

Brazilian woman killed by husband's coffin

A 67-year-old widow was hit in the head by her husband's coffin and died Monday morning in southern Brazil. The incident occurred in the small town of Tapes in southern Rio Grange do Sul state. According to the Federal Highway Police (PRF), Marciana da Silva Barcelos was sitting in the back seat of a Toyota Hilux pickup truck, which was transporting her husband's coffin to the cemetery in nearby Alvorada town.

Danish couple's wedding marathon

A Danish couple got married four times in one day. Anette and Kenneth Lund—who broke the world record for the most weddings in a day—now plan to tie the knot once a year for the rest of their lives in a bid to keep their relationship exciting.

Dogs hailed by locals for helping with groceries

Three dogs have recently become stars of a housing estate in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, after helping their owner lug groceries in baskets. Everyday, the dogs, Money, Quan Quan and A Zhen, attract onlookers when their owner, Uncle Chang, brings them together to visit the local meat and vegetable bazaar.



Qantas "piggybacks" Air NZ plane

A plane from the Australian airline Qantas "piggybacked" an Air New Zealand flight across the Pacific Ocean overnight, after its weather radar stopped working. The Air New Zealand flight was three hours out of Los Angeles, and about 35 km from the Qantas plane, when the Australian captain called on the radio to ask for help. The Daily Telegraph in Sydney reported on Wednesday.

World's heaviest man marries amid wide media attention

The 2007 Guinness World Record holder for the heaviest man on earth, Manuel Uribe, on Sunday celebrated his wedding, which was widely covered by media from all over the world. Uribe, 43, was married to Claudia Solis, 38, amid blessing from more than 400 guests present at the ritual in the north-eastern Mexican city of Monterrey.



New Acropolis Museum celebrates first anniversary

More than two million people have visited the new Museum of the Acropolis during its first year of operation, according to figures presented by the museum to mark the first anniversary since it first opened to the public on June 20, 2009.

The museum's board chairman Prof. Demetris Pandermalis said the museum received a total of 2,010,641 visitors in that time, had set research and scientific goals, made progress in the area of conservation and also in educational programmes.

He also announced the launch of the museum's first touring exhibition "Pericles Xanthippos" on June 20. This uses archaeological finds such as inscriptions, coins and other artifacts to illustrate and explore the life

of the famous ancient Athenian statesman, the man who led Athens during its 'Golden Age' and who conceived the idea of building the Parthenon. The exhibition will run until January 31, 2011.

The Acropolis Museum is the first public museum in the country that operates as a public-sector legal entity and its aim is to cover its costs with its own revenues as much as possible. It currently employs a staff of 200, some of whom are contract workers and civil servants detached from the culture ministry.

It currently covers its public utility bills on its own and gets financial assistance from the Organisation for the Building of the New Acropolis Museum (OANMA).

Once a presidential decree on the operation of the museum is completed, following delays caused by the change of ministers and government, this will allow the museum to address the issue of hiring managerial staff and the position of the director will be proclaimed.

Pandermalis also referred to the museum's medical unit and in-house doctor, noting that this had dealt with 377 incidents from November 1, 2009 until May 31, 2010, of which 67 percent were visitors to the museum.

The ticket will remain at 5 euros in 2011, by decision of the museum's board, while it has also allowed the lease of the restaurant and cafe area on terms decided by the museum management.

Greece warns against debt restructuring

Greece's finance minister warned that restructuring the country's debt would be "catastrophic" for its economy, in an interview published in the weekly *Proto Thema*.

"We have fought to avoid... a default on payments and restructuring of the debt, and we have avoided it thanks to the support mechanism" from the European Union and International Monetary Fund, George Papaconstantinou said.

Restructuring the debt "would be catastrophic for our economy, which continues to need loans", the minister said. "For as long as the recovery plan for the economy is applied, the possibilities for refinancing the debt increase."

A team of European and IMF experts gave Greece a stamp of approval, declaring the country's recovery program to be on track.

Austerity measures were adopted by the Socialist government in exchange for the release of a first installment of loans from a three-year 110 billion euros (\$A156.9 billion)



Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou

EU-IMF bailout package.

Papaconstantinou ruled out any return to Greece's national currency.

"No such outcome exists. Every country in the eurozone continues to act to protect the single currency and strengthen the framework in which

the eurozone operates," he said.

Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin bluntly dissented from Europe's insistence that Greece should avoid default, saying the Mediterranean country will require a restructuring of debts by creditors.