



Top Stories

US to deliver humanitarian aid to Georgia

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Speaking at 11:10 EDT (15:10 UTC) today, Bush also said that "the United States of America stands with the democratically elected government of Georgia. We insist that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia be respected."

Olympic highlights: August 14, 2008

August 14, 2008 is the sixth main day of the 2008 Olympic games, Wikinews' article lists some of the highlights. Visit the article to see the full medal table, in addition to summaries of all the major events.



Hezbollah strengthening, according to Israeli Defense Minister

On Tuesday, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak told troops training in the Golan Heights that Hezbollah and Syria are strengthening and that the delicate balance that Israel has had with the Lebanese militant group since the end of the Second Lebanon War is threatened.



Dead body left in UK hospital alongside living patients for seven hours

A dead body was left in a ward in Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland for seven hours before it was removed. Christine Martin, who saw the body, said that although there were curtains around the body, they "were open sufficiently for me to see this man, whom we had got to know over a period of 10 days, lying dead, face uncovered."

Wikipedia Current Events

Bill Gwatney, the current state Chairman of the Democratic Party of Arkansas is shot and killed at the Party headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas. The man who shot Gwatney is later shot by police during a pursuit.

•Princess Lilian of Sweden is taken to hospital after falling and breaking her hip.

•American swimmer Michael Phelps breaks the record for most Olympic gold medals won by an individual athlete at the Beijing Olympics.

•The Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announces a national day of mourning in Russia in connection with the Battle of Tskhinvali and the death of a large number of Russian citizens there. Georgian Orthodox Church Patriarch Ilia II announced the national day of mourning for soldiers and civilians who died during the 2008 South Ossetia war.

Wikipedia Current Events

•The investigation of what Russian officials called a 'genocide' started in South Ossetia. Some witnesses say that a church with civilians inside was burned by the Georgian Army in the captured Ossetian village in the first day of Georgian attack.

•Journalists may again enter the South Ossetian capital Tskhinvali as the city is mostly secured after Georgian retreat. The articles give new evidence of what the city looks like and what people in Tskhinvali think of the recent events.

•No reports of fighting after ceasefire in the the war between Georgia and Russia holds.

Arkansas Democratic party chairman assassinated by gunman

Bill Gwatney, chairman of the Democratic Party of Arkansas, died this afternoon at 3:59 pm CDT (UTC-5) after having been shot earlier this morning.

"He [the gunman] came in and went into this office and started shooting," said police Lt. Terry Hastings, speaking to reporters outside the party headquarters.

The suspect is Tim Johnson, a white male, described by Gwatney's secretary as wearing "khaki pants, white shirt, silver-gray hair, late 40s." He reportedly walked into the party headquarters facilities in Little Rock, Arkansas, conversed with the Chairman's

secretary, refused her offer of bumper stickers, and then walked past her saying he had to see the Chairman.

After the shooting, Johnson got into his blue Chevrolet pickup truck and led police on a 25-mile chase. The end result was the shooting of the suspect, who was airlifted to a hospital and eventually died of his wounds.

According to The New York Times, Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton issued a joint statement saying, "We are stunned and shaken by today's shooting at the Arkansas Democratic Party where our good friend and fellow Democrat Bill Gwatney was critically wounded ... Bill is not only a strong chairman of Arkansas' Democratic Party, but he is also a cherished friend and confidante."

Gwatney was also a car dealership owner and former state senator.

Officials admit that China faked part of Olympics opening ceremony

Officials representing the Beijing Olympic Games in China have confirmed that the organizations in charge of the Opening Ceremony for the 2008 Summer Olympics may have faked at least two parts of the production. The ceremony lasted a total of four and a half hours.

It has been revealed that nine-year-old Lin Miaoke, who performed "Ode to the Motherland" during the ceremony, was only a visual effect. A recording of another girl's voice played throughout the stadium and on the television and radio broadcasts. It is also now known that that some of the fireworks shown on television were computer-generated imagery.

The New York Times reports Lin's voice was not perfect, and a member of the Chinese Politburo demanded that a more suitable voice was used. Organizers found that voice in seven-year-old Yang Peiyi. Another girl was used in rehearsals, but she was deemed to be too old.

"The reason was for the national interest," Chen Qigang, the opening ceremonies general music designer, said Sunday during a radio interview. "The child on camera should be flawless in image, internal feeling and expression."

Filmmaker Zhang Yimou, the production's director, praised Lin at a press conference with Chinese media.

"She's very cute and sings quite well, too," he said according to a transcript of the news conference. "I was moved every time we did a rehearsal on this, from the bottom of my heart."

The initial performer was a ten-year-old girl who was not named in the report and "whose voice was really good," but Zhang decided that she was too old. About ten girls were auditioned for the role at Central People's Radio Station in Beijing.

"After the recording, we thought that Lin Miaoke's voice was not very suitable," Chen Qigang said during his radio interview with Beijing Music Radio. "Finally, we made the decision that the voice we would use was Yang Peiyi's."

During the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, tenor Luciano Pavarotti mimed to a recorded version of the song he was singing. The recording was of him, but the singer, then 70 years old,

had problems with a cold and opted to lip sync.

Sandy Allen, world's tallest woman dies at age 53

American Sandy Allen, recognized as the tallest woman in the world, has died at age 53 at her nursing home in Shelbyville, Indiana. She was 7 ft 7¼ in (232 cm) in height.

Even though she was officially named as the worlds tallest woman by the Guinness Book of World Records several websites list Yao Defen as the tallest. Yao's official height is disputed, however.

Allen's height was brought on by a tumor in her pituitary gland that caused it to release growth hormone uncontrollably. She had surgery at age 22.

In 1978 she appeared in the film Fellini's Casanova. She also appeared in a TV movie called Side Show and in a Canadian/American documentary film called Being Different. New Zealand band Split Enz wrote the song "Hello Sandy Allen" about her.

Because of physical limitation, she spent her last years in a retirement center. The center, coincidentally, is where Edna Parker lives. Parker has been recognized as the oldest living person in the world at age 115.

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Speaking at 11:10 EDT (15:10 UTC) today, Bush also said that "the United States of America

stands with the democratically elected government of Georgia. We insist that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia be respected."

According to Bush, the planned aid mission will be "vigorous and ongoing."

Bush went on to describe the methods used in the delivery of the aid. "A U.S. C-17 aircraft with humanitarian supplies is on its way. And in the days ahead we will use U.S. aircraft, as well as naval forces, to deliver humanitarian and medical supplies."

In the final parts of the speech, Bush focused on the responsibilities that he claims Russia has committed to. "We expect Russia to honor its commitment to let in all forms of humanitarian assistance. We expect Russia to ensure that all lines of communication and transport, including seaports, airports, roads, and airspace, remain open for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and for civilian transit," he said, continuing on the focus on the provisions of aid.

The crisis in Georgia started when, on August 7, following days of fire exchange with South Ossetian separatist units, Georgia attacked Tskhinvali, the capital of the region. The next day Russian forces entered Georgia and began to bomb targets in the country.

Olympic highlights: August 13, 2008

August 13, 2008 is the 5th major day of the 2008 Olympic games, the below article lists some of the highlights.

Women's 200m individual medley
Australian Stephanie Rice set a

new world record and won the gold medal in the final of the women's 200m individual medley with a time of 2:08.45, approximately 0.5 seconds quicker than the previous world record, which was also set by Rice.

Kirsty Coventry, who was representing Zimbabwe, won the silver medal and set a new African record, while Natalie Coughlin finished in third place with a time of 2:10.34.

Women's 200m freestyle

Italian Federica Pellegrini set a new world record and won the gold medal in the final of the women's 200m freestyle with a time of 1:54.82 minutes.

"I have reached three great aims — gold, the world record and getting past the wall of 1:55," said Pellegrini after the race.

Sara Isakovic, who was representing Slovenia, won the silver medal, while Jiaying Pang finished in third place with a time of 1:55.05.

Men's 200m butterfly

American Michael Phelps won his fourth gold medal of the Beijing Olympics in the final of the men's 200m butterfly with a world-record time of 1:52.03. It was Phelps' tenth career gold medal, the most won by any Olympian in any sport. He won despite suffering problems with his swim goggles, which he reported were filling with water during the event, hindering his vision.

Hungarian László Cseh won the silver medal with a time of 1:52.70, an European Record. Japanese swimmer Takeshi Matsuda won the bronze medal with a time of 1:52.97, an Asian Record.

Phelps beat his own world record of 1:52.09, set at the 2007 World Aquatics Championships in Melbourne, Australia. During qualifying, he had set the Olympic record at 1:53.70.

Men's 4x200m freestyle relay

The American team of Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte, Ricky Berens and Peter Vanderkaay won the gold medal in the final of the men's 4x200m freestyle relay with a time of 6:58.56, the first ever sub-7-minute time in the event. The win gives Phelps his fifth gold medal of the Beijing Olympics, keeping his hopes of passing Mark Spitz's individual gold medal record alive.

They were over 5 seconds faster than second-place Russia, who finished with a time of 7:03.70, still a European record. Australia was third, with a time of 7:04.98.

The previous world record in this event is 7:03.24, set by the American team (which Phelps, Lochte and Vanderkaay were a part of) at the 2007 World Aquatics Championships in Melbourne, Australia.

Phelps' leadoff leg was timed at 1:43.31, which was 0.35 seconds short of his 200m individual world record. Leadoff leg splits in relays can be used for individual records at the same distance.

Women's 69kg weightlifting

China's Liu Chunhong set three new world records in group A of the women's 69kg weightlifting with a total score of 286kg, a snatch score of 128kg, and a clean-and-jerk score of 158kg.

Oxana Slivenko, who was representing Russia, finished in second place, while Natalya Davydova finished in third place

with a score of 250kg.

Hezbollah strengthening, according to Israeli Defense Minister

On Tuesday, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak told troops training in the Golan Heights that Hezbollah and Syria are strengthening and that the delicate balance that Israel has had with the Lebanese militant group since the end of the Second Lebanon War is threatened.

"The other side is getting stronger. It is not a coincidence that we are holding a large-scale intensive exercise here in the Golan," said Barak. "We're following closely the violations of the [regional] equilibrium by Hezbollah and Syria, and the strengthening beyond the fence."

Later, Barak told Israeli television that the Second Lebanon War "turned out into a major launching pad to upgrade Hezbollah's power." Barak also criticized the former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon and the Israeli government for not acting wisely "by not responding to Hezbollah's growing capabilities/"

These statements follow a move by the Israeli Security Council, which last week decided to hold the Lebanese government responsible for any attacks that Hezbollah creates.

Wikipedia Current Events

Saakashvili accused Russia of bombing Tskhinvali, South Ossetia's capital, and invading Gori. However, journalists in Gori report no Russian tanks seen on the streets. Anatoly Nagovitsyn, the Russian military's deputy chief of staff, categorically denied that there were any tanks on the

Wikipedia Current Events

streets of Gori, saying Russian forces were at an abandoned Georgian artillery base near Gori, dismantling it, but not inside the town.

- Sky's Jason Farrell claims he witnessed Russian armor moving at the outskirts of the Georgian town of Gori.

- British television's Sky Team was robbed near the Georgian town of Gori by a man who 'did not seem to be Russian'. The journalist Andrew Wilson claims 'he could not be sure the men who had pulled their car over were South Ossetian' either.

- There are counter-claims that the botnet attack on Georgia's internet infrastructure may be from individuals, and not from the Russian government.

- An unnamed 'senior U.S. NATO official' says that USA may withdraw from a major NATO naval exercise with Russia that is to begin on Friday.

- President George W Bush has said the United States will use military aircraft and naval forces to deliver aid to Georgia.

- President Bush sends United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to Paris and then Tbilisi.

- A Fokker F27-500 cargo aircraft operated by Fly540 Logistics Ltd. crashes in Somalia. Three people died.

- An explosion at a police station in the Pakistani city of Lahore kills at least three people, on the eve of the 61st anniversary of independence.

- Television and radio presenter George Lamb died in a windsurfing accident off Cornwall.

Today in History

1385 – Forces under João I defeated the Castilians in the Battle of Aljubarrota, ending the 1383–1385 Crisis in Portugal.

1842 – American Indian Wars: United States general William Jenkins Worth declared the Second Seminole War to be over.

1888 – A recording of English composer Arthur Sullivan's *The Lost Chord*, one of the first recordings of music ever made, was played during a press conference introducing Thomas Edison's phonograph in London.

1941 – After a secret meeting aboard warships in a secure anchorage near Argentia, Newfoundland, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the Atlantic Charter, establishing a vision for a post-World War II world despite the fact that the United States had yet to enter the war.

1994 – Leftist revolutionary and mercenary Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, known as Carlos the Jackal, was handed over to French agents by his own bodyguards.

August 14 is Independence Day for Pakistan (1947)

Quote of the Day

Life seemed to be an educator's practical joke in which you spent the first half learning and the second half learning that everything you learned in the first half was wrong. ~ Russell Baker

Word of the Day

rapacious adj

1. Voracious; avaricious.
2. Given to taking by force or plundering.
3. Subsisting on live prey.

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