CARGO PLANE OVERSHOOTS RUNWAY AT ITALY'S BERGAMO AIRPORT

News / Airlines, Events / Festivals



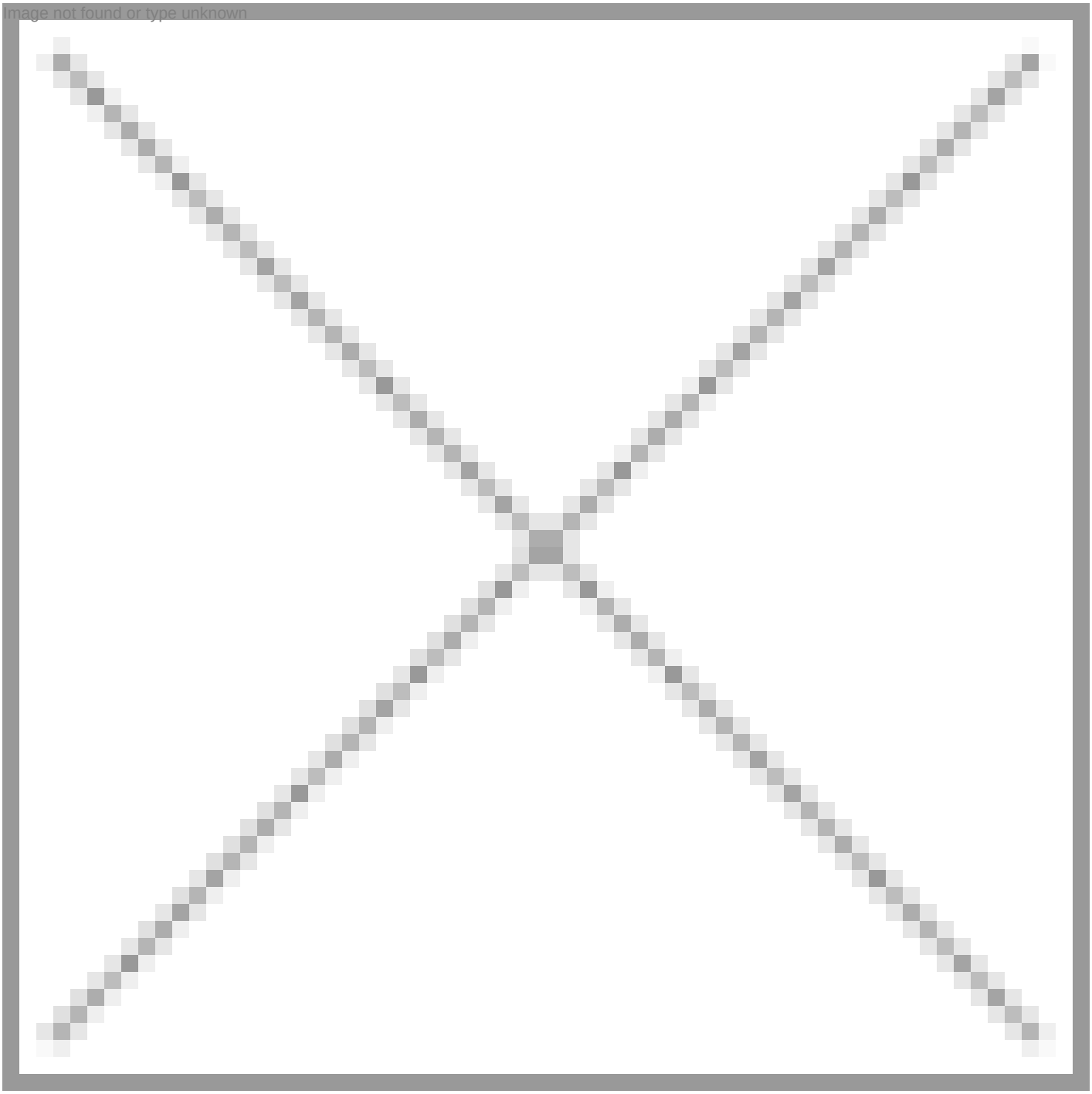
A DHL cargo plane skidded off a runway at Bergamo's Orio al Serio airport early Friday, its nose busting through a perimeter fence and onto a provincial highway. Officials said no one was injured.

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The airport near Milan, a hub for low-cost airlines and cargo traffic, was closed for about 2 ½ hours, forcing the cancellation of 15 flights and creating delays during the busy summer travel period. Some flights were rerouted to Milan's Malpensa airport.

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Television images showed the plane's nose partially blocking a roadway, flanked by emergency vehicles, while a crane was moved into position to remove it.

Italian aviation officials said the Boeing 737-400 overshot the runway on landing from Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport just after 4 a.m. The pilot and first officer were not injured. The cause was under investigation.

A witness, who lives 300 meters (yards) from the airport and was on his balcony at the time, said a few cars were driving along the road that runs next to the airport, but managed to stop in time.

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"It could have been a tragedy," Ezio Carissoni was quoted by the news agency ANSA as saying.

He also praised the pilot for maintaining a straight line and avoiding a full parking lot.

The Bergamo airport is Italy's third-busiest, with over 10 million passengers last year.

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