



### Top Stories

#### North Korea denies cooperation with Iran on nuclear programs

The North Korean government has denied reports in the press that the country is working with Iran to better their nuclear programs.

#### Thousands protest Iraq war in Washington D.C.

Anti-war demonstration were being held in Washington, D.C. and other cities around the world in order to call an end to the Iraq war and to bring back home the troops stationed there.

### Featured story

#### Students insulted on returned New Zealand exam papers

Two New Zealand students have been insulted when their exam papers were returned to them with rude remarks on them.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- Battle of Najaf (2007): US and Iraqi troops have killed about 250 militants in fierce fighting around the holy city of Najaf, police say.
- Sa'dah conflict: Six soldiers have been killed and 20 injured in attacks by Shia militants in the north of Yemen, officials say.
- YouTube's founder says people who upload their own videos to the site will get a share of the ad revenue.
- Roger Federer defeats Fernando Gonzalez 7-6 6-4 6-4 at the Australian Open, claiming his 10th Grand Slam victory.

#### MSNBC Poll: 87% of Americans would like to see Bush impeached

An unscientific internet poll on MSNBC shows 87% of respondents hold the opinion that President George W. Bush should be impeached.

According to the poll, the question, "Do you believe President Bush's actions justify impeachment?", saw 87 percent of respondents choosing "Yes, from secret spying, to war deceptions, and more." A total of 10.6 percent stated Bush should not be impeached, with 6.2 percent of total respondents saying Bush has committed no crimes.

No government officials have commented on this poll at the time of publishing. The poll is on-going as thousands of protesters marched Saturday in Washington D.C asking for an end to the Iraq war.

#### US and Iraqi forces kill 250 militants in Najaf fighting

In heavy fighting over control of the Shia holy city of Najaf, U.S. military and Iraqi army troops killed an estimated 250 militants, according to an official of the Iraqi Interior Ministry. 10 militants were captured, according to an Iraqi Major General. The dead and captured were part of a group of 600 militants based outside of the city who planned to take Najaf, attack pilgrims coming for the Shia holiday of Ashoura, and kill senior Shi'ite clerics, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani among them.

During the fighting, gunmen

launched a missile at a U.S. military helicopter north of the city, causing it to crash. The two crew members were killed, and their remains were later recovered, according to a military statement. Three members of the Iraqi forces were killed in the fighting, and 15 were wounded, according to an Iraqi police colonel.

#### Ferry hijacked to protest slogans in assassinated Turkish-Armenian journalist's funeral

Thousands of people marched in Dink's Funeral to protest his assassination, holding placards that read "We are all Armenian" and "We are Hrant Dink" in both Turkish, Kurdish and Armenian.

Previously, two major Turkish political parties protested these placards. In addition, a terrorist organization 'protested' these placards by placing a package, which was made to look like a bomb, to the wall of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM).

Tonight, a ferry was hijacked by a militant named Nihat Acar. Nihat Acar told security forces that he was a member of "Patriotic Turkish Guerrillas Union" ("Vatansever Türk Fedaileri Birliği") and that he placed explosives to the ferry. After 2 hours, Acar willingly surrendered to the Turkish security forces and stated that there was no explosives. The Turkish police is searching all the vehicles just in case.

A witness said: "When we were in the middle of the sea, an activist from downstairs opened a Turkish flag. A little later he started making announcements, I think from the conning tower."

The militant stated that he hijacked the ferry to protest the "We are all Armenian" slogans used in Mr. Dink's funeral.

### **David Cameron advocates a new "British" approach to a multicultural UK**

David Cameron, leader of the U.K. Conservative Party has outlined his vision for the future of a multicultural Britain in an article published in the Observer on January 28, 2007.

In a sharp criticism of the efforts launched by the Labour government to promote national identity - which include among other things a Britishness test for those wanting to become UK citizens - he advocates "a common culture defined by pluralism and tolerance and a distinctively British approach (calm, thoughtful, reasonable) to potentially incendiary issues."

Cameron agrees that there is a substantial alienation and division in the UK today and that "many thousands, maybe millions, feel shut out, under attack." However, he underlines that the way forward is not bullying people into Britishness but inspiring them to feel British.

According to him, this can only be achieved by offering equal opportunities and a quality education to everybody without denying anyone the chance to escape poverty and to fulfil their dreams.

### **Waitangi day or New Zealand**

### **day? United Future calls for a change**

New Zealand political party, United Future, has called for Waitangi day to be changed back to New Zealand day, as it once was.

Waitangi day is on February 6, each year and celebrates the Waitangi signing of New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

Honourable Peter Dunne, leader of the United Future party, has said that the recent celebrations of Australia day has shown that New Zealand really does need its own celebrations of that kind. "Across the ditch, Australians celebrate a day that is about one thing only - the celebration of their country and of being a citizen of that country."

However co-leader of rival political party, the Māori party, Doctor Pita Sharples has said to 3 News, that Waitangi day is very important, and if we need to have a New Zealand day, then that needs to be something different.

Dr Sharples has also called for more respect in terms of what the foundation of Waitangi day is and educating the public that the Treaty of Waitangi is a positive thing for New Zealand.

However, Peter Dunne said: "There is no doubt the Treaty of Waitangi has an important place in New Zealand's history, but having the Treaty the centre and indeed holding the naming rights for our day of national festivities, just politicises the day and invites unnecessary racial tension."

Sharples also says that there is no point in looking across the Tasman at what Australia is doing because we have our own identity, own founding document, our own

nation. Thus, we should go forward together.

Peter Dunne said: "The timing is right for New Zealand to actively and positively advance our national identity - starting with a new national day." He claims quite a lot of support for a change to the name in 2008.

### **Today in History**

504 - Sergius III came out of retirement to take over the papacy from the deposed antipope Christopher.

1850 - U.S. Senator Henry Clay introduced the Compromise of 1850, a series of laws designed to balance the interests between the slaveholding Southern United States and the free states of the north.

1856 - The Victoria Cross was created, originally to recognise acts of valour by British and Commonwealth military personnel during the Crimean War.

1886 - Karl Benz filed a patent for the first successful gasoline-driven automobile.

2002 - In his State of the Union Address, U.S. President George W.

Bush described Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an "axis of evil".

January 29 is Ashura in Islam (2007).

### **Quote of the Day**

### **Word of the Day**

thenceforth; adv

1. From that time on.

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+44-871-218-6397  
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