



Top Stories

Yemen election rally: 51 killed in stampede

At least 51 people have been killed in a stampede that occurred at a rally about 180 km south of the capital Sanaa.

Explosives found in Malegaon, Nashik

A bomb has been found at the Mohammadiya Madrasa shopping complex in Malegaon, detonators and gelatin sticks have been recovered by police in Nashik.

Featured story

Extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis strain emerges in South Africa

New research findings from South Africa on an extremely drug-resistant (XDR) strain of the bacterium that causes tuberculosis (TB) alarm experts. Dr. Tony Moll discovered the Extremely Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR-TB) in the South African region KwaZulu-Natal. In an interview, he said the new variant was "very highly troubling and alarming because of the very high fatality rate."

Wikipedia Current Events

• Belgian justice denies Flemish TV VTM's claims that the neo-Nazi group Bloed, Bodem, Eer en Trouw (BBET), close to the Flemish branch of Blood & Honour, was projecting false flag terrorist operations (although it does accuse the group, which included soldiers, of preparing

Wikipedia Current Events

bombings to "destabilize" the country, and prolonged detention of the suspects on September 12). VTM Flemish TV declared that BBET was preparing itself to kill Filip Dewinter, one of the leaders of the far right Flemish party Vlaams Belang, and to charge the Islamist movement for the assassination. In the ensuing confusion, they would have then assassinated Dyab Abou Jahjah, leader of the European Arab League

• The 61st Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund commence in Singapore.

• NATO members have failed to respond to a call from military commanders for reinforcements to try to quell the Taliban insurgency in southern Afghanistan, an alliance spokesman said.

• Dawson College in Montreal is the scene of a school shooting, with preliminary reports indicating at least two killed (one being the gunman) and 20 injured.

• Sectarian violence in Iraq: The bodies of 65 tortured and executed Iraqi men have been found all over the city of Baghdad.

Condoleezza Rice makes visit to Nova Scotia

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay made

a visit to MacKay's Nova Scotia riding, Pictou, Nova Scotia, yesterday. Rice spent 23 hours in Canada. She thanked people in Atlantic Canada who helped thousands of Americans stranded when their planes were forced to land in the region. Rice and MacKay travelled together to and from the riding. It was a 90-minute drive each way from Halifax.

At the reception on Monday night, she met with members of MacKay's family, his father Elmer MacKay, a former federal Tory cabinet minister. "Family means a great deal to me ... Wherever you go and whatever you're doing, there's nothing like really strong and great family. They keep you grounded," she told local dignitaries gathered at the Museum of Industry. "They remind you of the things that you did when you were 5 years old, and it's not easy then to lose sight of who you are," said Rice. "And so, Peter, thank you very much also for letting me share some time with your family."

"You don't get four hours of the secretary of state's time even if you're the Queen of England," said an American official.

Rice and MacKay took a stop at the Tim Hortons in Pictou, Nova Scotia.

The mayor, Sandy Cyr, of nearby Westville said, "This is the biggest thing we've ever had here and I've been here for 70 years."

She delivered her message as a two-day visit that focused on thanking Canadians for their support during the 9/11 crisis just five years ago. They discussed a number of issues including border security, Canada's role in Afghanistan, and support for the war.

20 shot by gunman at Montreal college

At 12:41 (local time), a man opened fire at Dawson College, in Montreal, Canada. Police report at least 20 people being injured. The gunman were reportedly killed at the scene by police. Students told reporters they heard several shots in the building at about 12:45 local time (16:45 GMT). One student told a local radio station that she saw two people who had been shot, including one who had been hit in the neck. The student said a friend told her four people had been shot.

Hundreds of students fled the building, and the area has been cordoned off. Nearby Plaza Alexis Nihon and Westmount Square were evacuated and the Green line of the Montreal Metro was shut down between Lionel-Groulx and Peel. Police officers wearing bullet-proof vests are keeping people away from the college. "They're telling me, 'Go the other way, lady, you're in the line of fire,'" said CBC News reporter Nancy Wood, who reported from the scene.

Local media have reported police hotlines have been established for loved ones to gain more information: +1-(514)-280-2880, +1-(514)-280-2805, and +1-(514)-280-2806. The Montreal General Hospital has also set up a hotline at +1-(514)-843-2839.

Police have reported that the situation has been neutralized as

of 20:06, 13 September 2006 (UTC). Police have been told to stand down and are no longer looking for new victims or shooters.

Dawson College is a CEGEP that hosts about 10,000 students.

Earlier reports suggested that there were between two and six gunmen, however, reports are generally that there were 2, maybe 3. Police have only confirmed that there was one gunman, who was shot dead "after police intervention,". They will not say anything about additional shooters.

Eyewitness reports have the shooter as a "stereotypical" black-trenchcoat wearing long haired male with a "retarded haircut". Other reports use the phrase "military fatigues" to describe one gunman's attire, and describe a "mohican haircut."

Up to 20 shots were fired over a period of 30 minutes.

Police have indicated 20 people have been injured in the incident. CBC reports that 16 people are injured, and 2 have been killed. Montreal General Hospital officials have stated that 11 people have been admitted with gunshot wounds, 8 of them in critical condition. A spokeswoman also stated that 3 others were taken to Jean Talon Hospital and two others were taken to the Jewish General Hospital. The spokeswoman went on to report that most of the injuries are to the abdomen and limbs, and one victim with an injury to the head.

Australia stingray deaths possible revenge for Steve Irwin

Following the days since Steve

Irwin died of a stingray attack, at least 10 stingrays have been found dead on two Australian beaches, with their tails cut off. While it was reported that fishermen occasionally cut the tails off stingrays they accidentally catch to avoid being stung, however, state fishery official Wayne Sumpton said that this practice was "uncommon".

It is suspected that these killings were done in revenge for Irwin. "That's the last thing Steve would want," said Michael Hornby, a friend of Irwin. However, other sources point out that fans of Irwin would generally not commit such actions.

In general, stingrays are not aggressive and will not attack unless provoked.

Meanwhile, a public memorial service for Irwin is planned next week.

Stocks Rally to Four Month Highs

After substantial gains yesterday, stocks rallied again this afternoon. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closing at 11,543.32 up 45.23 from yesterday and reaching it's four month high. This despite the fact that crude oil showed a slight rebound today of 21 cents closing at \$63.97 a barrel after seven days of losses, this occurred after the U.S. Department of energy reported that crude oil inventories fell more than expected last week.

US Air Force chief proposes using non-lethal military weapons domestically

The Chief of the U.S. Air Force, Secretary Michael Wynne, has proposed allowing the U.S. military to use nonlethal weapons for crowd-control within the U.S. He suggests that using

the weapons on U.S. civilians will mitigate concerns about the safety of the weapons when used abroad and reduce public relations problems.

"If we're not willing to use it here against our fellow citizens, then we should not be willing to use it in a wartime situation," said Wynne. "(Because) if I hit somebody with a nonlethal weapon and they claim that it injured them in a way that was not intended, I think that I would be vilified in the world press."

The US Air Force has paid for much research into nonlethal weapons, but Wynne says they plan to reduce spending until various injury problems are reviewed by experts, and resolved.

Some non-lethal weapons can also be used to disable electronic devices.

Yemen election rally: 51 killed in stampede

A stampede in a stadium in Yemen, where President Ali Abdullah Saleh was holding a pre-election rally, killed at least 51 people and more than 230 were injured.

Most of the dead are children as some 150,000 people had gathered. The stampede occurred when people were trying to leave after Saleh finished his speech.

The incident happened at Ibb, about 180 kilometers south of Yemen's capital, Sanaa.

Saleh has said family members of the victims will be compensated with a monthly salary.

Saleh who reversed his earlier decision not to re-run for elections has been in power since 1978 as

President of North Yemen and then head of the unified Yemen after North and South merged in 1990. First independent elections were held in 1999 in Yemen.

MIT's Emerging Technologies Conference 2006 makes selections

MIT's Technology Review magazine has announced the top 35 innovators under 35, the TR35, who are to be honored at the sixth annual Emerging Technologies Conference on September 27 and 28, 2006. The conference will also feature well-known inventors and entrepreneurs and showcase this year's emerging technologies.

Web 2.0 companies are well-represented, as Joshua Schachter, founder of Del.icio.us, has been selected as "Innovator of the Year", and search engine Jatalla chosen as an emerging technology. Christina Galitsky, of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, has been recognized as "Humanitarian of the Year" for her work in energy conservation.

Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, and Yair Goldfinger, inventor of instant messaging, will be among the speakers.

Past recipients of TR35 honors include Marc Andreessen, co-founder of Netscape; Jonathan Ive, designer of the iMac; and Max Levchin, co-founder of PayPal.

Explosives found in Malegaon, Nashik

Police in the town of Malegaon have recovered explosives from a yellow container placed in the Mohammadiya Madrassa shopping complex on Kidwai Road. A bomb disposal squad has been rushed to the site, and the surrounding area has been cordoned off. Officers from the Anti-Terrorist Squad,

along with IG P.K Jain and Superintendent of Police Rajyawardhan, are also at the site. Jain, however refused to confirm whether the device was a bomb, saying only that it was a "suspicious looking container with wires and a battery attached to it." He said that if it was indeed an IED, police would either attempt to defuse it, or detonate it in an isolated area.

Meanwhile, police in Nashik have seized 11 detonators, 5 gelatin sticks and a revolver from a building named Raj Sarthi. At least 38 people were killed and over 180 injured on 8 September, when three bombs went off near the Hamidia Mosque during the Shab-e-Barat festival. Although the communally sensitive town has so far been quiet, officials have once again declared an alert in Malegaon.

HP Chairman Patricia Dunn to resign

Hewlett-Packard has announced that the chairman of the company's board, Patricia Dunn will resign in January, following revelations that private investigators hired by the board to discover the source of media leaks had used false identities to obtain telephone records from service providers.

Chief Executive Mark Hurd will replace Dunn, though she will continue to remain a director on the board.

Bill Lockyer, California's Attorney General has indicated that company insiders are likely to face criminal charges.

George A. Keyworth II, a board member, accused of leaking information said he resigned only after Dunn agreed she would give

up her post.

The investigation company hired pretended to be others, a practice known as pretexting to obtain the phone logs of board members and journalists.

Two small studies indicate mandarin oranges may lower risk of liver cancer

In two separate studies, Japanese scientists have shown that eating mandarin oranges may decrease the risks of various diseases, including liver cancer, arteriosclerosis, and insulin resistance.

In one study, conducted at the Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, patients with chronic viral hepatitis were divided into two groups. The experimental group, consisting of 30 people, drank one cup a day of a specially prepared drink containing mandarin orange juice and added carotenoids. The control group, consisting of 45 people, did not. After one year, none of the patients in the experimental group had any signs of liver cancer. In the control group, four people, or about nine percent of the group, had developed liver cancer. The researchers plan to continue the study for five more years.

In a second study, performed by researchers from the National Institute of Fruit Tree Science and headed by Minoru Sugiura, 1,073 people from the town of Mikkabi, Shizuoka were monitored. The townspeople are known for their high consumption of mandarin oranges. An analysis of certain chemical markers in the blood of these people revealed a lower risk of liver disease, arteriosclerosis, and insulin resistance.

The studies are being presented during a four-day symposium called "Functional Foods and Health", which is part of the 232nd national meeting of the American Chemical Society from September 10 to September 13, 2006.

"Functional foods" is the name given to foods that can fight various diseases, including cancer and heart disease. In all, more than 50 papers are being presented at the symposium.

Commenting on these studies, Cathy Ross, a cardiac nurse at the British Heart Foundation, said that the studies confirmed the beneficial effects of fruits. "The more types of fruit and vegetables you can include in your diet the better."

In light of these studies, mandarin orange is being called a "super food", according to the Belfast Telegraph.

Speaking for Cancer Research UK, spokesman Ed Yong stated "These studies are far too small to tell us anything conclusive about whether mandarin oranges protect against liver cancer." He also stated "Cancer Research UK recommends eating five daily portions of fruit and vegetables as part of a balanced diet to reduce the risk of cancer. But it is unclear if any specific fruits have particularly strong benefits."

HP in phone record pretexting scandal

Hewlett-Packard (HP) is embroiled in a scandal over the alleged illegal investigation of its own board members over leaks from the board to the press. The company admits that it hired private investigators and that they used pretexting to get private phone records of its own directors. 'Pretexting' is where someone

pretends to be the customer when calling the phone company to get their phone records. It is illegal in the state of California.

The aim of the HP investigation was to find out which director(s) had leaked information to journalists. Venture Capitalist investor Tom Perkins resigned from the board on May 22, 2006 over the issue and requested that HP look into the methods used in its leak inquiry. The Federal Communications Commission is looking into phone companies who may have supplied the phone records illegally under California law.

Belgian terrorism suspects remain in custody as case details emerge

A court in Flanders prolonged the custody of 12 suspects on Thursday. Meanwhile, more details emerge in the case against alleged neo-Nazi group inside the Belgian army. They are accused of terrorism, weapons traffic and racism.

Most lawyers involved asked for their clients to be released, and will appeal the court's decision. One lawyer said the police was being influenced politically to make the arrests now, before the elections of October 8, and that his client was more of a "immature teenager and weapons freak". The prosecutor is calling some suspects weapons dealers, but the defence lawyers claim they are weapons collectors, and say that terrorism is out of the question.

A spokesperson for the justice department denied this formally, saying that "The weapons traffic of the suspects began to take too large proportions, so we couldn't wait any longer." She also said the army informed them that they

considered it too dangerous to take the soldiers involved along on uncoming international missions (Belgium is sending troupes to Lebanon).

The prime suspect and alleged leader of the group is Thomas B. The police thinks he has a neo-Nazi ideology and was planning attacks to destabilise Belgium. Thomas B. founded a splinter group of Blood and Honour called 'Bloed, Bodem, Eer en Trouw' (Eng: Blood, Soil, Honour and Fidelity), after the British headquarters of the skinhead organisation didn't let him found an official branch in Belgium.

T.V. station VTM claimed the police tapped into phone conversations where Thomas B. was talking about killing Filip Dewinter and Dyab Abou Jahjah, two political leaders and opponents in Belgium. That way, both sides would cause an uprising and they could seize the opportunity. But the prosecutor's office has formally denied the existence of specific plans to this end.

The police has discovered numerous weapons, and a video showing a paramilitary training, not only on military grounds but also under a bridge in the city Dendermonde. The police say the tape shows how they fire guns and throw Molotov cocktails on that location.

In the political arena, Internal Affairs minister Patrick Dewael has suggested a law to forbid far right criminal organisations. The plan was applauded by some and contested by others. Earlier on Friday, the federal government supported the proposal to give more power to the national intelligence services to fight terrorism. Minister of Defence

André Flahaut suspended 11 suspects inside the army. Prime minister Guy Verhofstadt said the entire affair was "a blame for the country and the army".

Today in History

786 - Harun al-Rashid became the Abbasid caliph upon the death of his brother al-Hadi.

1752 - The British Empire adopted the Gregorian calendar, skipping eleven days (September 2 was followed directly by September 14).

1812 - Napoleon's invasion of Russia: Napoleon and his Grande Armée captured Moscow, only to find the city deserted and burning.

1959 - The Soviet spacecraft Luna 2 crashed onto and became the first man-made object to reach the Moon.

1960 - The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Quote of the Day

"The acceptance of the principle of international cooperation is of immense importance for all states. Even the states which are most tempted to believe that they can stand by themselves have very much to gain by such cooperation. And for the smaller states — the weaker states — it is vital to all their hopes of liberty and justice."
~ Lord Robert Cecil

Word of the Day

- clandestine; adj
1. Done or kept in secret, sometimes to conceal an illicit or improper purpose.

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