

11 Dead As Ship Carrying Migrants Sinks Off Greece Coast

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The boat carrying migrants ran aground on an islet north of the Greek island of Antikythera on Thursday evening.

Those rescued include 27 children, 11 women and 52 men (Representational)

Athens: The death count from a migrant boat sinking off Greece rose to 11 on Friday, as scores of others, including dozens of children, were rescued, the coastguard said.

The boat carrying migrants ran aground on an islet north of the Greek island of Antikythera on Thursday evening.

Eleven bodies have been recovered so far and another 90 people stranded on the islet were rescued overnight, an official from the coast guard told AFP.

Those rescued include 27 children, 11 women and 52 men.

"The search and rescue operation continues, as it is still not clear how many were on the boat before it sank," the official said.

Thursday's shipwreck came the day after a dinghy carrying migrants capsized off the island of Folegandros, killing at least three people.

Thirteen people were rescued, while dozens remain missing, Greek authorities said.

Survivors gave conflicting accounts with some saying there were 32 people aboard, while others put the number at around 50, a coastguard official told AFP.

The UN refugee agency UNHCR said the Folegandros accident was the worst in the Aegean Sea this year.

"This shipwreck is a painful reminder that people continue to embark on perilous voyages in search of safety," said Adriano Silvestri, the UNHCR's assistant representative in Greece.

The UNHCR estimates that more than 2,500 people have died or gone missing at sea in their attempt to reach Europe from January through November this year.

Nearly one million people, mainly Syrian refugees, arrived in the EU in 2015 after crossing to Greek islands close to Turkey.

- AFP