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Rescuers approaching the Costa Concordia on Sunday near the Italian island of Giglio. Witnesses' accounts raised questions about whether the ship had steered sharply off course. (ILLUSTRATION BY MONTEFORTE/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE)

Survivors tell of chaos as cruise ship sank

GIGLIO, ITALY

At least 17 are missing off coast of Italy; captain and crew face scrutiny

BY GAIA PIANIGIANI AND SARAH MASLIN NIR

Rescue workers scouring a partly sunken Italian cruise ship off the Tuscan coast found glimmers of hope and tragedy on Sunday, pulling three survivors from the stricken luxury liner, including a couple on their honeymoon, and two bodies, bringing the total confirmed dead to five.

There were still more than 17 people unaccounted for from the accident on Friday, when the massive Costa Concordia struck a rock-like object and cap-

sized. About 70 people were injured, officials said.

The police continued to investigate the accident, and were holding the ship's captain and first officer for questioning on charges of manslaughter, failure to offer assistance and abandonment of ship, the police said.

Accounts of survivors and witnesses had raised questions about the crew's preparedness and whether the ship had steered dangerously off course. The ship's owner, Costa Cruise Lines, a subsidiary of Carnival Cruise Lines, said the ship was following its normal course and followed emergency procedures.

Divers searching submerged cabins found the bodies of two elderly men, trapped at an assembly point, the Italian Coast Guard said.

Throughout the day, Italian fire brigades circled the ship, resting on its side like a beached whale with a gash just be-

low the waterline and a rock jutting through its hull. The firefighters tapped the hull and listened for any responses from people trapped inside.

In the early morning, a couple, honeymooners from Korea, were found alive inside a cabin of the ship, said Luca Cari, a brigade spokesman, and taken to a local hospital.

Later, firefighters made a dramatic helicopter rescue, hoisting a man strapped to a stretcher up a rope. The man was identified by media reports as an Italian crew member thought to have broken his leg.

Earlier, the rescuers had brought a doctor on board, who treated the man, and then he, too, was lifted back to the helicopter.

Rescuers have so far searched only a quarter of the part of the ship that is above water, said Mr. Cari, the fire spokesman, adding that the sunken por-

tion of the ship would be inspected through the porthole windows through the night.

"The likelihood that we can find somebody alive in the underwater cabins is very low, so we are aiming at the ones possibly trapped above water," he said.

The ship, carrying 4,200 passengers and crew on a weeklong Mediterranean cruise, slammed into an object, described as either a rock or coral, near the island on Friday night as passengers for the late seating had just started dinner.

Shaken survivors spoke of a mad rush to flee the sinking cruise ship off the Tuscan coast, raising questions about the crew's preparedness. The Italian authorities arrested the ship's captain amid concerns that the 114,500-ton megaship had steered severely off course.

ITALY, PAGE 4

Downgrade of France raises heat on Sarkozy

PARIS

Country's economic woes are a central issue in presidential campaign

BY STEVEN ERLANGER

Hakim Benselama, a 32-year-old industrial engineer, nearly had a job in the autumn of 2008, but as the world economic crisis hit, he said, "I got phone call after phone call telling me that the projects I had interviewed for were all canceled." He has been jobless since.

Radmila Zakovic, 59, came for benefits at the local unemployment office for herself and her two sons, both jobless. She had told them that if they finished school, they would find careers. "I feel like I've lied to my children," she said.

As President Nicolas Sarkozy contemplates the coming presidential election, with the first round of voting 100 days away, he is confronted with an economy reeling from the euro crisis and nearly zero growth. France has just lost its AAA credit rating and must cut government spending even with the unemployment rate at 9.9 percent, a 12-year high, and rising.

The loss of the treasured rating, while expected, was a blow to France's status in Europe, making the country seem less like a power than a problem. The downgrade from Standard & Poor's makes it harder for France to pretend to be Germany's equal in leading the European Union, which the French-German partnership has traditionally dominated. That, in turn, will make it harder for France, Italy and Spain to challenge the German recipe of austerity and to press harder for more liberal, pro-growth policies from the European Central Bank.

The downgrade was also a major political blow to Mr. Sarkozy and his prospects in the election, where polls show the main concerns of voters are clear: the size of the French debt, the cost of living, unemployment and general economic insecurity. Mr. Sarkozy's rivals, fairly or not, leave little doubt where to place the blame.

"It is Sarkozy's politics that have been downgraded, not France," said François Hollande, the Socialist candidate who leads in the polls. Mr. Sarkozy's pres-

FRANCE, PAGE 19

Investors could test strength of euro zone

PARIS

Cuts in ratings present opportunity for E.U. to surmount debt crisis

BY LIZ ALDERMAN AND JACK EWING

Investors will test Europe this week after a chronic sovereign debt crisis led Standard & Poor's to downgrade the credit scores of nine euro zone countries on Friday. But a much bigger trial looms over whether Europe will now turn toward improving its competitiveness in a way that will once and for all help it climb out of the current mess.

European leaders scrambled to do damage control over the weekend, with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and Prime Minister François Fillon of France — which was stripped of its sterling credit rating for the first time ever — saying the downgrades showed that tough austerity measures and further efforts to centralize the European currency union needed to be sped up.

Those efforts will undoubtedly continue this week, especially after S.&P. turned the spotlight on political gridlock as a key reason for cutting the credit score of half of the euro club's members. In an assessment similar to the one it gave the United States when it cut America's gilt-edged rating in August, S.&P. cut the political score it assigned to the downgraded European governments, saying that the effectiveness, stability and predictability of European policy makers "have not been as strong as we believe are called for by the severity of what we see as a broadening and deepening financial crisis in the euro zone."

Investors are also bracing this week for the possibility that ratings agencies may issue another important downgrade, this time to Europe's special bailout fund, the European Financial Stability Facility. The fund is meant to prevent the credit contagion that began in Greece from spreading to large countries like Italy and Spain, but its borrowing costs depend in part on the credit ratings of its contributing nations, and will now probably rise because of the downgrades to France and others. Higher costs could make the fund less effective in stemming the euro crisis.

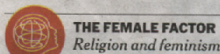
EURO, PAGE 19

Israel faces a seismic rift over the role of women

JERUSALEM

BY ETHAN BRONNER AND ISABEL KERSHNER

In the three months since the Israeli Health Ministry awarded a prize to a pediatric professor for her book on hereditary diseases common to Jews, her ex-



perience at the awards ceremony has become a rallying cry.

The professor, Channa Maayan, knew that the acting health minister, who is ultra-Orthodox, and other religious people would be in attendance. So she wore a long-sleeved top and a long skirt. But that was hardly enough.

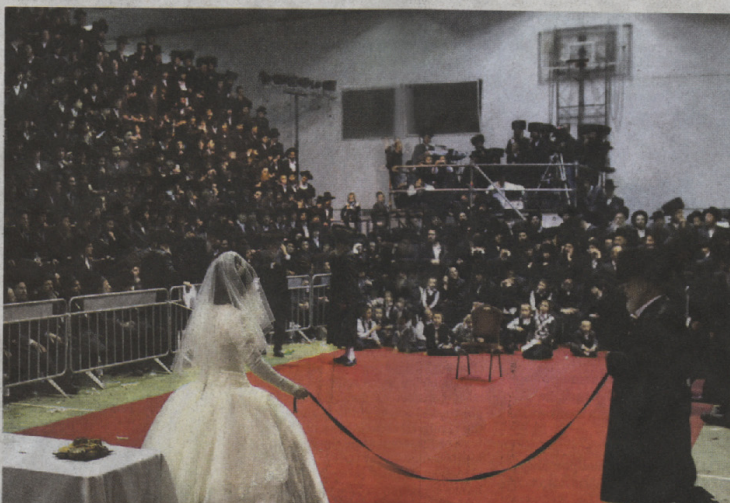
Not only did Dr. Maayan and her husband have to sit separately, as men and women were segregated at the event

theon of secular anger building as a battle rages in Israel for control of the public space between the strictly religious and everyone else.

At a time when there is no progress on the Palestinian dispute, Israelis are turning inward and discovering that an issue they had neglected — the place of the ultra-Orthodox Jews — has erupted into a crisis centered on women.

"Just as secular nationalism and socialism posed challenges to the religious establishment a century ago, today the issue is feminism," said Moshe Halberstam, a professor of Jewish philosophy at Hebrew University. "This is an immense ideological and moral challenge that touches at the core of life, and just as it is affecting the Islamic world, it is the main issue that the rabbis are losing sleep over."

The list of controversies grows weekly: Organizers of a conference last week on women's health and Jewish law barred women from speaking from the podium, leading at least eight speakers



Hope dwindles for quick end to Syria unrest

BEIRUT

BY ANTHONY SHADID

The failure of an Arab League mission to stanch violence in Syria, an international community with little leverage and a government as defiant as its opposition is in disarray have left Syria descending into a protracted, chaotic and perhaps unresolvable conflict.

The opposition in Syria speaks less of prospects for the fall of President Bashar al-Assad and more about a civil war that some argue has already begun, with the government losing control over some regions and its authority ebbing in the suburbs of the capital and parts of major cities like Homs and Hama. Even the capital, Damascus, which had remained calm for months, has been carved up with checkpoints, and its residents have been frightened by the sounds of gunfire.

Culture

DESIGN BOOKS

Blending fields, connecting ideas

PARIS

Innovator's creations blur the lines between engineering and art

BY ALICE RAWSTHORN

When Mathieu Lehanneur told the director of his design school what he had chosen as the theme of his graduation project, the response was hardly encouraging. One in two prescription drugs is taken incorrectly, due to human error, and he had decided to address this by designing new ways of administering them. "He said it would be impossible for an industrial designer to work in the pharmaceutical world, apart from advising on brand names and packaging," Mr. Lehanneur recalled.

Not so. A decade later, Mr. Lehanneur, 37, is discussing a similar project with a pharmaceutical manufacturer. He is in the vanguard of the new wave of industrial designers, who have rejected the traditional role of developing products for commercial production, in favor of using the design process as an intellectual tool to address a wider range of issues. So far, his work has ranged from experimenting with aquaponic food growing technology and designing the interiors of a palliative care ward in a Paris hospital and an 11th-century church, to collaborations with the artist Boris Gréaud and the biomedical engineer David Edwards.

"Mathieu Lehanneur is a champion of the intellectual agility of today's design," wrote Paola Antonelli, senior curator of design and architecture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in a new book on his work, which is to be published later this month by Gestalten. "He represents what is most compelling about contemporary designers, a deep curiosity for other fields of studies mixed with an equally deep pragmatism and great technical and formal flair."

Fortunately for Mr. Lehanneur and the four designers at his studio in the Sentier district of Paris, he has built his practice at a time when the people responsible for the type of projects he wants to work on have been increasingly amenable to experimenting with design.

"It is a fantastic time to be a designer," he said. "I never wanted to work in the classical way. There are enough chairs in the world, and enough lights. But the discipline of design is so blurred, that I feel there is a great freedom for designers to be more innovative."

Brought up on Corsica as the youngest of six children, Mr. Lehanneur began by studying art, but quit after six months and switched to industrial design. "I think I would have made a really bad artist," he said. "If you put me in front of a blank sheet of paper I don't know what to do. I always need a question. Also, my father was an engineer and inventor. During dinner, he would be totally focused on the project he was working on. I was fascinated by

opened his own studio. "I wanted to work independently," he said. "And with five brothers and sisters, I'd had enough of being in a group."

Guessing that the likeliest source of work was in exhibition design, he scoured the phone book for museums and galleries, and called them up. As a result, he designed two exhibitions for Fondation Cartier in Paris, which paid the bills while he rustled up other projects. He has since divided his time between experiments that he initiates himself, collaborations with scientific research institutes, including Le Laboratoire in Paris, which was founded by Mr. Edwards, and mainstream industrial commissions.

Diverse though his work seems, the underlying theme is analyzing human nature in order to design things that are better attuned to our needs. "Design has tended to see human beings as consumers or users, and to treat us as if we are stable and coherent, but we are not," he said. "Human beings are highly complex, irrational and unstable. And the best way to understand that is not by studying ergonomics or anatomy, but science, medicine, psychology and religion."

An example of his efforts to accommodate human frailty is a watch he has designed for Lexon in the form of a traditional pocket watch. "The idea wasn't just to create an object to tell the time, your phone or computer can do that, but to make something to occupy your hands, like rosary beads," he said. "If you look at maps of the human brain, the parts devoted to the hands and the lips are huge, compared to the rest of the

Mathieu Lehanneur designed Local River, an interconnected "aquaponic" system that uses plants to filter water, and fish to fertilize the plants, right. He redesigned the choir at Saint-Hilaire Church in Melle, France, below. The S.M.O.K.E. Lamp, made of blown glass, steel and marble, below right.



STUDIO MATHIEU LEHANNEUR (ARROW), FLOPE RIBON (LEFT), VÉRONIQUE HUGHE (BELOW)

body. That's partly why cigarettes are so powerful. It's not just the nicotine. Playing with a pocket watch makes us feel relaxed."

Similar issues are addressed in a very different context at the palliative care unit, where Mr. Lehanneur has been charged with helping the patients, most of whom have only a few weeks to live, to communicate with the friends and relatives who visit them and the hospital staff. His solution is to install L.E.D. screens, which will be programmed to show what the sky will look like the following day. "It's often very difficult for people to think of what to say to someone who is dying, and this solves that problem," he said. "It is also a way for the patients to think beyond death. Even if they won't be alive the next day, they know what it will be like. I hope it will help them."



installation at the Artists Space gallery in New York, he devised Local River, an aquaponic system, which cultivates plants and fish in different tanks using the same water. The plants thrive on the nutrients in the fish's waste. They then

he said. "I have a Local River at home so I can teach my kids about it. The technology works really well, but I just can't bring myself to kill the fish and eat them."