



Top Stories

India's Home Minister quits as first political fallout of Mumbai attacks



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Hillary Clinton nominated as US Secretary of State



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United States President-elect Barack Obama has chosen his former presidential opponent, junior New York

Senator Hillary Clinton, to be his next Secretary of State. Obama made his announcement in a press conference in a Chicago, Illinois hotel, where he also named the rest of his 'security' cabinet.

Top Stories

Space Shuttle Endeavour lands in California



After windy and stormy conditions in Florida prevented its planned landing at Kennedy Space Center, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) decided to redirect the space shuttle Endeavour to California. It touched down successfully at Edwards Air Force Base at 1:25 p.m. local time, or 21:25, November 30, 2008 (UTC).

Wikipedia Current Events

seats in the National People's Assembly after legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau.

•The eruption of Nevado del Huila, a volcano in southern Colombia, causes at least 10 deaths and the evacuation of 12,000 people.

Hillary Clinton nominated as US Secretary of State

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Wikipedia Current Events

Rioting after a contested election in Jos, Nigeria, kills over 381 people and injures hundreds.

•Terrorist attacks at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, the Nariman House and several other locations in Mumbai, India, kill 183 people and injure hundreds.

•The people of Greenland pass a referendum regarding greater autonomy from Denmark.

•The Thai political crisis deepens as protesters seize two Bangkok airports.

•Brazilian officials declare a state of emergency as flooding in the Southern state of Santa Catarina causes at least 109 deaths and forces the evacuation of over 78,000 people.

•The PAIGC wins a majority of

"I think she is going to be an outstanding secretary of state. And if I didn't believe that I wouldn't have offered her the job and if she didn't believe that I was equipped to lead this nation at this difficult time, she would not have accepted," said Obama. "Hillary's appointment is a sign to friend and foe of the seriousness of my commitment to renew American diplomacy and restore our alliances."

Clinton promised to give the job "her all", saying that "the American people have demanded not just a new direction at home, but a new effort to renew America's standing in the world as a force for positive change."

Before Obama would make the nomination, former President Bill

Clinton had to agree to release information about the donors to his foundations. He has also agreed to disclose his sources of income to the United States Department of State and the White House.

Obama also named the rest of his security cabinet, confirming that he will continue with the current Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates. Obama also confirmed that retired U.S. Marine Corps general James L. Jones will be his next national security adviser and Susan Rice will be the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

All of the nominations will require confirmation by the Senate, once Obama takes office as President.

British charities form fund recovery group

A group of 26 British charities have formed a group to lobby the government to provide them with the funds that they lost during the collapse of Icelandic banks.

The group, called Save Our Savings, will in addition to lobbying the government will also lobby the creditors of the fallen banks.

The chief executive of Cats Protection and Naomi House, Peter Hepburn and Khalid Aziz, are acting as spokespeople for the group.

"Naomi House has been campaigning for the safe return of our funds since October, and we are not giving up until they are returned in full," stated Aziz. "The £5.7million we have at risk has been donated by our supporters in the local communities we serve. We owe it to them and the families who use Naomi House to keep up the pressure on the administrators

and the Government to ensure that this is done as soon as possible."

"The team at Naomi House has been working with Cats Protection to secure a place on the Creditors Committee; success will give the hospice a voice during the administration process," he continued. "Forming the action group, Save Our Savings, will help to achieve this, and by working together, we increase our chances of representation."

Vodafone begins 3G activation, services in NSW fail

Customers of Vodafone Australia in New South Wales, Australia have had issues with their service today as Vodafone activates its 3G network. Customers in NSW have had intermittent issues since 8:00 AM AEDT (2100 UTC). At 7:30 PM, Vodafone was yet to advise an ETA on a resolution.

Customers report a range of issues such as intermittent loss of reception, voice calls where no voice can be heard and the inability to access mobile internet and picture messaging.

Ahmed Mazloum, a spokesman for Vodafone, told Wikinews that the issues have been caused by the activation of Vodafone's 3G network.

"We have commenced switching on 3G on the network and this has caused an unforeseen issue with around ninety percent of the network in New South Wales," said Mazloum.

"We are aware customers may be frustrated with their lack of service, but they can be assured that Vodafone will be working around the clock until services are returned to normal."

In December 2007, it was revealed that Vodafone would commence a program to rollout 3G to 95% of the Australian population by December 2008. Vodafone's current 3G network is only active in capital cities and its 2G network covers 93% of the Australian population.

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Finance Minister of India P. Chidambaram has been appointed the successor of Patil. Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh would be handling the finance ministry now. Chidambaram has earlier served in internal security under the administration of Rajiv Gandhi in late 1980s. On Sunday, an all-party meeting was also convened by the Prime Minister to discuss the Mumbai attacks and evolve a consensus within all political parties on how to combat terror.

Shivraj Patil was already facing stiff criticism from Indian media and India's main political opposition party Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP). The key allies, such as Rashtriya Janata Dal of the ruling Indian National Congress, had already begun to raise voices for the home minister's resignation. The inefficiency of India's security and intelligence agencies to protect the people against a series of terror attacks in the past six

months was one reason for Patil's resignation.

Patil's resignation comes after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) met, in which Sonia Gandhi had made it clear by expressing unhappiness over the terrorist incidents taking place at regular intervals. The meeting was hostile towards Patil, as many other Union ministers spoke against him.

Chief Minister of Maharashtra Vilasrao Deshmukh had also come under fire in the meeting. Indian media agencies have reported that he would soon follow Patil and may have to resign under pressure. The Minister of State in the office of Prime Minister (PMO) Prithviraj Chavan is reported to become the chief minister if the Congress party high command decides to replace Deshmukh.

Patil was a former Speaker of Lok Sabha but had lost the 2004 parliamentary election from Latur constituency in Maharashtra. His proximity with Congress president Sonia Gandhi managed to get him elected to Rajya Sabha in July 2004. In 2007, Patil was a serious contender for the post of president after A P J Abdul Kalam retired.

Meanwhile, the Indian government is considering to stall the five-year old cease-fire with Pakistan and to end the dialogue process in order to send strong diplomatic signals.

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p.m. local time, or 21:25, November 30, 2008 (UTC).

NASA normally prefers to land space shuttles at its home base, Kennedy Space Center. In this case, NASA will have to transfer Endeavour atop a jumbo jet from California to Florida at an estimated cost of US\$1.8 million.

NASA had launched mission STS-126 on November 14 with eight astronauts led by Commander Christopher J. Ferguson. The mission was intended to make improvements to the International Space Station, including a new bathroom, sleeping quarters, and urine recycling system. The crew also successfully cleared metal shavings from a jammed solar wing rotary joint, which had affected energy production.

Upon the landing, Mission Control radioed, "Welcome back. That was a great way to finish a fantastic flight."

"And we're happy to be here in California," replied Ferguson.

150 beached whales die

Approximately 150 whales have died after being beached in a remote coastal area of Australia's Tasmania island state. They were discovered on Saturday. Many of the whales had been badly cut by jagged rocks lying on the shore.

Rescuers managed to save a pod of thirty whales that were trapped in shallow reefs by shepherding them out to the open sea by boat.

Last week another 60 whales were also stranded on another part of the island.

Gunmen kill 8 at Mexican restaurant

A group of at least twelve gunmen

have murdered eight people at a seafood restaurant in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, a city along the border with the United States.

According to Chihuahua state prosecutor's office spokesman Alejandro Pariente, the gunmen arrived at the restaurant in three separate cars, approached a group of people, and started shooting. Pariente added that no arrests were made.

Juárez has seen escalating levels of violence this year, mostly connected to the illegal drug industry.

PD-L takes lead in Romanian elections

The Democratic Liberal Party (PD-L) claimed victory in the first nationwide Romanian national elections since the country joined the European Union. With 71% counted, the PD-L has 33% of the vote.

Preliminary results suggest that the Social Democratic Party obtained approximately 32% of the vote, while the National Liberal Party received 18%. Voter turnout in the election was about 39%.

The results are not yet official.

Today in History

1848 - Franz Josef I becomes Emperor of Austria.

1908 - Child Emperor Pu Yi ascends the Chinese throne at the age of two.

1943 - A Luftwaffe bombing raid on the harbour of Bari, Italy, sinks numerous cargo and transport ships, including an American Liberty ship, the John Harvey, with a stockpile of WWI-era mustard gas.

1972 - Gough Whitlam becomes the first Australian Labor Party Prime Minister of Australia for 23 years.

1999 - The United Kingdom devolves political power in Northern Ireland to the Northern Ireland Executive.

Quote of the Day

Learned and leisured hospitality is the only antidote to the stance of deadly cleverness that is acquired in the professional pursuit of objectively secured knowledge. I remain certain that the quest for truth cannot thrive outside the nourishment of mutual trust flowering into a commitment to friendship. ~ Ivan Illich

Word of the Day

diurnal adj

1. Happening or occurring during daylight, or primarily active during that time.
2. (botany) Said of a flower open, or releasing its perfume, during daylight hours but not at night.
3. Having a daily cycle that is completed every 24 hours.

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