



Top Stories

Plant explosion in Apex, North Carolina



Approximately 16,000 people are being evacuated in Apex, North Carolina after a chemical plant explosion and fire sometime after, sometime after 9 p.m. local time Thursday, October 5.

Vatican considering abolishing limbo



Consideration is being given to dropping the notion of limbo. The Vatican is now

saying that limbo will be dropped until next year. A draft document drawn up for the Pope's approval declaring that limbo was no longer essential or even necessary has not been final.

Featured story

Mass grave with 51 bodies from the Nazi era found in Germany



The decomposed bodies of 22 children and 29 adults have been found in a mass grave,

believed to date back to the 1940s, in a Catholic church cemetery in Menden-Berge, a small village in Germany. The buried are believed to be victims of Adolf Hitler's "program" in which numerous disabled people were murdered.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Mount Tavurvur near Rabaul in New Britain erupts. Two hundred people are evacuated but favourable winds help protect the town from the impact.
- Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, famous for her criticism of President Vladimir Putin and government's actions in Chechnya, is found murdered in Moscow on Putin's birthday.
- Sixty warning shots are fired by South Korean soldiers at the Korean Demilitarized Zone after they observe five North Korean soldiers crossing part of the boundary.
- The governing coalition led by Prime Minister Aigars Kalvītis wins re-election in Latvia, the first administration to be re-elected since Latvia became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991.

20,000 Poles demonstrate on the streets of Warsaw



Platforma Obywatelska gathered the most supporters, demanding new parliamentary elections.

No less than three major political demonstrations took place in Warsaw, the capital of Poland on Saturday, October 7. In total, more than 20,000 people flooded the streets and squares of the city to express either their dissatisfaction with or support for Jarosław Kaczyński's government, marred by a political corruption scandal and inability to

form stable parliamentary majority.

The leading opposition party, Platforma Obywatelska, organized the "Blue March". According to the police, the march through Warsaw's historic part gathered the most people, about 11,000, who demanded new elections and expressed their discontent with the current government. Polls show over 60% of Poles want early elections, and Platforma is currently in the lead by a sizeable majority.

In response to that, Kaczyński's Prawo i Sprawiedliwość held a gathering of 8,000 government supporters in front of the socialist landmark Palace of Culture and Science in the very centre of Warsaw.

The third demonstration, much smaller in size, was held by junior government coalition partner, the far-right Christian conservative Liga Polskich Rodzin. According to the police about 2,000 people marched through the streets of Warsaw.

Scotland: Three murdered schoolboy for "being white"

The trial of three Scottish Asians began on Monday, October 2 in Edinburgh's High Court. The three men, Imran Shahid, 29, Mohammed Mushtaq, 27, and Zeeshan Shahid, 29 are charged with "racially aggravated murder".

This follows from the conviction of Zahid Mohammed in 2004 of

assault in the same incident. Zahid was jailed for 5 years, and was released from jail on license on Wednesday, subsequently giving evidence in this trial. The accused are said to have been involved in the horrific killing of a 15-year old schoolboy in 2004. Kriss Donald was abducted on 16 March, and then stabbed in the lungs, liver and kidney. He was then covered in gasoline and set on fire. The accused, Imran "Baldy" Shahid, Mohammed "Beck" Mushtaq and Zeeshan "Crazy" Shahid had fled to Pakistan after Kriss' murder, and were arrested there in July last year. They were extradited to Britain on exceptional grounds in October 2005. This despite the lack of an extradition treaty between the two countries.

Mohammed said that he had never seen Kriss before, and confirmed that if he had been Chinese, black or "Asian" he would have been left alone. He said that Kriss and his friend had been chosen because they were white. When asked by advocate-depute Mark Stewart QC if Kriss had said anything, Mohammed said: "Yes - he said "I'm only 15. What did I do?" or something like that."

Gibson has given his first interview since anti-Semitic rant

Best-known for directing Braveheart, Mel Gibson had trouble with police early in the morning on July 28. While he was stopped for speeding and driving drunk, he is said to have shouted a tirade against Jews.

No transcripts of this interview launched in ABC's Good Morning America are officially available but, before its broadcast scheduled on October 12 and 13th, some communities wanted to know more about it.

Earlier in the week (see French-Canadian source below), Robin Williams emphasized about the positive effect of this story saying he will follow the same alcohol detoxification process than Mel.

Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya shot dead

A Russian journalist, Anna Politkovskaya, who rose to prominence for her critical coverage of the Chechen war, was found shot dead at her apartment in Moscow today.

Anna Politkovskaya worked for the Novaya Gazeta newspaper. She rose to fame for her coverage of the human costs of the Chechen conflict and her harsh criticism of the Kremlin's policies on Chechnya. She was also one of the people who went into the Moscow theatre during the 2002 hostage taking to attempt negotiations, at the behest of the Chechen militants.

Politkovskaya was found shot dead in an elevator in her apartment block in central Moscow, the Associated Press reports, citing police sources. The Interfax news agency reports that her body was found by a neighbour and that four cartridges and a handgun was also found in the elevator. Her death has been confirmed by Dmitry Muratov, editor of the Novaya Gazeta and Moscow prosecutors.

She was 48 years old and was writing her fourth non-fiction work, Putin's Russia. Her earlier books include Under Putin and A Dirty War: A Russian Reporter in Chechnya and A Small Corner of Hell: Dispatches from Chechnya. She won several awards for her work on the Chechen conflict.

Politkovskaya had received threats

before. She moved to Vienna for a short time in 2001 after receiving e-mail warnings that a Russian police officer, Sergei Lapin, who she had accused of atrocities, was seeking revenge. In 2005, Lapin was found guilty of crimes against Chechen civilians and sentenced to 11 years imprisonment.

During the 2004 Beslan school siege, Politkovskaya was taken ill with suspected food-poisoning. The incident was suspected by some of her colleagues to be a deliberate attempt at poisoning.

Top ranked France to play Scotland this afternoon in football

One month ago, the French soccer team took its revenge over Italy (World cup title holders) but the gap to stay number one remains slim.

Most of this margin is only due to the victory over Brazil in Mondial quarter finals but any further loss (not expected against Faroë Islands next Wednesday) is enough not to stay in the leading chair.

Both teams are likely to be hoping for a draw as the worst result, which would leave the situation as:

- Scotland top of the round-robin group ;
- France World #1.

Cheetahs and Blue Bulls to meet in 2006 Currie Cup rugby final

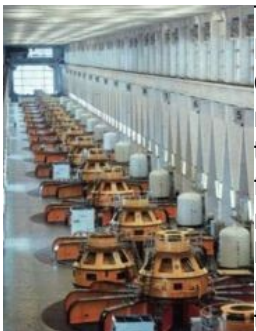
The Free State Cheetahs and the Blue Bulls will meet next week in the 2006 Currie Cup final, South Africa's domestic club rugby competition. The Bulls were the first to qualifying, winning the first semi final against rivals Western Province, and the Cheetahs won their semi against the Sharks.

The Blue Bulls hosted WP at home, at Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria. The Blue Bulls led WP 20 to nine at half time. The gap was closed to 23-16 in the second half, but the home team eventually ran away with the game, in the end, winning 45 points to 23.

At the second semi final at Bloemfontein, the Cheetahs hosted the Sharks at the Free State Stadium. The Free State were up 17 to nil during the first half. The score was furthered to 24 points, but the Sharks' JP Pietersen scored minutes before the half finished to give the Sharks their first points, and the game went onto halftime, Cheetahs leading 24-7. The Cheetahs held onto the game, winning 30-14.

The Cheetahs will host the final next week, as they are the highest place finalist (first, the Blue Bulls were second). The final will be the third Blue Bulls/Cheetahs affair in a row, and the fifth Blue Bulls appearance in a row.

Bratsk hydroelectric plant gets new turbine



Bratsk hydroelectric plant turbine hall

The city of Bratsk in Irkutsk Oblast, Russia, received a new turbine for its famous 4,500 megawatt hydroelectric plant founded in the mid-1950s on the Angara river. In future

this new unit will cause an efficiency rise up to 255MW for each turbine.

Currently, the Bratsk Power Station operates 18 hydro-turbines, each with capacity of 250MW, produced by the Leningrad Metal Works ("LMZ") in the 1960's. Plant is the

second level of the Angara Hydroelectric Stations cascade. Since its full commissioning in 1967, the station was the world's single biggest power producer until Canada's Churchill Falls in 1971. Annually the station produces 22.6 billion kWt/h.

The precious 80 tonne cargo was transported to Pulkovo International airport of Saint-Petersburg where it was loaded on Antonov An-124-100 Ruslan to made all the way to Bratsk by air. On October 4, 2006 it landed in the Bratsk airport. In two days the unit 16 replacement arrived to the assemble place on the Angara river.

Sergey Emdin, CEO of IrkutskEnergo JSC, noted the press that the Bratsk plant reconstruction project includes not only the economical, but the ecological aspect by reducing carbon dioxide emission for 6 million tonnes for the period of 2008-2012.

In 2006 and 2007 an old plant is scheduled to receive two more working wheels - by one for each year respectively, and in 2008 and 2009 another four - by two for each year.

Blunkett defines the main task for us all

In today's Guardian newspaper, David Blunkett, former British Home Secretary and a leading light in the Labour party, is reported as saying that "The main task for all of us is to make sure that in years to come Iraq is not seen as Blair's legacy". The Daily Mail, of the same date, reports an interview with Blunkett to the same effect.

It is significant that one so close to the Prime Minister should regard Iraq as an episode that would

detract from Tony Blair's reputation in history.

Goalkeeper Fabien Barhez last match will be said to be also the one against Materazzi

In the 2006 World Cup final, Fabien Barhez's mistake allowed Materazzi to score a decisive goal. The baldkeeper, who'll be remembered for being top-head kissed at the start of each international match by teammate Laurent Blanc, was desperately hoping for revenge against Italy last September in the Stade de France but Grégory Coupet became the #1 rated French football goalkeeper therefore pushing Fabien in retirement announced officially yesterday.

All Ferrari front row for 2006 Japanese Grand Prix

Ferrari driver Felipe Massa and his teammate Michael Schumacher won the front row on the FIA Formula-1 2006 Fuji Television Japanese Grand Prix on the Suzuka International Racing Course. On the dying minutes of the qualification Massa suddenly overtook the seven times world champion thus winning the pole for the red team.

Ralf Schumacher's Toyota amazed Japanese fans, showed third result, followed by the other Toyota of Jarno Trulli. Renault drivers Fernando Alonso and Giancarlo Fisicella classified after him.

Not a bad result for another Japanese team - Honda drivers Jenson Button and Rubens Barrichello on the fourth line of the grid.

Today in History

451: The Council of Chalcedon, the fourth ecumenical council in Christianity, opened. It repudiated the Eutychian doctrine of monophysitism, and set forth the Chalcedonian Creed.

1871: Two historic fires, the Great Chicago Fire and Wisconsin's Peshtigo Fire, broke out in the U.S. Midwest.

1962: The Spiegel scandal: Newsmagazine Der Spiegel uncovered the sorry state of the West German armed forces (the Bundeswehr), then facing the communist threat from the east. The magazine was accused of treason shortly afterwards.

1967: Marxist revolutionary and guerrilla leader Che Guevara was captured near La Higuera, Bolivia.

2005: A major earthquake killed over 74,500 people in Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan.

Quote of the Day

Does the prophet see the future or does he see a line of weakness, a fault or cleavage that he may shatter with words or decisions as a diamond-cutter shatters his gem with a blow of a knife?
~ Frank Herbert in Dune

Word of the Day

anathema; n

1. A ban or curse pronounced with religious solemnity by church authority.
2. Any person or thing anathematized, or cursed by ecclesiastical authority.

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