



Top Stories

Barack Obama effectively clinches Democratic nomination

As Barack Obama appears to clinch the Democratic nomination by number of delegates, Hillary Clinton's campaign has denied reports by the Associated Press that she will concede the primary campaign to Obama during a speech tonight in New York City.



Credit: transplanted mountaineer - flickr (CC-BY 2.0)

Tsvangirai released by Zimbabwean police

According to the MDC, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai was detained by police and taken to a police station. He and his entourage have now been released. No charges were filed.



Indian 'guru' faces charges of fraud, drugs and rape

A spiritual guru known as "Swami Amritachaitanya" is being held in Kerala, India on charges of fraud, rape, and possession of narcotic drugs. Swami Amritachaitanya, whose real name is Santosh Madhavan, was arrested by Interpol in March on criminal charges in a police raid at his 16-suite ashram in Kochi, India

Top Stories

following multiple police complaints against him. Indians living in Bahrain have recently come forward and filed a case against Madhavan in India on allegations of fraudulent practices related to his supposed charity activities.

2008 WiMAX Expo Taipei to showcase the solutions of WiMAX



Credit: Rico Shen (CC-BY-SA)

Leading up to the 2008 COMPUTEX show, the "2008 WiMAX Expo Taipei" is being held in Taipei Show Hall 2 to demonstrate the telecommunications technology in Taiwan.

Wikipedia Current Events

The Detroit Red Wings win the 2008 Stanley Cup, defeating the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-2 in the sixth game to win the 2008 Stanley Cup Finals 4-2.

•Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for the 2008 Danish embassy bombing stating it was revenge for the Jyllands-Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy.

•Tony Rezko, a Chicago property developer and former fundraiser for Barack Obama, is convicted on 16 charges of corruption.

•A coolant leak at Krško Nuclear Power Plant in Slovenia triggers the European Union's ECURIE nuclear emergency alert system.

Wikipedia Current Events

Slovenian authorities state the situation is under control, with no radiation leak into the environment.

•Reassembly of the Obelisk of Axum begins in Axum, after the monument was returned to Ethiopia from Italy in 2005.

•The International Olympic Committee releases a shortlist of 2016 Summer Olympics bids consisting of Chicago, United States; Tokyo, Japan; Madrid, Spain; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

•Zimbabwean police detain Movement for Democratic Change leader Morgan Tsvangirai while campaigning in the second round of the Zimbabwe presidential election. He is later released after eight hours in detention.

•Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas announces plans to avoid recession as growth of the Lithuanian economy slows.

•The Malaysian government announces a 40% hike in fuel price, from 1.92 ringgit (US\$0.61) per litre to 2.70 ringgit by midnight.

Audio tape indicating Canadian PM involved in bribery alleged to be doctored

The Conservative Party of Canada is now considering a 2005 recording of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper discussing "financial considerations" offered to the late Member of Parliament (MP) Chuck Cadman to have been

"doctored".

The tape contains a conversation between Harper and Vancouver journalist Tom Zytaruk, whose book "Like a Rock: The Chuck Cadman Story" claims that Conservative party officials had offered a C\$1 million life insurance policy to Cadman in exchange for a key swing vote against the Liberal Party, one of Canada's other main political parties. At the time of the alleged bribe, Cadman had already been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Conservative MP James Moore told reporters today that the tape had been altered, "including the insertion of a fabricated sound-bite." However, he would not comment on whether or not the edits had changed the meaning of Harper's words.

The Liberal party had submitted the recording as evidence that Harper was aware of the Cadman insurance offer. Cadman's widow, Dona Cadman, has confirmed that the offer was presented to her husband. Conservatives deny the allegation, but say that party representatives had offered him a loan for campaign expenses if the MP were to rejoin the party.

Harper has filed a lawsuit against the Liberal party, the Canadian government's official opposition.

Ovarian baby "miracle" birth

Doctors performing a Caesarian delivery in a Darwin, Australia hospital were stunned to discover a rare ovarian ectopic pregnancy. According to Robin Cahill, general manager of the Darwin Private Hospital, ovarian pregnancies occur in only 1 in every 40,000 fertilisations.

An ectopic pregnancy occurs when

a fertilised egg implants in a woman's body in a location other than the uterus. The most common place for an ectopic pregnancy to occur is the Fallopian tubes, accounting for roughly 95% of all ectopic pregnancies. Ectopic pregnancies are generally discovered early, especially as they tend to cause bleeding in the mother, and tend to miscarry or be terminated due to the health risks they pose.

The mother, Meera Thangarajah, however, suffered no complications during her pregnancy, and an ultrasound performed mid-way through the pregnancy did not discover the complication. The hospital's obstetrician Andrew Miller says that having an ovarian pregnancy survive to full-term is "unheard of". The British Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists agrees, with a representative saying the odds of an successful ovarian pregnancy are "no more than one in a million", taking into account both the difficulty of bringing such a pregnancy to term and the tendency for the pregnancy to be terminated when it is discovered early.

The baby, a girl, was named Durga, a Hindu name meaning "goddess", and weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces (2.8 kg). The father, Ravi Thangarajah, says that doctors told him he was "one of the luckiest men in the world".

Tsvangirai released by Zimbabwean police

Morgan Tsvangirai and about 14 other members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party have been released by police after being held for about eight hours at a police station in Lupane, Zimbabwe.

"It is nothing but the usual harassment which is totally unnecessary," Tsvangirai told Agence France-Presse. "We have seen worse things than this."

Tsvangirai's convoy was stopped at a roadblock earlier today, while campaigning in June 27 presidential run-off election. President Robert Mugabe is the incumbent.

No charges have been filed against Tsvangirai or the the MDC members, but authorities have kept the vehicles in which they were traveling.

President Mugabe disputed the reports as concocted by the MDC to curry favor internationally. Mugabe is currently in Rome, Italy for the United Nations World Food Summit.

While Tsvangirai was detained, many governments and NGOs called for his release, including the United States and the European Union.

"We are deeply concerned on the report of the arrest of Tsvangirai," said an official from the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. "We urge the authorities to release him immediately and to resist from all harassment of opposition members."

Sean McCormack of the United States Department of State said Tsvangirai should be released "unharmred and untouched."

"But we are deeply concerned about whether or not the proper conditions exist for a free and fair election," McCormack added. "We continue to call on the Zimbabwean government to create these conditions. But, given their history, that call also comes with a

healthy does of skepticism."

On Monday, President George W. Bush said, "The continued use of government-sponsored violence in Zimbabwe, including unwarranted arrests and intimidation of opposition figures, to prevent the Movement for Democratic Change from campaigning freely ahead of the June 27 presidential runoff election is deplorable."

2008-09 Bundesliga: Goalkeeper Butt signs with Bayern Munich

Bayern Munich have signed former Germany International Goalkeeper Hans-Jörg Butt to a 2 year contract. Butt played in Portugal last season for Benfica. The deal means Bayern Munich have successfully completed their search for a new back-up goalkeeper for new Number One Goalkeeper Michael Rensing.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said, "We're very pleased with this transfer, as Hans-Jörg Butt's international experience fits our requirements exactly." Rummenigge went on to further say, "We want Hans-Jörg Butt to support the development of our young goalkeeper Michael Rensing, and he's looking forward to this task at Bayern Munich."

Hans-Jörg Butt contested the 2001-02 Champions League final with Bayer Leverkusen where they fell 2-1 to Real Madrid.

England; Australia set to battle for right to host 2018 Football (Soccer) World Cup while U.S. are considering their options

England and Australia are set to showdown for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Other interested countries are China, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Qatar and Russia. FIFA President has encourage

Spain to bid for the 2018 World Cup. The final decision to decide the host nation(s) will be in 2011.

There will be stiff competition from Australia and England. Football Federation Australia Chairman Frank Lowy made it clear how his country definitely intends to make a bid with a strong attempt to win the right to host the event in 2018 while FIFA Vice President Jack Werner has backed England for 2018.

Jack Werner has supported the United States for 2022 FIFA World Cup damaging their chances for 2018. Also hindering the American bid is the fact that United States Soccer Federation is still considering their options. CONCACAF President Jack Warner was quoted as saying, "My message to the USA -- and they don't have to listen -- is to try to make a deal for 2022, and I'm quite sure that would have universal support," Warner went on to further say, "The kind of discussion I would have between England and the U.S. is, 'Will you support me in 2022?'"

There has been no public support for China, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Qatar and Russia.

2008-09 UEFA Champions League: FC Porto kicked out of Champions League

The UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body has decided that FC Porto will not participate in next season's UEFA Champions League after it's bribery scandal.

UEFA said on their website, "The UEFA Control & Disciplinary Body considered that the offences related to the judgement in Portugal corresponded with "an activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a

match," as stated in Article 1.04 (d), and that the condition set out in this provision would therefore not be met by Porto. The decision is open to appeal within three days of the sending of the decision."

FC Porto were also deducted 6 points and received a fine of €150,000 by the disciplinary committee of the Professional Portuguese Football League for the same incidents.

Polish women's volleyball star Agata Mróz dies aged 26

Agata Mróz, who together with Poland's national team won the European women's volleyball championships in 2003 and 2005, died on June 4 in a Wrocław hospital just two weeks after a bone marrow transplant intended to treat her progressing acute myeloid leukemia. She had myelodysplastic syndrome since childhood.

Polish fans dubbed the national team on which Mróz played the "Golden Girls", both due to their looks and their successes in international competitions.

Her club career had been equally successful, with two Polish and one Spanish championships under her belt.

She gave birth to a daughter two months before her death.

Apache pipeline fire - Varanus Island, Western Australia

A pipeline rupture and fire at Apache Corporation's Varanus Island facility in Western Australia has reduced the supply of natural gas to Western Australia by 30%. 153 employees have been evacuated and 13 employees remain on the island to monitor the situation.

Steven Farris, Apache's president and CEO said "No one was injured, all personnel are safe, and the rupture and fire appear to be contained on the island...At this time, we cannot estimate when throughput will be resumed.". The facility was producing approximately 330 million cubic feet(MMcf) of natural gas and 8,000 barrels of crude oil per day, this has been reduced to 200 MMcf and 5,000 barrels per day.

Western Australian Minister for Energy Fran Logan said that residential supplies were unlikely to be affected but has called on Western Australians to conserve the use of natural gas. Minister Logan said that Apache supplies primarily large volume users like Alinta Gas and Alcoa, and the major industrial users will be hit the hardest. The aluminum refineries owned by Alcoa, which are dependent on natural gas, have switched to diesel to maintain production.

Apache representatives, including its managing director Tim Wall and fire experts from Singapore, are heading to the site to extinguish the fire and assess the damage. Wall said, during a news conference in Perth today, that a small fire on a vent had already been extinguished. Apache has also declared a clause in its supply contracts to remove liability for unavoidable catastrophes that prevent them from fulfilling obligations under the contract.

Indian 'guru' faces charges of fraud, drugs and rape

A spiritual guru known as "Swami Amritachaitanya" is being held in Kerala, India on charges of fraud, rape and possession of narcotic drugs. Swami Amritachaitanya, whose real name is Santosh Madhavan, was arrested by

Interpol in March on criminal charges in a police raid at his 16-suite ashram in Kochi, India following multiple police complaints against him. Indians living in Bahrain have recently come forward and filed a case against Madhavan in India on allegations of fraudulent practices related to his supposed charity activities.

Twenty Indians living in Bahrain filed a case against 35-year old Madhavan on Tuesday. They claim they were victims of a scam after Madhavan convinced them to invest in a charitable organization and tourist resort, but allegedly kept the money for himself. Madhavan arrived in Bahrain in 2005.

"He was very convincing about his charity activities as well as the resort." —Jaya Kumar

"Twenty of us have e-mailed a complaint to the Inspector General and Commissioner of Ernakulam police as well as Kerala Home Minister," said complainant Jaya Kumar in a statement to the Gulf Daily News. Ernakulam is a district in the state of Kerala in India. "He was very convincing about his charity activities as well as the resort," said Kumar, a purchasing officer at a company in Bahrain.

Police began an investigation into Madhavan in April after a woman filed a complaint alleging he had promised to start a business with her after a meeting in Dubai, but she said he disappeared after she gave him the money. Serafin Edwin traveled to the capital of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, last week from her residence in Dubai, in order to give testimony against Madhavan. She was greeted at the international airport by police, and is under police protection due to

concerns for her safety. Her family members told Khaleej Times that she feared physical harm from Madhavan or his henchmen. Interpol has been investigating Madhavan in allegations related to his business dealings with Serafin Edwin since 2004. "I am happy that the police finally caught up with him and he is in prison. He is a big fraud and everything that comes out of his mouth is a lie," said Serafin Edwin in a statement to the United Arab Emirates paper The National.

Madhavan was arrested by Interpol police after multiple underage girls went to law enforcement with allegations of rape and sexual abuse. According to Press Trust of India, police in India received complaints from three underage girls alleging he had raped them. The Times reported that Madhavan is accused of making pornographic movies with underage girls, sexual assault, rape, fraud and possession of narcotics. A police raid of Madhavan's four-story mansion in India uncovered drugs, a police uniform, a pelt from an endangered tiger and pornographic DVDs. Gulf Daily News reported that Madhavan was arrested in Kerala in conjunction with an Interpol "red alert", which was issued after consultation with Dubai police in 2004.

"We are not against genuine spiritual leaders. But we won't allow illegal activities under the guise of spirituality."
—Kodiyeri Balakrishnan

Self styled "godmen" and "gurus" are under increased observation by police in India following the arrest of Madhavan, and police are specifically investigating their sources of wealth and possible fraud. "We are not against genuine

spiritual leaders. But we won't allow illegal activities under the guise of spirituality," said Kerala home minister Kodyeri Balakrishnan in a statement to Howrah News Service.

G. Sudhakaran, Kerala's minister for temples, presented a different viewpoint in a statement to The Times. "They're conducting all kinds of criminal and material activities behind their spiritual exteriors. Ninety per cent of them are fake and criminals. There are so many swamis who have enlightened the hearts and minds of people, but these people are fakes with no idea about spirituality. They are only interested in women and money and muscle power," said Sudhakaran. Many Hindus were upset by Sudhakaran's words, as some devout Hindus consider swamis to be above the law and should not be criticized.

Denmark blames al-Qaeda for embassy bombing

On Monday, June 2, the Danish embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, was attacked with a car bomb. The bomb went off in the parking lot of the embassy at around 12:10 pm (UTC+5), killing at least six and wounding at least 30 others. One Danish citizen was killed.

"I think we can say with a reasonable degree of confidence that it was a suicide attack," said Tariq Pervez, the director-general of the Pakistani Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

The bomb forced the closure of the Danish embassy, as well as those of Norway and the Netherlands, which were nearby.

"I urge and incite every Muslim who can harm Denmark to do so in support of the prophet" -Ayman

al-Zawahiri

While no group has claimed responsibility, the Danish national security intelligence agency PET has concluded that al-Qaeda was behind the attack. "Extremists can be inspired by the attack in Pakistan," said PET's director, Jakob Scharf in a statement.

"We are just trying to find any clue, any evidence," Pakistani investigator Muhammad Mustafa said to the Associated Press. "You know yesterday it was panic here. Usually we miss important things in panic."

"Samples have been sent to the laboratory to determine what type of explosive was used," said Mohammad Ashraf Shah, who is in charge of the investigation. Investigators have found that the car with the bomb was a Toyota Corolla, which bore diplomatic license plates.

"One can of course only condemn it, it's terrible that terrorists commit such acts," said Per Stig Møller, the Foreign Minister of Denmark, on TV 2 television.

"It was to be expected that they would do something," said Ikram Sehgal to Reuters, referring to Ayman al-Zawahiri's recent video encouraging attacks against Denmark over the Jyllands-Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy.

"I urge and incite every Muslim who can harm Denmark to do so in support of the prophet, God's peace and prayers be upon him, and in defense of his honorable stature," Ayman al-Zawahiri said in a video which became public on April 21.

"This attack was not linked to any event in the country or the region,

rather it was part of widespread outrage throughout the Islamic world against publishing blasphemous caricatures," a local official told Daily Times, adding that it would not affect Pakistani negotiations with "local" Taliban, which is considered separate from the Taliban in Afghanistan.

2008 COMPUTEX Taipei starts with the future of "WING"

2008 COMPUTEX, famed as the 2nd-largest ICT trade show in the world, started today at the Taipei World Trade Center, Taipei International Convention Center, and TWTC Nangang with 1725 companies' participation including top 5 nations - Hong Kong, South Korea, China, France, and Japan. With the newly-launched TWTC Nangang, the COMPUTEX set its record with its exhibition scale expanding by 53% and the number of participating manufacturers increasing by 29%.

This year of COMPUTEX has some special features including "Design and Innovation Award of COMPUTEX", set to discover innovative designs world-wide, "Environment-related topics", highly respected by environmentalists and industrial businesspeople with many ICT products related to energy-efficiency and green technology showcased at "Mega Trends Pavilion".

"This 28-year-old trade show competes with the other ones like CeBIT and COMDEX every year. In 2003, we (the government) ever confronted a unprecedented frustration, that is, SARS. It ever forced this show temporarily suspended for a while, but this gave us a great opportunity to regulate the steps to exhibit at the Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Hall 3, and finally, we

succeeded and eventually became the 2nd-largest ICT show of the world in 2004. I'm very appreciated for a significant growth of 1725 companies' participation after the Taiwan External Trade Development Council decided to expand this show into TWTC Nangang. I believe that the COMPUTEX will bring a major profit of USD\$2 billions for ICT and exhibition industries." —Ying-jeou Ma, President of the Republic of China

With another concurrent trade show - "2008 WiMAX Expo Taipei", located at Taipei Show Hall 2, Taipei Computer Association, one of the show organizers, will mainly promote the "WING"-conceptual products like WiMAX, ICT crossovers, Notebooks, and Green IT products this year. In addition, DRAMeXchange Compuforum, e21Forum, Taiwan Design Forum, and Next Generation Network Forum will be held in conjunction with the COMPUTEX to attract international businesspeople from vast industries.

German defense minister: Troops to be in Afghanistan for years

Franz Josef Jung, the German defense Minister, today said that troops may remain in Afghanistan for as long as ten years. He said that troops should withdraw when the Afghan troops are able to manage the incidents in the country.

Police: Theft of railway track could have cause crash

Police have claimed that the theft of 171 tonnes of railway tacks from a train line between London and Wales could have resulted in a serious crash. "A piece of railtrack could have struck a passing train and caused a serious rail crash, but fortunately this did not

happen," said the local police, in a statement. Anthony Porretta recently pleaded guilty of the theft at Bristol Crown Court.

Today in History

1305 – Raymond Bertrand de Got became Pope Clement V, succeeding Pope Benedict XI who died one year earlier.

1798 – In the Battle of New Ross, British forces prevented the United Irishmen from spreading the Irish Rebellion into Munster.

1849 – A new constitution was introduced in Denmark, establishing a constitutional monarchy and the Rigsdag, a bicameral parliament consisting of the Landsting and the Folketing.

1967 – The Six-Day War began with an Israeli Air Force preemptive strike that destroyed about 450 total aircraft of the Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian Air Forces on the ground.

1968 – Palestinian immigrant Sirhan Sirhan mortally shot U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy inside the kitchen pantry of The Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, an event that has spawned a variety of conspiracy theories since then.

June 05 is Ascension Thursday in Eastern Christianity (2008); World Environment Day; Father's Day and Constitution Day in Denmark

Quote of the Day

Words ought to be a little wild for they are the assault of thoughts on the unthinking.
~ John Maynard Keynes

Word of the Day

Neolithic adj

1. Of or relating to the New Stone Age, from circa 8500 to 4500 BCE.

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+44-871-218-6397
(U.K. / Europe)

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http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page

Word of the Day

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