



Top Stories

Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan to resume in November

Dialogue between the two nations will resume on the 13 of November at New Delhi. The Foreign Secretaries will discuss such matters as the ongoing peace-process and the implementation of a joint anti-terror mechanism.



Eritrea moves troops into UN buffer zone

On Monday, the United Nations accused Eritrea of moving some 1,500 soldiers and 14 tanks into a U.N. buffer zone, instituted six-year ago over a border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Eritrea claimed it has the right to move troops into its sovereign area.



Featured story

"Friday the 13" Buffalo, New York snow storm in pictures



At least 340,000 people and businesses are still without power as the City of Buffalo, New

York begins to clean up after the worst October lake effect snow storm in "137 years of records" being kept, according to the National Weather Service.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The contest between Guatemala and Venezuela for a seat on the United Nations Security Council remains stalemated after a second day of voting.
- The population of the United States reaches 300 million people.
- Married couples are now in the minority of the nation.
- North Korea says the United Nations effectively declared war on the country when it imposed sanctions through United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 in response to North Korea's nuclear test.
- The military of Fiji issues an ultimatum to the government to drop legislation which would give an amnesty to the leaders of the 2000 coup, or resign.
- Iceland is to resume commercial whaling, in contravention of a 20-year moratorium passed by the International Whaling Commission.
- Rapper Fabolous is shot at a Manhattan parking garage, spurring a sequence of events that left him both hospitalized in stable condition and under arrest.
- Two metro trains collide in Rome, killing at least two people and injuring about 120 others.

Rob Broudie brother of Lightning Seeds singer found dead

Rob Broudie, one of Liverpool's best known Lawyers and brother

of Ian Broudie was found dead early on the morning of the 17th October after apparently jumping from the Tower of Liverpool Cathedral, an inquest is expect later in the week.

Mr Broudie was a staunch critic of the Police and a slightly controversial figure, having once been charged with affray after fighting with another of Liverpool's lawyers whilst in the cells.

His company, R.M Broudie & Co, is now based on Dale Street in city centre Liverpool.

National Guard dispatched to Buffalo, New York to help with storm cleanup

Buffalo, New York – In an afternoon press conference, Erie County Executive Joel Giambra announced that at least 300 United States National Guard troops will assist in the cleanup of the "Friday the 13 snow storm" in Buffalo the past weekend and "that possibly more troops" will be called in to help. It is estimated that at least 30 million tons of trees and other debris from the storm will have to be moved from the streets of cities all over the Western New York region. At least 150 troops came to WNY on Monday with lifts and dumptrucks.

"[The debris is] massive, absolutely massive. The idea is to get it off the streets as soon as possible. That`s our priority right now," said Giambra in a press conference this afternoon. Giambra was at the Eastern Hills

Mall which the National Grid Power Company is using as a staging area for all repairs needed in WNY due to the storm.

The mall is still without power as is an estimated 215,000 people and businesses throughout the region. Power may not be back on in many areas until Sunday or Monday of next week. Originally, nearly 400,000 people lost power during the storm.

At least 6 people have died due to storm related injuries or incidents. Three died from being poisoned by carbon monoxide when they left power generators running in their homes. The other three died when a tree limb fell on a person while walking and two were killed in car accidents related to the heavy snowfall.

Eritrea moves troops into UN buffer zone

On Monday, the United Nations accused Eritrea of moving some 1,500 soldiers and 14 tanks into a U.N. buffer zone, instituted six-years ago over a border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Eritrea claimed it has the right to move troops into its sovereign area. An Eritrean presidential advisor said the troops were working on development projects in the Temporary Security Zone. Ethiopia sees the action as a provocation.

A U.N. chief spokesman said that Secretary-General Kofi Annan "urges the government of Eritrea to withdraw its troops from the zone immediately, and to cooperate with the United Nations in restoring the cease-fire arrangements." The U.N. had reduced its troops and military observers from 3,300 to 2,300 in May, and threatened late September to further reduce this

number if the two countries do not move forward in their border conflict.

In 1962 the Emperor Haile Sellassie of Ethiopia annexed Eritrea, which would lead to the Eritrean War of Independence, until Eritrea regained control in 1991. The current border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia started in 1998, and ended in 2000 with a peace deal that stated the countries were bound to the decision of an independent commission ruling on the border issue -but Ethiopia rejected the decision and insisted on further talks. Eritrea responded by hindering the peacekeepers' movements.

Last Sunday the Sudanese government signed a peace treaty with the united rebel groups at the Sudanese Eastern Front, at the border with Eritrea. The Eritrean government changed their position from previously being the main supporter of the rebels, to striving for a cease-fire.

Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan to resume in November

The dialogue between India and Pakistan will resume on 13 November, when the Foreign Secretaries of both nations meet in New Delhi. The officials will discuss a wide range of issues, including the joint anti-terror mechanism, as a part of which India will offer its neighbour evidence of the involvement of Pakistani nationals and the ISI in the 11/7 blasts in Mumbai.

Shiv Shankar Menon, who served as India's High Commissioner to Islamabad before taking over as Foreign Secretary will meet his Pakistani counterpart Riaz Mohammad Khan on the 13 and

14 of November to discuss and review the ongoing peace-process between the two countries. The talks were earlier put off following the July bombings and the subsequent indications of Pakistan's role in those attacks. New Delhi "hopes" that the discussions between these high-ranking officials will lead to the early implementation of the joint anti-terror mechanism, which was agreed upon by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Pervez Musharaff during the NAM summit in Cuba earlier this year.

India is expected to hand over evidence, including telephone recording, of the Pakistani involvement in the bombings, and seek the extradition of suspects from Pakistan. Pakistan has said that India's claims of the ISI's hand in the attacks were "unsubstantiated" and "baseless" even though investigations revealed that 11 Pakistani nationals were directly involved in the blasts. "We have to give them evidence. We will give them credible evidence. We feel that there is involvement of elements (based) in Pakistan," Prime Minister Singh said. "We will test them once we have given them evidence."

Philippine President Arroyo tells business leaders security is top priority

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assured local and foreign investors in the country that the government has placed national security on its top priority as alert levels against possible terror attacks were raised in the capital region Metro Manila and in Mindanao island.

Arroyo while speaking before the 8th CEO Forum of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines in

Makati City asked for help and more information on any possible terror cells in the country. Arroyo emphasized that, "The strong cooperation between the vigilant public and our security forces will deny the terrorists any room to carry out sinister plots."

Six people were killed and thirty others were injured during separate bomb attacks in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato in southern Philippines.

Government security forces have blamed the terror group Abu Sayyaf for conducting the bombing. The Abu Sayyaf has alledged links to Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian terror cell of Al-Qaeda.

Mrs. Arroyo called on local village securities to be more vigilant so they can become force multipliers in the war against terror.

Makati City Mayor suspended

Makati City (Philippines) Mayor Jejomar Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and sixteen members of the city council were served a sixty day suspension order from performing their official tasks. The suspension order was issued by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and was served to Binay and the Makati officials by Labor and Employment Undersecretary Wencilito Andar on the morning of Tuesday.

Andanar was escorted by almost 700 members of the Philippine National Police who secured the perimeter access into the Makati City Hall.

Binay and his symphatizers started to hold their fort around the city hall on Monday night to prevent representatives from the Office of

the President to serve the suspension order.

The local executives of Makati City were being suspended as preventive measures against possible tampering of evidence as the Philippines Ombudsman conducts an investigation on the alleged payment of wages to ghost employees.

Former Makati Vice Mayor Roberto Brillantes filed before the Ombudsman in late July 2006, a complaint stating that Binay was paying for wages of employees who were not existing.

Binay countered his former Vice Mayor's allegations in saying that he was not aware of any ghost employees since he was not the one signing the payroll of the city.

Binay also filed a Temporary Restraining Order before the Court of Appeals to prevent the Ombudsman to pursue its case against him, but the matter is still pending before the court.

Former President Corazon C. Aquino, a close ally of Binay called the suspension lacking in basis.

Aquino also denounced the Malacañan order as it failed to consider Binay's pending petition before the Court of Appeals for a temporary restraining order. Mrs. Aquino also challenged Malacañan to name all the ghost employees.

The Philippines House of Representatives Minority Leader Francis Escudero of Sorsogon province also denounced the order issued by Malacañan and called it an act targetting local elected leaders who are in the opposition.

Escudero cited the case of Pasay City mayor Wenceslao "Peewee"

Trinidad who was also suspended for alleged illegal and over priced garbage collection for the city in August of 2006.

Escudero said that Trinidad, who is a vocal critic of the administration of President Gloria Arroyo is being punished like Binay.

The Minority Floor Leader also called the appointment of a non-elective official to run the city of Makati as a disrespectful to the people of Makati by being given a non-elected official to manage the city.

Rodolfo Feraren, the Director for the National Capital Region of the Department of Interior and Local Government was designated as care taker of the City of Makati during the 60-day period.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye called the Binay suspension order as part of due process and denied allegations that the move was a political vendetta against the opposition.

United Future announces tax cuts in 2008 for New Zealand

The leader of the government's political partner, United Future and Revenue minister, Peter Dunne has announced that there will be personal tax cuts to go along with the confirmed business tax cuts in 2008.

Peter Dunne's newsletter, sent yesterday, said: "The business tax reduction proposals I announced with Michael Cullen in the Business Tax Review in July will go ahead from April 2008, and they will be accompanied by personal tax adjustments as well, just as we foreshadowed." They would be "the first major cuts by either government since 1996." Peter Dunne was the Revenue minister

in 1996 as well.

Finance minister and deputy Prime Minister, Doctor Michael Cullen, said: "Mr Dunne is clearly involved in an important branding exercise for United Future and nothing has changed."

The Prime Minister, Helen Clark, did not comment.

Before Peter Dunne announced the tax cuts, the Government had denied any tax cut proposals until November/December when they could see a clearer picture.

Dunne said that the tax cuts would come in the form of rate cuts and threshold movements.

Cullen said that if tax cuts were offered then they will be for everyone, including those in the low to middle income ranges.

New Zealand First, another political partner of the government, claimed credit in its annual convention on Sunday that they were the ones who convinced Labour the value of tax cuts and changing the personal thresholds.

Cullen last week said, when he announced the surplus; "We are engaged in a business taxation review that will almost certainly produce proposals for tax cuts in the business area to come into force on 1 April 2008 . . . and that may have implications for personal tax rates and thresholds, but I can't give you more information because [it is] not available."

The business tax is dropping three cents to NZ\$0.33.

Today in History

1009 - The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a Christian church now within the walled Old City of Jerusalem, was destroyed by the "mad" Fatimid caliph Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah.

1016 - Danish forces led by Canute the Great decisively defeated Edmund Ironside in the Battle of Ashingdon, gaining control over most of the Kingdom of England.

1851 - Moby-Dick, a novel by Herman Melville, was first published as The Whale.

1922 - The British Broadcasting Company was founded by a consortium to establish a network of radio transmitters to provide a national broadcasting service in the United Kingdom.

1954 - Texas Instruments introduced the first transistor radio.

October 18 is Alaska Day; Feast day of Saint Luke.

Quote of the Day

Maybe all one can do is hope to end up with the right regrets.
~ Arthur Miller

Word of the Day

nth; adj

1. (mathematics): Occurring at position n in a sequence.
2. Occurring in a relatively large but unspecified position in a series.

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