

Emergency workers carry to shore a body and debris from a seaplane



Brit CEO dead in Sydney plane crash

Sydney

A high-profile British CEO and his family were among six people killed in a New Year's Eve seaplane crash in Australia, police said on Monday.

The plane went down Sunday in the Hawkesbury River near the suburb of Cowan some 50 kilometres (31 miles) north of Sydney, as New Year's revellers on the banks watched in shock.

The bodies of all of those on board -- one pilot and five passengers -- have been recovered from the wreckage, with Richard Cousins, chief executive of British catering giant Compass, identified as among the deceased.

Cousins' two sons in their

early 20s and his fiancée and her 11-year-old daughter were also killed in the crash.

"The thoughts of everyone at Compass are with Richard's family and friends, and we extend our deepest sympathies with them," Compass group chairman Paul Walsh said in a statement.

Cousins, who was recently named by Harvard Business Review as one of the world's best-performing CEOs, was due to step down from Compass this year.

New South Wales detective superintendent Mark Hutchings said all passengers on board were British nationals and the pilot Australian.

The cause of the accident

remains unknown with the investigation ongoing.

Witnesses recalled seeing the aircraft, a DHC-2 Beaver Seaplane which was heading to Rose Bay in Sydney Harbour, do a sharp turn before plummeting straight into the water.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, whose father died in a light plane accident, paid his respects to the families of those killed.

"We grieve for those who've lost their lives, and again, our thoughts and prayers are with their families as they come to terms with this terrible loss," he said.

The flight company Sydney Seaplanes has suspended its operations until further notice. (AFP)

#PollToday



Will you reduce consumption of soft drinks as prices have gone up?

Yes No Cant Say



"When I took office one year ago, I appealed for 2017 to be a year for peace. Conflicts have deepened and new dangers have emerged. Global anxieties about nuclear weapons are the highest since the Cold War"

Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary-General

Rest in sight

Rebel attack kills eight Kashmir



Suspected rebels stormed a paramilitary camp in Indian-administered Kashmir leaving eight dead.

UK car park blaze destroys vehicles

A blaze has destroyed every vehicle left in a 1,600-capacity car park serving the British city of Liverpool's indoor arena.

About 40,000 French homes without power

French power grid company Enedis says about 40,000 homes are without power in France's western region of Brittany due to winter storm Carmen.

Macron vows 'French renaissance'

President Emmanuel Macron vowed to pursue his reform agenda with the "same intensity" in 2018 and kickstart a "French renaissance" in his first New Year's address as leader.

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Four killed in London New Year knife violence

London

Four young men were stabbed to death in unrelated incidents in London on New Year's Eve, while a fifth is in a critical condition in hospital, police said Monday.

The unusually concentrated spate of violence will add to growing concerns about knife crime in the British capital, which is at its highest level for five years.

At least 80 people were killed in stabbings in London

in 2017, more than half of them under the age of 25.

Detectives launched four separate murder investigations into the overnight attacks, which took place away from the city centre, where more than 100,000 people had gathered to watch the New Year's Eve fireworks.

An 18-year-old man was stabbed in Enfield, north London, late on Sunday evening, and later died in hospital. Five men have been arrested, police said. (AFP)

10 tourists, 2 locals killed in Costa Rica plane crash



People standing at the site of a plane crash near in Punta Islita, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

San José

Costa Rican investigators are looking into what caused a charter aircraft to crash in woods in the country's northwest soon after taking off, killing the 10 US citizens and two local crew members on board.

The aircraft, a single-propeller Cessna 208 Caravan belonging to the Nature Air domestic airline, came down in a mountainous area near the Pacific coastal beach town of Punta Islita in the country's Guanacaste peninsula, the spokesman, Carlos Hidalgo,

said on his Facebook page.

"It is a private plane with 10 foreign passengers and two local crew members," a separate security ministry statement said.

Hidalgo published images of the crash site, showing flaming wreckage strewn across the terrain.

All the bodies were burned, Hidalgo told national television station Channel 7.

"I have the deaths of the 12 occupants confirmed," the head of Costa Rica's civil aviation agency, Enio Cubillo, told *La Nacion* newspaper. (AFP)

Recreational cannabis legal in California

Los Angeles

The arrival of the new year in California brought with it broad legalization of marijuana, a much-anticipated change that comes two decades after the state was the first to allow pot for medical use.

The nation's most populous state joins a growing list of other states, and the nation's capital, where so-called recreational marijuana is permitted even though the federal government continues to classify pot as a controlled substance, like heroin and LSD.

Pot is now legal in California for adults 21 and older, and individuals can grow up to six plants and possess as much as



Representative image

an ounce of the drug.

But finding a retail outlet to buy non-medical pot in California won't be easy, at least initially. Only about 90 businesses received state

licenses to open on New Year's Day. They are concentrated in San Diego, Santa Cruz, the San Francisco Bay Area and the Palm Springs area. (AP)

4 shot dead in New Jersey home; 16-year-old arrested

New Jersey

Police arrested a 16-year-old boy suspected of killing four people including his parents and sister with an assault rifle at their New Jersey home on New Year's Eve, prosecutors said yesterday.

Officers from Long Branch police and the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office responded to a call shortly before midnight and discovered the victims, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office said in a statement.

The suspect, who was not identified, was arrested at the home without incident, the statement said.

"Thankfully it was uneventful. It didn't require any force," Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni told reporters on Monday morning, the New York Daily News reported.

The victims were identified as the suspect's father, Steven Kologi, 44; mother Linda Kologi, 42; sister Brittany Kologi, 18; and family friend Mary Schultz, 70. (Reuters)