



### Top Stories

#### Edvard Munch's The Scream and Madonna found



Police have said that Edvard Munch's paintings, The Scream and Madonna have been found.

#### Canada's Defence Minister visits Canadian troops in Afghanistan

As public opinion wavers over



Canada's involvement in Afghanistan, Defence minister

Gordon O'Connor made an appearance to shore up support among the troops for the Afghan mission.

### Featured story

#### U.S. calls for sanctions against Iran



The U.S. State Department has called for sanctions against Iran and has also said that Iran has not indicated to

the United Nations that they intend to follow through with halting their nuclear program.

### Wikipedia Current Events

•Bristol-Myers Squibb and Sanofi-Aventis win a court ruling in the US banning Apotex from selling a generic version of Plavix. Apotex had won over 50% of all US prescriptions since the sale of the drug began on August 8.

### Wikipedia Current Events

•Multiple rocket and bomb attacks in Baghdad kill at least 43 people and injure more than 100 others.

•Warren Jeffs waives his extradition hearing, and will be extradited to Washington County, Utah, where he will first face charges as an accomplice to bigamy and rape in arranging polygamous marriages between older men and underage girls. He also faces similar charges in Arizona, and federal charges in connection with his flight from justice.

•Israeli police storm the British Embassy in Tel Aviv to capture a man who broke in and demanded asylum, threatening to kill himself if his demands were not met.

•The future of UK model manufacturer Airfix, founded in 1939, is in doubt after the financial collapse of parent company Humbrol. Company administrators declare they wish to sell the Airfix brand.

•Syria welcomes Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who said yesterday that the two countries will "build a new world" free of U.S. domination and vowed to one day "dig the grave of U.S. imperialism." State Department spokesman Tom Casey retorts that Chavez should remind Damascus about its international obligations to prevent Hezbollah from receiving weapons.

•Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the President of Iran stated that Iran

### Wikipedia Current Events

had the right to use nuclear technology on the day that a United Nations Security Council deadline expires. President Ahmadinejad said: "They should know that the Iranian nation will not yield to pressure and will not let its rights be trampled on."

•Norwegian police announce they have recovered the Edvard Munch paintings The Scream and Madonna, stolen in 2004.

#### Annan demands Hezbollah free abducted soldiers and Israel lift blockade

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan called on Hezbollah, Monday, to release the two Israeli soldiers who were abducted on July 12.

Annan also urged Israel to lift its air and sea blockade of Lebanon faulting it for not meeting the requirements of the UN resolution governing the 15 day old ceasefire. The UN leader made his comments in Beirut following talks with Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora.

"It's a fixed menu. . . . It's not an a la carte menu where you choose and pick," said Annan of the ceasefire provisions and the failure of both sides to fulfill them. He said that the truce had created the opportunity for a "long-term ceasefire and a long-term peace" but that all sides of the conflict had to fully implement the UN Security Council resolution for that to occur.

Israel responded to Annan's comments by saying it intended to continue the blockade until international forces are deployed along Lebanon's border with Syria and other entry points in order to stop arms shipments to Hezbollah.

"Once the international forces are fully in place and they're able to prevent the smuggling of weapons to Hezbollah, there will be no need for the air and naval blockade," said David Baker speaking on behalf of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Annan said that the Lebanese army, not the international force, should have the responsibility of policing the border with Syria saying that the deployment of peacekeeping troops on the border of two countries that have not been at war would be unprecedented. Syrian President Bashar Assad has said having international forces on the country's border would be a "hostile" act.

He stressed that southern Lebanon must become an arms free zone, "In Lebanon, there should be - as we have all agreed - one law, one authority, one gun," he said, and that the disarmament of Hezbollah must be achieved by national agreement within Lebanon and could not be implemented by international forces.

Annan's visit to Lebanon is the first leg of a tour of the Middle East aimed at propping up the ceasefire. He will also be visiting Israel, Syria, the Palestinian Territories and Iran.

### **Space shuttle Atlantis set to launch on September 6**

NASA says it will launch the space shuttle Atlantis on Wednesday, September 6 at 12:29 p.m..

Countdown until launch will begin on Sunday.

NASA officials also say that the shuttle, launch pad and facilities at the space center suffered no damage from tropical depression Ernesto.

"We had no damage. Zero. Nada. We fully anticipate being ready to go as early as September 6," said Bruce Buckingham, a spokesman for NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

"There was no water intrusion in any operational areas, and so basically we came through this one unscathed," said Bill Johnson, a spokesman for NASA.

If any delay causes the shuttle not to launch on Wednesday, NASA will attempt another launch two days from Wednesday.

A bolt of lightning struck the launch pad which caused NASA to delay the shuttle launch. No damage was sustained when the bolt hit.

### **Wikinews Shorts: August 31, 2006**

#### [UK Ferry investigated after yacht deaths](#)

The United Kingdom's Marine Accident Investigation Board investigators are examining the Black Box on P&O's *Pride of Bilbao* regarding the unexplained sinking of a 27 ft (8 m) yacht, the *Ouzo*, and the drowning of Rupert Saunders, Jason Downer and James Meaby in the English Channel.

#### [Reports: Richard Armitage identified as Plame leak source](#)

The New York Times reports that former deputy secretary of state, Richard Armitage has admitted being the initial source leaking the identity of former CIA agent

Valerie Plame, citing lawyers involved in the investigation into the affair. According to the sources, Armitage revealed the identity to columnist Robert Novak in 2003 in a "casual conversation". He is reported to have informed the FBI of his disclosure and has not been charged with revealing the identity of a covert operative.

### **Portuguese troops leave for Lebanon in October**

Portugal's Superior Council of National Defence (CSDN) decided Wednesday the composition of the countries' participation in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The decision reached by the Superior Council of National Defence yesterday evening will be to send a Engineering Company with 140 troops as part of its participation in UN's peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

At the end of the Council's meeting CSDN's spokesman, General Goulão de Melo told the journalists that the Portuguese contingent would participate in the "reconstruction of the infrastructures destroyed during the war", adding that the duration of the mission will be established in agreement with the UN's established calendar.

Portugal's Defense Minister Nuno Severiano Teixeira said Wednesday night, during a news conference that the Company, based in Santa Margarida, near Abrantes, will be deployed on October 14, integrating this way what the Minister considers UNIFIL' third generation forces.

"They will be on the ground but they are not a fighting force; they will be working on reconstruction so the risk they face is moderate",

Teixeira said.

This confirms what already was foreseen by defence specialists, due the fact that Portugal doesn't have any adequate means available for the Lebanese Theater of Operations, and since countries like Germany and the Netherlands already confirmed the possibility of sending warships, a Portuguese offer of a frigate to patrol the Lebanese coast would become redundant.

Also at the meeting held by the CSDN the reduction of the Portuguese participation in international peacekeeping missions was approved. The Defense Minister responded by saying that Portugal already has manifested the interest in reducing its participation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also the reduction of the Portuguese Marines currently in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is scheduled to begin on November.

The Portuguese participation in the UNIFIL is calculated in €9.3 millions. Portugal will spend this year about €88.4 millions with all its international missions in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor and Kosovo.

### **Edvard Munch's The Scream and Madonna found**

Norwegian Police have said that the stolen Edvard Munch's "The Scream" and "Madonna" masterpiece paintings which were stolen by art thieves have been found.

According to officers, the two paintings were recovered in "police action". "We are 100% certain they are the originals. The damage was much less than feared," police

said.

In a press conference in Oslo, Norway, police chief Iver Stensrud said: "For two years and nine days we have been hunting systematically for these pictures and now we've found them."

He also added that police suspect the paintings had remained in Norway since they were taken. "We feel we have been hot on the trail of the paintings the whole time, but it has taken time," he said.

They were stolen by art thieves in August 2004 from the Munch Museum in Oslo. Bjoern Hoen, 37, Petter Tharaldsen, 37, and Petter Rosenvinge, 34, were found guilty of stealing the paintings after a trial this May.

"The Scream" was completed in 1893. It is regarded by many as being one of Munch's most important pieces of work, and is his most recognizable piece amongst the general public.

### **Kids TV star Lunar Jim to tour malls in Canada**

Lunar Jim, the star of an stop-motion animated series for preschooler, will be touring Canadian malls this fall. Produced by Alliance Atlantis, the tour will run from September 9 to October 14.

The tour will feature part of Jim's lunar village, an inflated replica of his home on Moona Luna. Also at the events will be a colouring activity, an area to play with the recently launched Fisher-Price toys, and have their photo taken with a costumed character version of Jim, and cut-out characters of the rest of the cast.

The tour co-incides with the

launch of Lunar Jim toys by this month. Canadians can watch the series on CBC and Société Radio-Canada (SRC) the french version of CBC.

- Coquitlam Centre (Coquitlam, British Columbia): September 9 - 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Landsdowne Centre (Richmond, British Columbia): September 10 - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Southcentre (Calgary, Alberta): September 16 - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- West Edmonton Mall (Edmonton, Alberta): September 17 - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Polo Park Shopping Centre (Winnipeg, Manitoba): September 23 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Northgate Shopping Centre (Winnipeg, Manitoba): September 24 - 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Square One (Mississauga, Ontario): September 30 - 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Upper Canada Mall (Newmarket, Ontario): October 1 - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Centre Mall (Hamilton, Ontario): October 7 - 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Masonville Mall (London, Ontario): October 8 - 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Mic Mac Mall (Halifax, Nova Scotia): October 14 - 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

### **Canadian union upset over Scugog councilor lowering flag**

A Scugog Township councillor Lynn Philip Hodgson lowered the town hall flag to half mast following an Edmonton-based medic, Cpl. Andrew James Eykelenboom, that was killed in a fiery suicide attack south of Kandahar.

It is part of a unionized municipal employee's contract to raise and lower the Canadian flag on township properties, a role supposedly written into CUPE Local 1785-01's collective agreement with the municipality northeast of Whitby, Ontario.

The municipal office in Port Perry, Ontario was closed and no union employees were on site.

"It only takes two minutes to lower a flag," said Hodgson.

His position as a town councillor is restricting him from commenting further until the union is dealt with.

### **Hard shoulder gets the soft treatment on British motorways**

Some of the United Kingdom's most heavily congested motorways are to have their hard shoulders converted into new lanes during busy periods, if a pilot scheme proves successful.

The idea is to create an extra lane at a fraction of the cost of widening the roads. The hard shoulders can be converted in less than 2 years as opposed to the 10 needed to add a new lane. A similar scheme has been running in the Netherlands for over 10 years and has resulted in a decline in accidents.

The pilot scheme will be in operation on an 11 mile strip of the M42 (south-east of Birmingham) from September, and may be extended to include parts of the M5 and M6. The pilot project has cost approximately £100 million as opposed to 5 times that amount estimated cost for adding a new lane.

The conversion involves building

lightweight gantries across the motorways to control the use of the new 'lanes'. Sensors will detect when congestion is forming and inform a control centre. Digital signs on the gantries will then notify drivers they may use the hard shoulder. New refuge laybys, complete with emergency telephones, will also be built at 500m intervals for broken down vehicles to stop. CCTV cameras will be added to the gantries to help spot stopped vehicles.

Whilst the hard shoulder is in use, speed limits will be reduced to 50 miles per hour, a reduced speed is already proven to improve journey times in busy periods as it deters lane hopping.

The Highways Agency, who are responsible for the new idea, said: "We get a big increase in capacity for a fifth of the cost and there is no environmental penalty because we do not have to extend the land boundaries of the motorway. It's all about making best use of the available space."

However there has been criticism of the scheme, with some saying that the loss of the hard shoulder will hinder emergency services - who use the hard shoulder to reach accidents on motorways. In 2005, ambulance bosses criticised drivers using the hard shoulder when paramedics were delayed in reaching an accident on the A127 in Essex. There are fears that accidents during busy period will be completely inaccessible once the hard shoulders are used in this way.

The AA Motoring Trust also expressed concerns, saying that the new scheme may confuse drivers and that a more consistent approach is needed (on other motorways the Highways agency is

adding in the extra lanes).

### **New UK donor laws may reduce organ shortages**

On September 1, controversial new organ donor laws, changes to the Human Tissue Act, come in to effect. The radical changes now mean relatives of organ donor card carriers will no longer be able to overturn their wishes. Under the current system 1 in 10 of all possible organ donations are stopped by the families of the deceased.

The new act (proposed in 2004) replaces the original Human Tissue Act 1961 and the Anatomy Act 1984.

Chris Rudge (MD of UK transplant) said, "Many more people could receive a life-saving transplant with the donors' wishes being given priority." He indicated that the new legislation could mean 400 extra donors a year translating to 1,200 more transplant operations (an average of 3 organs are used per donor).

The changes, which apply to England, Wales and Northern Ireland, are the result of a series of recent scandals. The Isaacs Report, published 2003, was held after Elaine Issacs discovered (in 2000) her husbands brain was passed on to Manchester University for research after his post-mortem, the report concluded that ethical considerations had been sidelined and that the Human Tissues Act (in its then form) was not followed. A further scandal involved Alder Hey hospital, where it was discovered that children's organs were removed without permission over a period of 7 years.

The new laws extend beyond Organ donation also covering

things like DNA theft (a new offence involving the taking and testing of genetic material without consent) or the illegal storage of human tissue (with the penalty of up to 3 years in jail).

The act will modify the operation of the Human Tissue Authority (HTA); a relatively new body which will regulate these new laws as well as issuing licenses to organisations and facilities who perform post-mortems or who test, store or display human materials. The HTA said they expected to hand out around 500 licenses. Licensing is required from the start of the act (September 1) although storage of human tissue for therapeutic use will not be licensed till April 2007.

The new laws mean consent must be given for any kind of storage or research to be carried out. Adrian McNeil (Chief executive) said, "Consent is the underlying principle on which this act is based. This is an important milestone for the HTA, and for patients, the families and professionals."

Other organisations welcomed the act, Professor Alex Markham of Cancer Research UK said that "Cancer Research UK is hopeful that this new regulatory framework will give researchers the support they need to carry out their work."

However some have criticised the changes, saying they are worried that researchers will not be able to cope with the additional administration and that tissue would be even harder to obtain for research.

### **Plane carrying arms to Nepal detained in Gujarat**

A Russian-made aircraft carrying

sophisticated arms and ammunition to Nepal has been detained in Ahmedabad. The Jana Astha reported that the plane's cargo, which was comprised of rifles, ammunition and anti-aircraft guns, was probably made in Israel. The lack of documents regarding the cargo made Indian authorities suspicious, prompting them to order the aeroplane to land after it entered Indian airspace. The plane, headed for Kathmandu has been on the tarmac at the Sardar Patel International Airport for six days now.

According to reports, the consignment is part of a deal struck between Nepal and the manufacturer of the arms, at a time when both India (the largest supplier of arms to Nepal) and the U.S have suspended military dealings with the King to show their displeasure at his attempts to suppress democracy in his country. India has contacted the Nepalese embassy in New Delhi about this matter

India has long been supplying military equipment to its Himalayan neighbour, that too at a 70% subsidy. Many Nepalese governments however, failed to make payments, thereby resulting in a credit amount of several million rupees. India waived the dues as a goodwill gesture when Nepal's PM Girija Prasad Koirala visited New Delhi this June.

### **Bull kills New Zealand man**

Peter William Raeburn Hunter, a 61-year-old stock agent from Hastings, New Zealand, died early yesterday morning from a rampaging friesian bull. The bull first flung recently married Hunter in the air and then gored him at Stortford Lodge saleyards in Hastings.

Hunter had tried to escape into another yard but the bull rammed him against the yard rails. He then fell to the ground but the bull didn't stop attacking him until another agent came to his aid and hit the animal on the nose with a stick.

Bruce Campbell, yards manager, said: "The agent was behind an alleyway gate which the bull lifted off its hinges. It was awful and has given us all a real shake-up."

Hunter was then transported to Hawke's Bay hospital but died before he got to the hospital.

The bull has now been shipped to Palmerston North on a truck to be slaughtered after the police declined the request to shoot the bull dead at the lodge. Acting Sergeant Andy Clinton said: "It calmed down and they had no problems loading it on the truck."

It was the first death at the lodge in the 103 years that it has been operating.

Friesian bulls are not normally dangerous.

"Peter was very much a valued member of the local team," Elders Livestock, managing director, Stuart Chapman said. "It's a freak accident, an absolute tragedy."

### **Astronomers witness supernova**

Scientists using NASA's Swift Satellite and other telescopes have observed a supernova in near real time occurring in the constellation of Aries. The explosion is said to be the most powerful explosion known to scientists, which consists of a gamma-ray burst or an x-ray blast. Scientists say that bursts signal the beginning of a star's

death.

Swift first detected the explosion on February 18 (it was given a designation GRB 060218), which allowed telescopes and satellites to watch the event as it happened. The blast lasted for more than 2,000 seconds (33 minutes).

"This is totally new and unexpected. This is the type of unscripted event in our nearby universe that we hoped Swift could catch," said Neil Gehrels, Swift principal investigator at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

"Those observations capture the time when the star collapsed, ejected its outer envelope and most of its mass and left a compact remnant behind. And we think that compact remnant is a neutron star," said an author writing for journal *Nature*, where the report will be published on Thursday.

Scientists are also planning on using the Hubble Space Telescope and the Chandra X-ray Observatory in an attempt to get more images of the event.

The star is at least 440 million light years from Earth. The group of scientists was led by Sergio Campana of the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics and Alicia Soderberg, a graduate student at Caltech in Pasadena, California.

Swift was launched in November of 2004.

### **Wikinews interview with America's Got Talent finalists Celtic Spring**

Irish American dance and fiddle band Celtic Spring was recently a finalist in America's Got Talent.

Talent was a NBC television series search for America's next big talent, featuring singers, dancers, magicians, comedians and other talents of all ages. The series was hosted by Regis Philbin, and judged by former tabloid editor Piers Morgan, singer Brandy, and actor/singer David Hasselhoff.

The mother of the family, Mary McCauley Wood, talked to Wikinews about their group's performances and the America's Got Talent experience.

Q: For readers who didn't watch America's Got Talent, how did Celtic Spring first start?

A: Celtic Spring had its beginnings in my interest to pass on the culture of my grandparents to our children. My grandparents were from Ireland, and they loved their culture and passed on a love of the culture to me. I wanted to pass the love on to our children so when each one turned four years old, he or she began to learn to play the fiddle and to Irish dance. We never intended to be a performing family, but the children loved the music and dance and became quite accomplished at an early age. We also began going to fiddle camps when the children were very young. At the camps great fiddlers are brought in from Ireland, Scotland, Cape Breton, Shetland Islands, etc. and the children would learn the tunes "by ear" from amazing musicians who would teach the music and provide enough inspiration for the whole year. Ten years ago our children began fiddling at a local farmers' market to earn money for fiddle camp and thus Celtic Spring was born.

Q: Celtic Spring was consistently a fan-favorite, as one of the Viewer's Choice in the semi-finals, and in the top 5 of the finals. Why do you

think America loved your performance as it did?

A: America loved Celtic Spring's performance because the Irish fiddle music is beautiful to listen to and the Irish stepdancing is awesome; furthermore, Celtic Spring members are excellent musicians and dancers. I think people love that they are all one family and that they also fiddle and dance at the same time.

Q: Overall, are you satisfied with the experience America's Got Talent provided?

A: Celtic Spring had a wonderful experience with America's Got Talent. We were thrilled that our audience liked our performance so much! We also had a great time getting to know the other performers and all the staff at the show. The talent and the staff became like a big family. Most of all, we liked having all that time together as a family. We are sad that the show has ended and all the family have expressed the sadness. We are grateful for all the friends and fans we have made through the show and hope to meet them as we perform around the country.

Q: Who was everyone's favorite competitor, at any point in the competition?

A: We really liked all the talent who made it to the finals. They were all good, decent people, who had worked very hard to get where they were at that point in their lives. We especially enjoyed all the other young people. Our children travelled to New York City with the cloggers (All That) for The Today Show and had fun getting to know them better. We liked the Millers, Taylor, and Bianca, and became good friends with David and Dania. They were very sympathetic when Piers first said to "dump your mum, dad, and

little brother." I think they were shocked when then Piers "attacked" them. We decided that Piers went after the family acts: the Millers, Celtic Spring, and David and Dania (who were a married couple.)

Q: Who was your favourite judge?  
A: We actually liked all three judges. Until we came before Piers in the semi-finals, we thought his judging was good and we mostly agreed with him. We were shocked what he said to us, but happy that he could not find something specific to criticise. He never said why we should "dump" the parents and the little brother. After we had won the semi-finals, he said "You are brilliant!" We also very much liked David. During the all the time of filming, we got to know him and we realized that he is different in real life than the show depicted him. We were really touched and happy, and felt like we had won the million dollars, when at the end of the show, he presented us with a photo of himself that said: To Celtic Spring! Your family values, your talent, your dedication is what me and all of America will remember. See you on the big stage soon!" We liked Brandy because by the finals we had her appreciating what we do. I think initially our Celtic music and dance was not a genre she was familiar with. I think she loved our rendition of "Amazing Grace"!

Q: Celtic Spring has performed across both North America and Europe. Where have audiences been the most responsive?

A: Wherever we have performed, our audiences have loved Celtic Spring. Music and dance are are a universal language and speak to everyone. One of our treasured memories of performing was when we performed in an Italian village for a really enthusiastic crowd with

whom we could not speak. But they loved our show and afterwards showered us with their treasures: a gold painted horseshoe, poems, books, etc... We were so grateful to be able to bring them joy through our music and dance. We also had great fun performing at an all boys boarding school in England. Afterwards they showed us all around their school, including the haunted corridors (if felt like something our of Harry Potter) and then shared their music with us: a jazz band and madrigals sung at dawn in the tower in the quad to welcome in May Day. When we perform we think we are giving something special to our audiences but we are deeply moved by what we get back: happy faces, stories, friendships...

Q: What's next for Celtic Spring?

A: Our hope is that Celtic Spring will have many more opportunities to perform. We would love to continue taking our music and dance around the world. We have begun recording our second CD which we hope to have out before Christmas. We are now practicing about eight hours a day to get the sets ready for recording. Then we hope to just keep on bringing joy and beauty to the world!

To find out more about Celtic Spring, visit their official site, [www.celticspringband.com](http://www.celticspringband.com) They run a web log (blog) at [celticspringband.com/newlog](http://celticspringband.com/newlog)

### **Tropical Storm Ernesto weakens**

Tropical Storm Ernesto has weakened over Florida. It is expected to make another landfall on the North Carolina coast as a tropical storm. Ernesto came ashore early this morning in the Florida Keys with less intensity than expected by forecasters. The

storm had weakened to a tropical depression as it moved up the Florida peninsula. It is expected to go to Charleston, South Carolina. Tropical storm watches have been issued for Savannah, Georgia, to Morehead City, North Carolina.

At 5 P.M. (21:00 GMT), Ernesto's sustained winds were about 35 mph (56 kph), as stated by the National Hurricane Center. The center of the system was still over Florida, about 55 miles (90 km) south-southwest of Cape Canaveral.

Forecasters say Ernesto could regain tropical storm status with peak winds exceeding 40 miles (64 kilometers) an hour.

"Ernesto has the potential to regain tropical storm strength on Thursday over the Atlantic," the hurricane center said.

Two deaths were reported in separate wrecks in Florida.

### **Today in History**

1715 - Louis XIV of France, the "Sun King", died after a reign of 72 years, longer than any other French or other major European monarch.

1923 - The Great Kanto earthquake devastated Tokyo and Yokohama, killing about 100,000 people.

1939 - Germany launched the Polish Campaign and attacked Poland at Wieluń and Westerplatte, starting World War II.

1951 - Australia, New Zealand and the United States signed a mutual defence pact known as the ANZUS Treaty.

1983 - The civilian airliner Korean Air Flight 007, carrying 246 passengers and 23 crew, was shot down by Soviet fighter aircraft near Sakhalin island.

September 01 is Start of the

Liturgical year in the Eastern Orthodox Church; Constitution Day in Slovakia; Independence Day in Uzbekistan.

### Quote of the Day

"Who is the happiest of men? He who values the merits of others, and in their pleasure takes joy, even as though 'twere his own."  
~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

### Word of the Day

brazen-faced; adj

1. Impudent; open and without shame.

2.

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