



### Top Stories



#### Pirates capture Saudi oil tanker

Pirates have seized control of the *Sirius Star*, a Saudi-owned oil tanker off the coast of Kenya and are steering her towards Somalia, with two million barrels of oil. The ship is the largest captured by pirates in the area.

#### ETA chief arrested in southern France

Mikel Garikoitz Aspiazu Rubina (alias Txeroki), the suspected military chief of the Basque nationalist group ETA was arrested in a pre-dawn raid on Monday in the town of Cauterets in Southern France. He is being held in connection with the killing of two Spanish Civil Guards in 2007.

#### Senator Ted Stevens loses re-election bid in Alaska ballot

In Tuesday's counts, Alaskan US Senator Ted Stevens narrowly lost his re-election bid to Mark Begich, the Democratic Mayor of Anchorage. Meanwhile, as Alaska's counting of the November 4 election is almost complete, Democratic challenger for the US House of Representatives, Ethan Berkowitz,



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conceded to incumbent Don Young, the Republican Party nominee.

#### Science: CERN says repairs to LHC particle accelerator to cost US\$21 million

The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) said on Monday that repairing the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) will cost up to €16.6 million or US\$21 million. CERN spokesman James Gillies said: "If we can do it sooner, all well and good. But I think we can do it realistically by early summer."

### Wikipedia Current Events

**Same-sex marriage in California:** The California Supreme Court agrees to hear a challenge to California Proposition 8.

•Amnesty International's report on the 2008 South Ossetia war highlights Georgia's role as the aggressor during August hostilities in South Ossetia. It also provides evidence of "notoriously inaccurate" Georgian artillery fire resulting in "scores" of civilian deaths in South Ossetia, of aimed artillery fire at Russian peacekeepers base, and of Russian failure to provide defence to civilians during the conflict.

•The Indian Navy frigate, the *INS Tabar*, destroys a pirate ship and forces the abandonment of another pirate vessel off the coast of Somalia.

•A Hong Kong cargo ship carrying 36,000 tons of wheat is hijacked

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near Yemen coast in Gulf of Aden along with 25 crew members.

•Somali pirates hijack a Thai fishing ship with 16 crew members off the coast of Horn of Africa.

•New Zealand and Australian researchers identify a new species of penguin, the Waitaha penguin, which lived in New Zealand until its extinction 500 years ago.

•John Key is officially sworn in as the Prime Minister of New Zealand by Governor-General Anand Satyanand.

•Claudia Castillo of Spain becomes the first person to have a successful trachea transplant using a tissue-engineered organ.

•NASA successfully tests the first deep-space communication protocol to pave the way for Interplanetary Internet.

#### UK football club criticized by council for attempting to trademark city's bird

Liverpool FC, an association football club located in Liverpool, a British city, has been criticized by the city council for attempting to trademark the Liver Bird, a symbol used to represent the city of Liverpool, and its football club.

Flo Clucas, the Deputy leader of Liverpool City Council, expressed her concern over the move. "I have some very real concerns over it," she stated. "They do already have their crest trademarked, but they have no right of ownership to claim

the bird, or any version of the bird, as their own."

"...Not only does it appear on the Royal Charter for the council, but it is also used by local businesses and schools," she continued. "It belongs to the city and nobody has a right to claim it exclusively as the own. It's a symbol for the city." The football club attempted to respond to these concerns by asserting that "Liverpool Football Club is seeking to trademark only its own specific version of the Liver Bird, to combat its use in counterfeit merchandise."

However, Clucas stated that although "the club also says they have no intention of charging organisations that want to use it," there is no guarantee that this will still be the case in the future, so, according to Clucas, residents of the city may have pay for the use of the bird in future if the trademark is approved.

The council is seeking legal advice over the application.

Liverpool FC formed in 1892, and is currently managed by Rafa Benitez. They have qualified for the Champions League in every one of the last four seasons, and they are currently second place in the English Premier League, and they have won five of their last six matches.

The club's home ground is the Anfield stadium, and the main focus of their crest is the Liver Bird.

### **Thaksin to return to Thai politics**

Several reports indicate that the ousted fugitive ex-Prime Minister of Thailand, Thaksin Shinawatra, is to again become involved in the country's politics. He is scheduled to give another phone-in address

from abroad on December 14 to supporters at the national Suphachalasai Stadium.

People's Power Party (PPP) MP, and spokesman for the pro-government "Truth Today" roadshow Jatuporn Promphan said, "Thaksin will no longer wait to be attacked, he will fight back by all means, particularly with an eye-for-an-eye strategy, from now on. Thaksin now believes that the only way for him to survive and to live is to fight for his name".

Currently in exile and facing a two year jail term should he return to Thailand, Thaksin informed lawyers from his current residence in Dubai that he would not appeal the conviction for corruption in the Ratchadapisek land deal. While lawyers claim to have prepared the needed paperwork to challenge the conviction, the deadline to do so is today.

"Thaksin will no longer wait to be attacked, he will fight back by all means, particularly with an eye-for-an-eye strategy" —People's Power Party MP, Jatuporn Promphan

According to the Bangkok Post, a return to politics by the ex-PM has caused some concern among PPP government members over the divisions this could cause within the country. Thaksin still enjoys a great deal of support from the rural poor in the country's North-East where the populist policies of his now-outlawed Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party helped win a majority. His most vocal critics, the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) have now occupied Government House in Bangkok for over three months.

The close association of the ruling PPP with the former premier has given them their own set of problems. The party is actively

contesting a case in the country's supreme court that could see it dissolved. The case centres around allegations of vote buying and the party's former deputy leader, Yongyuth Tiypairat, stands accused of paying village heads for votes. The PPP disputes that this was a party action as opposed to the independent actions of Yongyuth and the other accused. A ruling on the fraud from last December's election is expected soon.

Critics of the government claim that it is simply a front for the ex-PM and his dissolved party. The yellow-shirted PAD protesters at Government House assert that current Prime Minister, Somchai Wongsawat, Thaksin's brother-in-law, is merely a proxy for the controversial ex-leader.

Prosecution of Thaksin on other charges which he maintains are politically motivated continues; the supreme court is expected to hold a hearing next month on accusations that he is 'unusually rich'. This relates to the sale of the family's stake in Shin Corporation to Temasek Holdings, the investment arm of the Singapore government. Assets worth 76 billion baht (US\$ 2.2 billion) are currently frozen over this issue. The ex-PM escaped impeachment over the tax-free sale of Shin in February 2006. Thai media reports that an amicable divorce of Thaksin and his wife Pojaman in Hong Kong will have no bearing on the case or asset seizure. Despite the split last week neither can return to Thailand without facing imprisonment; Potjam was earlier successfully prosecuted and given a three year sentence.

### **Senator Ted Stevens loses re-election bid in Alaska ballot**

Alaskan US Senator Ted Stevens, who turned 85 yesterday, narrowly

lost his re-election bid to Mark Begich, the Democratic Mayor of Anchorage, Alaska.

Meanwhile, as Alaska's counting of the November 4 election is almost complete, Democratic challenger for the US House of Representatives, Ethan Berkowitz, conceded to incumbent Don Young, the Republican Party nominee.

With this result, the Democrats are two seats away (assuming that independents Bernie Sanders and Joe Lieberman continue to caucus with them) from a filibuster-proof supermajority in the United States Senate, with two races (Minnesota and Georgia) as yet uncalled. That would allow the Democrats to invoke cloture, limiting filibusters to a further 30 hours, an ability last attained in the 95th Congress of 1977-79.

Stevens is entitled to request a recount at his campaign's expense, and has not yet made a statement. After the completion of counting yesterday, Begich had defeated Stevens by 3,724 votes, a margin of over one percent. 2,500 special absentee and postal ballots remain to be counted on November 25.

Begich released a statement on his win saying, "I am humbled and honored to serve Alaska in the United States Senate. It's been an incredible journey getting to this point, and I appreciate the support and commitment of the thousands of Alaskans who have brought us to this day."

Young won his race by 16,280 votes, a five percent lead.

Stevens recently became a convicted felon on seven counts for lying on Senate disclosure forms about accepting \$250,000 in

gifts and home renovations from VECO, an oil services company. He has asked President George W. Bush not to grant him a presidential pardon.

### **CERN says repairs to LHC particle accelerator to cost US\$21 million**

The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) said on Monday that repairing the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) will cost up to €16.6 million or US\$21 million.

The LHC, which is the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator, is located near the border of France and Switzerland and crosses the border four times. It has a diameter of 27 km (17 miles). It is designed to simulate the conditions shortly after the Big Bang, but it broke down on September 19 due to an electrical failure.

Most of the repair time is covered by previously scheduled maintenance time, and CERN originally hoped to have the machine up and running again by early May. However, CERN officials now believe that it may take until the end of July or longer.

CERN spokesman James Gillies said: "If we can do it sooner, all well and good. But I think we can do it realistically by early summer."

The machine operates at temperatures colder than outer space and must be gradually warmed up for experts to assess the damage, causing much of the delay. CERN expects the repair cost to fall within the annual budget for the project.

### **Today in History**

284 - Diocletian became Roman Emperor, eventually establishing reforms that brought an end to the

Crisis of the Third Century.

1820 - The American whaleship Essex sank 2,000 nautical miles (3,700 km) west of the western coast of South America after it was attacked by a sperm whale.

1902 - While discussing how to promote the newspaper L'Auto during a lunch meeting in Paris, sports journalists Henri Desgrange and Géo Lefèvre came up with the idea of holding a cycling race that became known as the Tour de France.

1945 - The Nuremberg Trials against 24 leading Nazis involved in the Holocaust and various war crimes during World War II began in Nuremberg, Germany.

1952 - The Slánský trial, a show trial against Czech General Secretary Rudolf Slánský and 13 other members of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia was held.

November 20 is Zumbi Day in Brazil; Revolution Day in Mexico; Teacher's Day in Vietnam

### **Quote of the Day**

A revolution is coming — a revolution which will be peaceful if we are wise enough; compassionate if we care enough; successful if we are fortunate enough — But a revolution which is coming whether we will it or not. We can affect its character; we cannot alter its inevitability.  
~ Robert F. Kennedy

### **Word of the Day**

blasted adj

1. Describing something that has been subjected to explosion.
2. (slang) Accursed; damned.
3. (heraldry) Of a tree whose branches bear no leaves; leafless.

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