



AP Photo/Ng Han Guan

Chinese police help a man to safety near the site of an explosion in northeastern China's Tianjin municipality on Thursday. Chinese state media reported huge explosions at the Tianjin port late Wednesday.

Hundreds injured, 17 killed as huge warehouse blasts hit Chinese port

Associated Press

TIANJIN, China — Huge explosions in a warehouse district sent up massive fireballs that turned the night sky into day, killing at least 17 people and injuring hundreds in the Chinese port city of Tianjin, officials and witnesses said Thursday.

China's state broadcaster, CCTV, said that at least 17 people were killed in the explosions late Wednesday and that 32 were in critical condition in hospital. Hundreds of others were taken to hospital.

The blasts, originating at a warehouse for hazardous material, knocked doors off buildings in the area and shattered windows up to several miles away.

"I thought it was an earthquake, so I rushed downstairs without my shoes on," Tianjin resident Zhang Siyu, whose home is several kilometers from the blast site, said in a telephone interview. "Only once I was outside did I realize it was an explosion. There was the huge fireball in the sky with thick clouds. Everybody could see it."

Zhang said she could see wounded people weeping. She said she did not see anyone who had been killed, but "I could feel death."

There was no indication of what caused the blasts, and no immediate sign of any large release of toxic chemicals into the air. *The Beijing News* newspaper reported on its website that there was



Yue Yuwei/Xinhua via AP

In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency smoke and fire erupt into the night sky after an explosion in the Binhai New Area in north China's Tianjin Municipality on Thursday.

some unidentified yellow foam flowing at the site.

Police in Tianjin said an initial blast took place at shipping containers in a warehouse for hazardous materials owned by Ruihai Logistics, a company that says it is properly approved to handle such materials. State media said senior management of the company had been detained by authorities, and that President Xi Jinping has demanded severe punishment for anyone found responsible for the explosions.

The official Xinhua News agency said an initial explosion triggered other blasts at nearby businesses.

The National Earthquake Bureau reported two major blasts before midnight, the first with an equivalent of 3 tons of TNT, and the second with the equivalent of 21

tons.

The explosions took place in a mostly industrial zone, with some apartment buildings in the vicinity. Buildings of a half-dozen other logistics companies were destroyed in the blasts, and more than 1,000 new Renault cars were left charred in a nearby parking lot, the Beijing News said.

Photos taken by bystanders and circulating on microblogs show a gigantic fireball high in the sky, with a mushroom-cloud. Other photos on state media outlets showed a sea of fire that painted the night sky bright orange, with tall plumes of smoke.

About 1.2 miles from the explosion site is the luxury Fifth Avenue apartment complex on a road strewn with broken glass and pieces of charred metal thrown from

explosion. Like surrounding buildings, the Mediterranean style complex had all its windows blown out, and some of its surfaces were scorched.

"It's lucky no one had moved in," said a worker on the site, Liu Junwei, 29. "But for us it's a total loss. Two years of hard work down the drain."

"It had been all quiet, then the sky just lit up brighter than day and it looked like a fireworks show," said another worker on the site who gave just his surname, Li.

In one neighborhood about 10 to 20 kilometers (6 to 12 miles) from the blast site, some residents were sleeping on the street wearing gas masks, although there was no perceptible problem with the air apart from massive clouds of smoke seen in the distance.

"It was like what we were told a nuclear bomb would be like," said truck driver Zhao Zhencheng, who spent the night in the cab of his truck. "I've never even thought I'd see such a thing. It was terrifying but also beautiful."

At the nearby Taida Hospital as dawn broke, military medical tents were set up. Photos circulating online showed patients in bandages and with cuts.

State broadcaster CCTV said six battalions of firefighters had brought the ensuing fire under control, although it was still burning in the early hours of Thursday.

BRIEFLY

Judge orders Kentucky clerk to issue gay marriage licenses

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A county clerk in Kentucky will not immediately issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, her lawyer says, despite a federal judge ordering her to do so Wednesday in a case that seeks to reconcile the country's new marriage law and its protections of religious freedom.

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis was one of a handful of local elected officials across the country that stopped issuing all marriage licenses after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage nationwide in June. Two gay couples and two straight couples sued her in federal court in the first lawsuit of its kind.

County clerks issue marriage licenses in Kentucky, but someone else must "solemnize" the marriage before the license can be filed with the county clerk. Davis argued that issuing a marriage license to a same-sex couple that contains her signature is the same as her approving the marriage, which she said violates her Christian beliefs. But U.S. District Judge David Bunning rejected that argument, saying Davis has likely violated the U.S. Constitution's ban on the government establishing a religion by "openly adopting a policy that promotes her own religious convictions at the expenses of others."

Email troubles persisting, Clinton camp reassures backers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Try as she might to focus on the policies she wants to enact if elected president, Hillary Rodham Clinton just can't dig out of her inbox.

Clinton's email problems are getting worse. She agreed to turn over her private server to the Justice Department this week on the same day Congress got word that at least two emails that traversed the device while she was secretary of state contained information that warranted one of the government's highest levels of classification.

The developments suggest the investigation into the security of Clinton's email setup could run deep into 2016, as she is trying to win the Democratic nomination for president and, potentially, the general election.

Clinton campaign aides argue there's nothing for investigators to find, and the State Department says it's not yet clear if the material at issue ought to be considered classified at all.

What worries Clinton's team is the lingering whiff of political scandal in a tightening primary race, and they pushed back hard on Wednesday, trying their best to dismiss the matter as nothing more than politics.

"Look, this kind of nonsense comes with the territory of running for president. We know it, Hillary knows it, and we expect it to continue from now until Election Day," campaign communications director Jennifer Palmieri wrote in an email to campaign supporters.

While her Democratic rivals have yet to seize on the issue, it has become a major part of the GOP case against Clinton.

Member of infamous 'San Quentin 6' killed by fellow inmate

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — An inmate involved in a bloody 1971 San Quentin escape attempt that left six dead has been killed by a fellow prisoner, corrections officials said Wednesday.

The slaying of Hugo Pinell, 71, triggered a riot Wednesday that grew to involve about 70 inmates at a maximum security prison east of Sacramento, said California Department of Corrections spokeswoman Dana Simas.

"He was definitely the target," Simas said. She would not give more information about the alleged attacker for his own protection.

Once Pinell was attacked in a California State Prison, Sacramento, exercise yard by his fellow inmate, "everyone else joined in," Simas said, including members of multiple prison gangs.

Eleven other inmates were taken to an outside hospital to be treated for stab wounds.

Ernest Hemingway's Idaho house listed on national register

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE — An Idaho house where Ernest Hemingway wrote his last works before killing himself in the main entryway in 1961 has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Nature Conservancy owns the two-story, 2,500-square-foot house in the central Idaho resort town of Ketchum and announced the listing Tuesday.

"We're looking at ways to honor and also build on the literary legacy that Hemingway brought," said Lou Lunte, the group's deputy state director.

Hemingway experts say the famed author worked on "A Moveable Feast" and "The Dangerous Summer" at the house he owned from April 1959 until his suicide in July 1961 at age 61 when, biographers say, he feared he had lost the ability to write to his standards.

The National Park Service, which manages the National Register, said the Ernest and Mary Hemingway House was listed because of its ability to provide insights about Hemingway. The Nobel Prize winner was drawn to the region for its hunting and fishing, said Paul Lusignan, a historian with the National Register.

The death of Hemingway wasn't a deciding factor to include the house, but Lusignan said it did play a role.

The house is "associated with a part of his career in which he had lost the ability to write as he previously had," Lusignan said. "He lived a full life and he was going out on his own terms. I think that reflects the persona that he created for himself."



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren, File

This 2007 file photo shows an exterior view of the house formerly owned by Ernest Hemingway outside Ketchum, Idaho. The Idaho house where Hemingway wrote his last works before killing himself in the main entryway in 1961 has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Nature Conservancy owns the two-story, 2,500-square-foot house in the central Idaho resort town of Ketchum and announced the listing Tuesday.

The 1950s house contains an astonishing array of the author's personal possessions rarely seen by the public. Because of zoning restrictions, The Nature Conservancy allows visits to the house by invitation only.

Mary Hemingway, who died in 1986, gave the house to The Nature Conservancy. The group used it as a field office for a time before outgrowing it and moving to other offices. The house has an astonishing array of the author's personal possessions and mid-1950s decor.

"It's sort of frozen in the mid-century time period," said Tricia Canaday of Idaho's State Historic Preservation

Office. "It's got all his stuff in it, that's what's so amazing. His boots are sitting by the fireplace and his travel trunk where he painted 'Hemingway' on it."

Lunte said The Nature Conservancy hopes to start a writer-in-residence program at the house and is also collaborating with The Community Library to link Hemingway to sites and stories in the area where the literary giant first arrived in the 1930s.

Lusignan noted there are now five homes in the U.S. listed on the National Register due to Hemingway having lived or spent significant time in them. One of the most visited is Hemingway's former home in Key West, Florida.

We've Got That!

ADJUSTABLE COMFORT ON HUGE SAVINGS NOW

Sleep Number AirBeds

Huge SAVINGS

Dual Adjustable Comfort

Your own Comfort. Your own Side.

Comfortaire
A SELECT COMFORT COMPANY

LifeStyle Adjustable Beds

Twin XL

\$999.

Luxurious Adjustable Comfort

Lift Chairs

Starting at

\$699.

Wonderfull Adjustable Comfort

12 Month Interest Free Financing

Min. Purchase of \$999 OAC

Greg's Sleep Center

Sofas 'n More

541-567-1099 North Hwy 395 Cottage Plaza

Weekdays 9:30-6
Open Sun. 12-4

Like