



Top Stories

Gordon Brown becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Gordon Brown has become Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Queen Elizabeth II invited him to form a government in a meeting at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday afternoon.

Death of Nancy Benoit rumour posted on Wikipedia hours prior to body being found

Anonymous edits on the Wikipedia article of Chris Benoit were added about the death of his wife 14 hours before police entered the Benoit home to find the former professional wrestler and his family dead.

Featured story

Sydney Opera House listed on World Heritage List

The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has announced that the Sydney Opera House has been added to the World Heritage List of culturally significant sites.

Wikipedia Current Events

•Eleven Colombian lawmakers hostages out of twelve are killed by the leftist guerilla group FARC. Abducted in 2002, the FARC alleges that the hostages died in a crossfire when an unidentified military group attacked. The FARC blames the Colombian government, but the government says they knew nothing of the location or of any attempt of rescue.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Russia successfully test fires a sea-based ballistic missile, the Bulava.
- A TAAG-Angola Airlines Boeing 737 crashes in northern Angola resulting in the death of at least five passengers on the same day the European Union bans the airline from European airspace.
- Scientists take a first step towards making synthetic life by transferring genetic material from one species of bacteria to another making it a copy of the first.
- Record high temperatures in Greece lead to nine deaths through heat stroke, outbreaks of wildfires killing two people and extensive power cuts.
- A bill to legalise millions of illegal immigrants living in the United States is defeated in the United States Senate.
- Former Libyan intelligence agent Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi convicted of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 wins a case for an appeal in the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission.
- An Italian man has been arrested in Spain for the suspected kidnapping of Madeleine McCann.

West Indies cricket team in England 2007-1st Twenty

West Indies have beaten England by 15 runs in the first Twenty20 international of their tour of England at The Oval, London, England.

The West Indian innings started off badly by losing Gayle early, however they turned their fortunes around with some attacking and aggressive cricket and posted a huge total of 208. A bigger total could have been posted if it had not been for a late innings batting collapse. England started their reply by getting off to a flyer, but lost some early wickets that slowed down the run-rate. Leading the charge was Paul Collingwood with a fast 79 with 5 4's and 4 6's. In the end, England fell short by 15 runs. Had they not have lost the early wickets, England would have probably won the match to take a 1-0 lead in the series. Instead, it is West Indies that have taken a 1-0 lead in the series.

Toss: West Indies won, and chose to bat first.

Death of Nancy Benoit rumour posted on Wikipedia hours prior to body being found

Wikinews has learned through an investigation that anonymous edits on the Wikipedia article Chris Benoit were added about the death of his wife Nancy Benoit 14 hours before police entered the Benoit home to find the former professional World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) Canadian wrestler and his family dead.

An anonymous edit from IP address 69.120.111.23 using the Internet service provider Optimum Online was made at 04:01 UTC on Chris Benoit's Wikipedia article. On a paragraph about an earlier fight: "However, Chris Benoit was

replaced ... due to personal issues,...", the anonymous editor added "stemming from the death of his wife Nancy." The edit was reversed just under one hour later with the comment: "Need a reliable source. Saying that his wife died is a pretty big statement, you need to back it up with something."

Then just one hour later after the first edit reversion, another anonymous edit by 125.63.148.173 using unwiredAustralia.com.au, a wireless Internet service provider, was made adding about the aforementioned personal issues: "which according to several pro wrestling websites is attributed to the passing of Benoit's wife, Nancy." That edit was reverted just under 20 minutes later, with the comment: "Saying 'several pro wrestling websites' is still not reliable information."

Further investigation shows that the IP address used to make the first edit is located in Connecticut, but the IP address is not linked to any computers or servers used by the WWE, but according to Cary Bass, Volunteer Coordinator for the Wikimedia Foundation, the IP address matches a location in Stamford, Connecticut where the WWE headquarters is located. Bass also informed the local authorities in Atlanta about the unusual edits, but it is not known if the edits were investigated by the police. The second edit was made by a computer in Australia from a wireless network.

"It didn't become apparent until someone put the pieces together and realized that the comment was made by someone who apparently knew about the murders," added Bass.

Fayette County Sheriff deputy Lt. Tommy Pope stated that police found the family at about 2:30 p.m. ET, which is 18:30 UTC, on Monday when the WWE called police and asked them to do a "welfare check" after employees of WWE received calls and text messages from Chris Benoit. Early Sunday, Benoit sent repeated text messages that read "My physical address is 130 Green Meadow Lane, Fayetteville Georgia. 30215." Another text message reportedly said "The dogs are in the enclosed pool area. Garage side door is open." The messages were sent around 4:00 a.m. ET.

Earlier, on Saturday afternoon, Chris Benoit placed a series of calls that explained why he missed his flight to Houston. The stories he told were mostly about his wife and son being sick with food poisoning and vomiting. Although, in one call he said that he and Nancy were at the hospital to be with Daniel who was hospitalized. Throughout he insisted that he would attend that live event in Houston.

When he missed the live event on Sunday, and the WWE couldn't get a hold of him, they contacted authorities. Police say that Benoit strangled his wife on Friday, smothered his son on late Friday or early Saturday, and then hanged himself inside his weight room on Sunday or Monday.

The Wikinews investigation is unable to conclude whether the anonymous editors had inside information about the death of Nancy Benoit.

This is not the first time Benoit's article has been edited to show false or unsourced information, as the article's edit history indicates a long history of promotional spam

and vandalism. Around the time of the edits, the article contained a hidden warning to editors of the section mentioned, warning against adding rumours and speculations . For the time being, Benoit's article has been protected in an attempt to stop the addition of fraudulent information.

Indonesia shuts down 4 airlines and grounds 5 others over safety concerns

Indonesia has shut down 4 airlines and grounded 5 others with the potential of similar liscence revokations for failing to meet safety standards.

The largest company to lose it's liscence is Jatayu Gelang Sejahtera. The other comapnies are all small airlines operating only aircraft with a passenger capacity of lower than thirty, and are Aviasi Upataraksa, Alfa Trans Dirgantara and Prodexim. The companies that were grounded pending either improvements or liscence revokation are Germania Trisila Air, Atlas Delta Setia, Survey Udara Penas, Kura-kura Aviation and SMAC, all of which also operate only aircraft with under-30 passenger capacities. They have three months to improve, or their liscences will be revoked.

Jatayu had already ceased operations in August, but had intended to restart with a 150-seat Boeing 737. The liscence was revoked because the sate requires at least two aircraft to be commercialy operated and because of the fact that it it "was lacking in pilots and human resources". Also, the age of the jetliner meant that it would require a test called a 'C-Check' before it could begin commercial services, at a cost of \$120,000.

The action comes as the result of a

number of air crashes, namely the Adam Air Flight 574 disaster in which 102 people were killed, and the Adam Air Flight 172 accident, in which a plane snapped in half during a hard landing, but managed to hold together, thus preventing any serious injuries. As a result, all 54 of Indonesia's airlines were given a safety rating, with a level 1 rating meaning no action was needed, a level 2 rating meaning the airline needed to make some improvements, and a level 3 rating requiring that the airline be shut down unless improvements were made within 3 months. Most airlines received a level 2 rating, while none received the top rating. Adam Air was among the airlines to receive the level 3 rating, but was upgraded to tier 2 at the same time as the groundings.

Meanwhile, state-owned Garuda Indonesia is now the only airline to have a type 1 rating, despite the fatal crash of Garuda Indonesia Flight 200 in March. According to the Indonesian Transport Ministry's Director General for Aviation Budi Mulyawan Suyitno, Garuda now satisfied 84 percent of civil aviation standards.

The ratings have been based on such criteria as surveillance, ramp checks, personnel, department safety, number of accidents and number of serious incidents, according to the BBC. Meanwhile, Flight Global is reporting that, according to Directorate General of Air Communications (DGAC) director of air certification office, Yurlis Hasibuan "20 criteria including whether the airline has developed [better] safety and human resources" are checked.

Cricket: Bangladeshi cricket team in Sri Lanka 2007-1st Test

The match started out poorly for the Bangladeshis as they were bowled out for 89 in the first innings. The main cause of this was the outstanding bowling of Muralitharan who took a five wicket haul. The Sri Lankans capitalised on this and started building a mammoth of an innings of 577 before declaring six wickets down. Centuries from Michael Vandort, Mahela Jayawardene, Prasanna Jayawardene, and Chaminda Vaas , and a huge 7th wicket partnership of 223 runs, helped Sri Lanka post the total.

Bangladesh started out their second innings positively and showed resistance to Sri Lanka's bowlers to get to 233/5 at the end of day 3. Early on day 4 however, Lasith Malinga turned Sri Lanka's fortunes around and ripped through the tail end of Bangladesh's lineup with 3 wickets in 30 minutes to wrap up a one-sided Test with a comprehensive innings and 234 runs victory.

Toss: Sri Lanka won, and chose to field first.

CNN discontinues Pipeline service; will provide live video free

CNN has shut down its CNN Pipeline service, just as it said it would in a May 25, 2007 announcement. The pay-service which allowed news from the channel to be viewed online will be offered at no charge to online viewers beginning July 2, 2007.

The service is currently closed, and is under construction so that the free service can be completed. Archive news videos are still available.

Pope to lift restrictions on Latin Mass

Pope Benedict XVI has approved a document that would allow greater use of the Tridentine Mass (also known as the Latin Mass).

The Latin Mass was used almost universally by Catholic Churches prior to the Vatican II council in the 1960s which promulgated many different reforms, including directions for churches to say Mass in the local vernacular.

Under the current rules, priests must obtain permission from their local bishop to use Tridentine Mass while the new rules will allow priests to make the decision themselves.

According to Cardinal Darío Castrillón Hoyos, the move towards widening the use of the Tridentine Mass was done in part to help bring back to the main church body various schismatic groups, such as the Society of St. Pius X that reject Vatican II's reforms.

The proposal has met with concern from the liberal end of the Catholic Church who worry that it signals the beginning of a return to pre-Vatican II church policies and theology while Jewish groups have expressed concern over elements of the Tridentine Mass which they see as offensive or possibly worrisome, such as parts which call for the conversion of the Jews.

Sydney Opera House listed on World Heritage List

The World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation has today announced in Christchurch, New Zealand that the Sydney Opera House has been added to the World Heritage List of culturally significant sites.

It is the third time that a bid has been made to include the Opera House in the list, after failing to receive enough votes in 1981 and 1996. Roni Amelan, UNESCO spokesman said the decision to list the Opera House was unanimous.

"There was consensus that it was a truly outstanding, iconic building that was a defining moment in 20 century architecture," said Mr Amelan.

The committee described the Opera House as daring and influential.

"It is a daring and visionary experiment that has had an enduring influence on the emergent architecture of the late 20th-century," claims the committee.

"The building is a great artistic monument and an icon."

The Sydney Opera House becomes the youngest building to be listed on the register, being built in October 1973. It joins other landmarks such as the Taj Mahal, Statue of Liberty and the Egyptian Pyramids. The Opera House becomes only the second Australian building on the list, joining the Melbourne Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, which were added in 2004.

As a result of the listing, a 2.5 kilometre buffer will be enforced around the Opera House to protect views to and from the building. If the World Heritage values of the site are breached, the site can be placed on an endangered list and removed from the register.

Australian Prime Minister, John Howard said the Opera House is treasured through out the world.

"The Opera House, and its setting at Bennelong Point on Sydney Harbour, is an iconic and treasured place, not just for Australians but also internationally," he said.

An excited NSW Premier, Morris Iemma informed state parliament of the UNESCO's decision.

Jorn Utzon, the architect of the Opera House gave a statement from his home in Denmark expressing the honour of having one of his buildings listed on the register.

"World Heritage listing gives the building ... a completely new value," Mr Utzon said. "It is a gift to the city of Sydney." Mr Utzon said it was the vision of those who worked on the construction of the Opera House for it to be Sydney's greatest landmark.

European Space Agency seeks volunteers for Mars simulation

The European Space Agency (ESA) is seeking volunteers who would be ready to take a part on three simulated missions to Mars.

The anticipated missions will be a joint effort from ESA and the Russian Federal Space Agency. Each crew will consist of 6 persons - 2 Europeans and 4 Russians. The ESA is looking for 2 crewmembers and 2 backups that must come from ESA member nations that participate in the ELIPS program.

The flight simulation should last between 105 to 520 days in a closed modules set of total space of 500 m³. The goal of the mission is to test the psychological stress of the long-distance travel. To make the experience as realistic as possible, the contact with the external world shall exist only via the radio with the time-delay of 40 minutes (simulating the time

signals need to travel between the Earth and Mars).

First test of 105 days should start in middle of 2008 and the last one should start at the end 2008 or beginning 2009.

Interested persons can apply via application an form published on the ESA website.

Wikipedia Current Events

- In a major Cabinet reshuffle, every person's post is changed bar one.
- Alistair Darling becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer, David Miliband becomes Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Jacqui Smith becomes the first female Secretary of State for the Home Department.
- Alan Johnson takes Health, Jack Straw takes Justice and First Secretary of State, Hilary Benn takes Environment, Des Browne remains as Defence Secretary but also becomes Secretary of State for Scotland, Ruth Kelly takes Transport.
- Douglas Alexander takes Secretary of State for International Development, Peter Haines remains Secretary of State for Wales but also becomes Work and Pensions Secretary, Shaun Woodward becomes Northern Ireland Secretary John Hutton takes Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Secretary, Hazel Blears takes Communities Secretary and Minister for Equality, James Purnell takes Culture, Media and Sport Secretary and Tessa Jowell becomes Olympics Minister, and will only attend Cabinet when required.
- Baroness Ashton becomes Leader

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of the House of Lords, Harriet Harman - Labour's deputy leader - becomes Leader of the House of Commons and Minister for Women, whilst Ed Balls becomes Children, Schools and Families Secretary. John Denham becomes Innovation, University and Skills Secretary, and Baroness Scotland becomes the new Attorney General of England and Wales. The Cabinet is set to change.

- Rivers in Gippsland, Victoria, Australia flood leading to evacuations in Bairnsdale and Sale as a result of days of heavy rain.

- A car bomb in the Bayaa district of Baghdad kills at least 20 people and injures another 35.

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors arrive at the Yongbyon reactor in North Korea to discuss plans to shut it down. It follows North Korea test firing short-range missiles yesterday.

- The United States Supreme Court hands down a divided decision against two school districts in Seattle, Washington and Louisville, Kentucky, saying the districts' plans to admit students to schools based partially on their race violates constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

- The commercial space station prototype Genesis II from Bigelow Aerospace is launched at 15:02 UTC from Russia by a Dnepr.

- UNESCO designates several new World Heritage Sites, including Sydney Opera House, Canada's Rideau Canal, Japan's Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, Turkmenistan's Parthian Fortresses of Nisa, India's Red

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Fort complexes, the Lope-Okanda Landscape of Gabon, the Richtersveld desert of South Africa, the rock carvings of Twyfelfontein in Namibia, the fortified tower houses of Guangdong Province in the People's Republic of China, Teide National Park in the Canary Islands, Spain, ancient beech forests of Central Europe, Paa Sokolovic Bridge in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bordeaux and the Port de la Lune in France, the Old Town of Corfu in Greece.

- The Bald Eagle is removed from the endangered species list.

Today in History

1184 - Sverre was crowned King of Norway.

1613 - The original Globe Theatre in London burned to the ground after a cannon employed for special effects misfired during a performance of Henry VIII and ignited the theatre's roof.

1874 - Greek politician Charilaos Trikoupis published a manifesto in the Athens daily Kairoi entitled "Who's to blame?", laying out his complaints against King George.

1922 - France granted 1 km² (100 hectares) at Vimy Ridge to Canada in perpetuity in recognition of Canada's efforts during the Battle of Vimy Ridge in World War I.

1995 - The Sampoong Department Store collapsed in the Seocho-gu district of Seoul, South Korea, killing 501 and injuring 937.

June 29 is Holy Day of Obligation of Saints Peter and Paul (Roman Catholicism).

Quote of the Day

To renounce liberty is to renounce being a man, to surrender the rights of humanity and even its duties. For him who renounces everything no indemnity is

possible. Such a renunciation is incompatible with man's nature; to remove all liberty from his will is to remove all morality from his acts.

~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Word of the Day

venerate; v

1. To treat with great respect and deference.
2. To revere or hold in awe.

About Wikinews

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