9m), 1.18pm (6.9m), Dover 10.28am (6.7m), 10.50pm (6.7m).

AIR QUALITY
Nitrogen Dioxide: Yesterday: 195 ppb. Forecast: Low. (Calculated on parts per billion. Less than 150 = Low; 150-299 = Moderate; 300+ = High)
Air Pollution: Yesterday: 3. Forecast: Low. (1-3 = Low; 4-6 = Moderate; 7-9 = High; 10 = Very High)
Fine Particles: Yesterday: 59ug/m3. Forecast: Low. (Calculated on micrograms per cubic metre. Less than 50 = Low; 50-74 = Moderate; 75+ = High)

WORLD		WORLD		WORLD	
Alicante	26 s	Dubai	36 s	Madeira	24 sh
Athens	26 th	Dublin	16 s	Majorca	27 s
Bahrain	40 s	Faro	23 s	Malaga	25 s
Bangkok	31 th	Geneva	21 s	Marrakesh	27 f
Barbados	31 sh	Helsinki	10 s	Mexico City	21 f
Barcelona	25 s	Hong Kong	27 c	Miami	28 f
Beijing	25 s	Honolulu	30 f	Mombasa	30 s
Berlin	18 f	Ibiza	27 s	Moscow	10 s
Bermuda	28 f	Istanbul	20 c	Mumbai	34 sh
Buenos Aires	24 sh	Jerusalem	28 s	New York	17 sh
Cape Town	27 s	Kuala Lumpur	33 th	Nice	22 s
Chicago	23 s	Las Palmas	25 f	Nicosia	30 s
Corfu	23 th	Los Angeles	19 r	Paris	22 f
Delhi	34 s	Luxor	39 s	Perth	24 s
				Vancouver	17 s
				Prague	16 c
				Reykjavik	10 c
				Rio de Janeiro	26 s
				Riyadh	39 s
				Rome	24 s
				San Francisco	22 f
				Seychelles	31 sh
				Singapore	32 th
				St Petersburg	11 c
				Stockholm	12 c
				Sydney	22 f
				Tel Aviv	29 s
				Tokyo	24 s
				Vancouver	17 s

Rogue trader says he was 'hit on the head with a club'

ROGUE trader Jérôme Kerviel today said he had been made a scapegoat for banking giant Société Générale.

The 33-year-old, who was convicted of fraud and deception yesterday, sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay his former employer damages of £4.26 billion, said he had been "hit on the head with a club".

"I'm starting to digest it, but I'm nonetheless crushed by the weight of the sanction and the weight of responsibility the ruling places on me," Kerviel told a European radio station.

Kerviel maintained in court that the bank and his bosses tolerated his massive risk-taking as long as it made money - a claim the bank strongly denied. "I have the feeling they wanted to make me pay for everybody and that Société Générale had to be saved," he said.



In hind sight...

A JACKDAW grooms a Red hind in Bushy Park, south-west London. Both jackdaws and magpies often settle on the deer and pick out ticks. In return, the birds use the animal's moulting coat to line their nests.

Ignore drink advice, pregnant women told

WOMEN were advised that official guidance to avoid any alcohol in pregnancy remained in place today after experts said drinking one or two units a week does not harm a child's development. Mothers-to-be can safely drink a 175ml glass of wine, a 50ml glass of spirits or just under a pint of beer each week without

affecting intellectual or behavioural development, according to a new study.

The finding adds to previous research which found light drinking has no negative effect on a child's development. The issue of how much is safe to drink during pregnancy has caused controversy in recent years.

London without half of fire engines as crews protest

Ross Lydall
Chief News Correspondent

LONDON Fire Brigade was today said to be in "meltdown" after industrial action took more than half of its engines off the streets.

Firefighters are on a work-to-rule over plans to sack all 5,500 front-line staff and re-employ them on new contracts to force through new shift patterns.

A confidential memo passed to the Evening Standard claims that 91 of 169 engines were out of service on 114 occasions on Monday, some for almost 11 hours at a time, due to staff shortages or mechanical defects.

The Fire Brigades Union, which has 95 per cent support from its members for the action, said the situation was repeated yesterday and would continue indefinitely.

Union leaders plan to join forces with the RMT and TSSA unions to co-ordinate a walkout with the next Tube strike, due on November 2. It would be the first firefighters' strike in London since the national dispute of 2002/3 and would pile pressure on Mayor Boris Johnson and the Tory-controlled fire authority he oversees.

At one point on Monday all of Bromley was said to be without cover, while Croydon's flagship station, which has rescue units and anti-terror equipment, shut temporarily last night.

The FBU said its refusal to work pre-arranged overtime forced 11 stations to close on Monday, including Bethnal Green, Ealing, Lambeth and Heathrow, though not the airport's own station.

The union's Paul Embery said the unavailability of so many engines was unprecedented and highlighted "how the brigade has taken the firefighters'



Dispute: union says cover is being hit

goodwill for granted for so many years. The moment that goodwill is withdrawn ... the brigade goes into meltdown." The result of a ballot for full strike action will be announced on Thursday next week, with backing expected for walk-outs of a day or more at a time.

A brigade spokesman said: "The figures suggested by the FBU are highly exaggerated. We move our staff and vehicles around to ensure cover across London's 112 fire stations and only 14 fire appliances were unavailable on Monday. That isn't an unusual number to be unavailable."

More than 1,000 firefighters marched through central London last month in protest at the planned shift changes.

London fire commissioner Ron Dobson and Tory fire authority chairman Brian Coleman want firefighters to work two 12-hour days, starting at 8am, followed by two 12-hour nights, starting at 8pm, then take four days off. The aim is to allow more time for daytime community fire prevention work.

Firefighters now work two nine-hour days, starting at 9am, then two 15-hour nights, starting at 6pm, followed by four rest days. The union says the new pattern could force some firefighters to quit over the impact on family life.

Unions warn against cuts to public sector pensions

Nicholas Cecil
Chief Political Correspondent

UNION chiefs today warned against forcing millions of public sector workers to pay more into their pensions and retire on less.

They hit out as former Labour cabinet minister Lord Hutton was set to pave the way for changes to public sector pensions. He will deliver an interim report tomorrow which aims to lay the foundations to tackle the blackhole in public sector pensions which some experts put as high as £1 trillion. Public sector workers fear he will suggest big increases in contributions and that their pensions be changed from final salary to career average pay.

Some of the 11 public sector pension schemes have already increased contribution rates.

Lord Hutton's study was commissioned to suggest short-term options for the next few years. A final report is expected to give more details on how the pension age could increase for some public sector workers, possibly from 60 to 65.

Dave Prentis, Unison general secretary, said: "Council workers, including home carers, librarians, social workers and dinner ladies, pay in 6.4 per cent of their wages, while NHS workers pay an average of 6.6 per cent. When they do retire - it won't be on a king's ransom - the average pension in local government is just £4,000 a year, dropping to £2,800 for women."

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka said: "A fair scheme was agreed with the Government in 2007 and we do not accept a need for that to be the subject of further review."