



### Top Stories

#### Mujahedeen Army issues threat of attack on Vatican City

The Mujahedeen Army or Army of the Mujaideen, a group of insurgents in Iraq has posted a message on the internet threatening attacks on Vatican City in Rome, Italy.

#### Princeton report questions electronic voting machine security

Researchers at Princeton university report that Diebold AccuVote-TS electronic voting machines are vulnerable to extremely serious attacks that can steal votes, remain undetected and spread to other machines. Diebold disputes the findings

### Featured story

#### Opposition alliance wins power in Swedish elections

Sweden's centre-right opposition has narrowly won Sunday's general election, defeating a Social Democrat government for only the third time since the Second World War.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- New laws come into force across England, Wales and Scotland making the use of child seats in cars compulsory for all children under the age of 12 who are less than 4ft 5in (135cm) tall.
- American football player Maurice Clarett has agreed to plead guilty

### Wikipedia Current Events

on charges stemming from a robbery on New Years Day, 2006, and a car chase in August 2006. He will be sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison, with parole possible in 3 1/2 years.

- A suicide bomber has killed at least four Canadians in an attack on a NATO patrol in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar, Canada's military says.
- 11 killed in a suicide bombing in Herat, Afghanistan.
- Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf survives an assassination attempt when two bombs explode near the parliament building, killing 11 people.
- A chemical spill is reported on the International Space Station and a fire is feared, although this latter report proves to be unfounded.
- The vast majority of the population of Transdniestra, a self-proclaimed republic in Moldova, voted for independence and future accession to Russia, the central election committee said.
- Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei condemns the recent speech by Pope Benedict, claiming it is the "latest link" in "the chain of a conspiracy to set in train a crusade against Islam".
- Al Qaeda in Iraq calls for war against what it calls "worshippers of the cross" in response to the Pope's remarks.
- An influential Egyptian cleric,

### Wikipedia Current Events

Sheik Youssef al-Qaradawi, called for protests after weekly prayers on Friday

- Manasseh Sogavare, the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, accuses Australia of "heavy-handed" interference in his country's domestic affairs.
- Soyuz TMA-9 has launched at 04:08 UTC from Baikonur in Kazakhstan onboard with two member of ISS Expedition 14 Mikhail Tyurin, Michael Lopez-Alegria and with Anousheh Ansari, the second woman space tourist.
- New Brunswick general election, 2006: New Brunswickers oust Bernard Lord's Tories and elect a Liberal majority government under Shawn Graham.

### E. coli outbreak: 21 states at risk

A recent update in the outbreak of the E. coli virus was reported today in 21 states, which now include Illinois and Nebraska.

At least 112 people have fallen ill because of the virus, and one was killed.

In some of the latest cases, a resident of northern Illinois has fallen ill of the E. coli virus, and was immediately hospitalized for kidney failure linked to E. coli.

A Douglas County, Nebraska resident has also fallen ill by the same strain of E. coli, but was later reported to have not required

hospitalization, and has since recovered.

Dr. Robert Brackett, of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said earlier today that "...we want to make sure consumers are aware that they don't consume any of the fresh spinach. We don't know whether it came from the bag or another state. We just don't have the focus down that much yet,".

Brackett also said that most major spinach producers were voluntarily recalling their products. Several grocery stores in major areas had taken all products containing spinach off the shelves.

"While the FDA does not have the power to order a recall, we are working closely with the producers to encourage recalls." Brackett said.

They do have the power to seize contaminated products, but Brackett said investigators can't do that until they determine the exact source of the contamination.

Investigators have blamed a death in Wisconsin on the outbreak, said Dr. David Acheson of the FDA.

The victims are believed to be infected with the strain of E. coli called O157:H7, he told reporters in a telephone conference call Sunday night. Fifty-six were hospitalized, at least 16 with a form of kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome. Washing the leaves well will not necessarily offer protection, he said, noting that there is evidence that E. coli can get inside the leaf.

The FDA said Friday it linked the outbreak to products packaged by the California-based Natural Selection Foods/Earthbound Farm.

The company initiated a voluntary recall of all its spinach products with "best if used by" dates of August 17 through October 1.

Asked whether terrorism or foul play may be involved, Acheson said he had seen no evidence to support that theory, but did not rule it out. "In my job, I always have to keep that in the back of my mind as a possibility," he said.

Symptoms of E. coli infection include diarrhea and vomiting, and the bacteria can lead to more severe complications, particularly in the very young or elderly, including anemia and kidney failure.

### **Eva Avila crowned winner of Canadian Idol**

Eva Avila, 19, of Gatineau, Quebec was crowned this year's winner of Canadian Idol. Craig Sharpe, 16, of Upper Island Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador was the runner up.

The show was aired in the Air Canada Centre in Toronto and lasted two hours.

Former Canadian Idol winner Melissa O'Neil sang her new hit single Speechless. O'Neil was presented with a multi-platinum record for her single Alive by Craig Sharpe earlier in the show. Eva Avila also gave her a multi-platinum record for her self-titled album Melissa O'Neil. Nelly Furtado sang her new hit single Maneater from her new album Loose. The African Children's Choir also sang on stage with this year's Top 10.

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams and St. John's MP Loyola Hearn were in the audience to lend their support for Craig.

Avila won by approximately 131,000 votes, a margin of just over three per cent of the four million votes cast in the final.

"I'm just one tiny person on this planet but thanks to you guys, I'm feeling like I'm sitting on top of the world," Avila said Sunday.

Avila sang what will be the first single of her upcoming album: Meant to Fly, co-written by Chantal Kreviazuk and her husband Raine Maida. Sony BMG Music Canada is the record label that will be releasing her single on September 26. Her new recording was on the radio airwaves at 12 am. today.

"The fact that all Canada is voting and the votes were so close ... I'm happy that she won," he said. "I mean, I'm sad that I lost, but we are different and she's just amazing," Craig Sharpe said.

Canadian Idol host Ben Mulroney announced Sunday that Cyndi Lauper has agreed to produce one track for Avila's future album. Country singer Martina McBride has invited Avila to join her on her Canadian tour in summer 2007.

### **Ethane clouds found on Titan**

The spacecraft Cassini-Huygens has discovered ethane clouds using the Visual and Infrared Mapping Spectrometer [VIMS] on Saturn's moon, Titan. The spacecraft also suggested that ethane "rain" and "snow" may be falling from the clouds into liquid methane lakes.

"Our observations imply that surface deposits of ethane should be found specifically at the poles, rather than globally distributed across Titan's disk as previously assumed. That may partially explain the lack of liquid ethane oceans and clouds at Titan's

middle and lower latitudes," University of Arizona planetary scientist Caitlin Griffith in a statement on the Cassini-Huygens website.

"We think that ethane is raining or, if temperatures are cool enough, snowing on the north pole right now. When the seasons switch, we expect ethane to condense at the south pole during its winter," added Griffith.

Cassini recently took pictures of what scientists call "lakes and oceans" on Titan and scientists now believe that the oceans, filled with methane, may also be "rich" with ethane.

"We now know that Titan's surface is largely devoid of lakes and oceans. During the polar winters, we expect the lowlands to cradle methane lakes that are rich with ethane. Perhaps these are the lakes recently imaged by Cassini," said Griffith.

VIMS first detected the clouds in during flybys in December 2004 and September and August 2005.

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency.

### **Comedian pushes talk show host Charlotte Church over the edge, on air**

Comedian Johnny Vegas peevd talk show host Charlotte Church during his appearance. She slapped him, and shouted "Shut the fuck up", after he made numerous rude comments and stared down female audience members.

The comedian suggested Church looked tense, and offered the former smoker "have a cigarette."

Church has appeared in a national anti-smoking campaign.

When Church commented that she and he sang karaoke together in a hotel owned by her mother, Vegas replied "Yes and I shagged your grandma too."

Mentioning his 2004 movie *Sex Lives of the Potato Men* had bad reviews, he replied "Well I listened to your album and it was shit." Her album, "Tissues and Issues", reached #5 on the UK music charts.

The Charlotte Church Show has aired on Britain's Channel 4 since September 1, 2006.

### **Newspaper photos highlight New Zealand PM's husband's friendship with gay doctor**

Photographs published by the *Investigate* magazine and the newspaper *Sunday Star Times* has shown the Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Clark's husband, Peter Davis, being hugged and kissed by openly gay Auckland GP (General Practitioner) Dr. Ian Scott on election night 2005. The editor of *Investigate*, Ian Wishart, stated that at no time has *Investigate* ever suggested Davis is gay.

Wishart said that he has "Been targeting Mr Davis for months and has appealed for readers to send him details of his private life. [My] article makes no homosexual inferences and is merely an attempt to background Davis ahead of reports to follow."

*Investigate* has been publishing a series of stories involving Davis about an alleged incident overseas. They were tipped off by New Zealand law enforcement.

"The picture is all about trying to find out more about the alleged incident. [I am] working through

overseas sources to investigate the allegations. Regardless of what his investigation uncovers, the results will be published." Wishart also says there is more 'dirt' to come.

Clark has called it a "pack of lies" and labelled it as a smear campaign. "I've been aware of a smear campaign circulating for many months. Actively circulated by National Party people. And I've had countless friends phone me about it. It's been assiduously spread through circles in business, the law, accountants – it's just come from all quarters."

Dr. Scott is a close friends of the couple and was, according to Clark, "reasonably boisterous and drunk," when the situation occurred and Davis was "a bit disgusted," when he was kissed. "We have a particularly small group of very close friends . . . and Ian is right in there. He is one of our oldest friends as a couple. There is not a shred of truth to what Wishart says," said Clark.

"People just fall about themselves laughing when they see that was the great 'gay' allegation," Clark said.

Clark has partly blamed the *Exclusive Brethren* for the smear campaign as they were allegedly the ones who campaigned to unseat Labour and also allegations that they hired a private detective to follow Davis, the church has denied having any involvement. Clark has said "the smear campaign against her husband had spread far too wide for it to be the work of the Brethren alone," so she also blames Brash.

"I think the National Party has stooped to new levels with his leadership. I think we're seeing

the absolute desperation of, actually, the far Right in politics, which feels it has a right to rule, couldn't cope with losing three elections in a row and there's a desperation and nastiness about it and it will stoop to anything," Clark said.

Brash said that he rejects and condemns the rumour-mongering and a spokesman said: "he [Brash] nor any of his MPs were involved in spreading them [rumours]. National believes the private lives of politicians and their families should be just that – private."

A source for the National Party said that people had phoned in with the rumour and National told them to "go away."

Gerry Brownlee, Deputy leader of National, denies any National Party involvement. He said: "Despite Don Brash coming under fire for admitting his marriage was in difficulties amid speculation he had an affair, National is not in a vengeful mode and rejects any such suggestion. The private lives of the families of MPs should be left out of the public eye."

Media experts are passing off Investigate's story as poor journalism. Including the head of New Zealand Broadcasting School, Paul Norris. Norris said: "The leader of a party has to expect their private life to impact on their leadership but in this case it seems Clark does not have a lot to answer to. The story has very little substance."

Clark has denied that a meeting between Brash to discuss toning down personal attacks will take place. But does say a meeting between party representatives could be arranged.

Clark has told the New Zealand Police that she believes that they have been followed by private detectives. The police are yet to confirm that they are investigating the claim as of Monday morning. Clark said that she has been "told by a number of sources that private investigators have been hired to follow both herself and her husband, Professor Peter Davis."

### **US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence finds no link between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda**

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has found no link between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda. The 148-page report that was 3-years in the making states that Saddam Hussein was distrustful of al-Qaeda and regarded Islamic extremism as a threat to his regime.

U.S. President George W. Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney maintained since before the 2003 invasion of Iraq, that the Iraqi government had direct, operational links with al-Qaeda and was thus at least partially responsible for the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center buildings and the Pentagon.

More recently, during an August 21 presidential press conference, President Bush responded to questions by Ken Herman of Cox Newspapers concerning the sagging Bush poll numbers with:

President Bush - ...I don't think you've ever heard me say, gosh, I'd better change positions because the polls say this or that. I've been here long enough to understand you cannot make good decisions if you're trying to chase a poll. And so the second part of your question is, look, I'm going to

do what I think is right, and if people don't like me for it, that's just the way it is.

Ken Herman - Quick follow-up. A lot of the consequences you mentioned for pulling out [of Iraq] seem like maybe they never would have been there if we hadn't gone in. How do you square all of that?.

President Bush - I square it because, imagine a world in which you had Saddam Hussein who had the capacity to make a weapon of mass destruction, who was paying suiciders to kill innocent life, who would -- who had relations with Zarqawi... terrorists attacked us and killed 3,000 of our citizens before we started the freedom agenda in the Middle East.

Ken Herman - What did Iraq have to do with that?

President Bush - What did Iraq have to do with what?

Ken Herman - The attack on the World Trade Center?

President Bush - Nothing, except for it's part of -- and nobody has ever suggested in this administration that Saddam Hussein ordered the attack. Iraq was a -- the lesson of September the 11th is, take threats before they fully materialize, Ken. Nobody has ever suggested that the attacks of September the 11th were ordered by Iraq. I have suggested, however, that resentment and the lack of hope create the breeding grounds for terrorists who are willing to use suiciders to kill to achieve an objective. I have made that case...

43% of Americans believe that Saddam Hussein was personally involved on the attacks of September 11th, 2001 according

to Opinion Research Corporation for CNN.

### **Two more found guilty in 1993 Mumbai blasts case**

The special TADA court hearing the 1993 Mumbai bombings case has found two of the accused, Asghar Mukadam and his accomplice Qureshi guilty of executing the explosion near Plaza Cinema that killed 10 people and injured 27. Mukadam, the manager of main-accused Tiger Memon (who is still absconding), parked a car laden with RDX near the theatre. Qureshi aided Mukadam by arranging for the explosives to be brought from Raigad to Mumbai.

Special Judge P.D Kode convicted Mukadam of 12 of the 14 charges brought against him, including abetting and intentionally facilitating the commission of terrorist acts, collecting funds for terrorist acts and conspiracy. Qureshi was found guilty of transporting the RDX via boat to the Maharashtra coast, and then bringing it into Mumbai. He was also found to have participated in the meeting where the bombings were planned, and visiting Pakistan to be trained in the execution of the attacks.

The TADA court began pronouncing the verdict in the 1993 bombings which killed 257 in 13 explosions, on the 12 of this month, and has so far found seven persons guilty in the serial blasts case. Four members of the Memon family were convicted last week, and Mohammad Shoaib Kasam Ghansar (Tiger Memon's hitman) was found guilty on Thursday.

### **Opposition alliance wins power in Swedish elections**

Sweden's centre-right opposition has narrowly won Sunday's general election, beating a Social

Democratic government for only the third time since the Second World War. The provisional results give 48.1% of the vote to the four-party Alliance for Sweden and 46.2% to the government and its two supporting parties, which translates to a seven-seat majority in the 349-seat Riksdag, Sweden's parliament. A detailed summary of results can be found in the Wikipedia article on the election.

Around 22.50 CET last night Moderate Party leader Fredrik Reinfeldt claimed victory at his party's election night vigil in Stockholm. Referring to the Moderates' renewal under his leadership, he said: "We stood for election as the New Moderates. We have won as the New Moderates. We will also - together with our Alliance friends - govern as the New Moderates." Prime Minister Göran Persson admitted defeat shortly afterwards at the Social Democratic Party's election night vigil: "We have lost the election, but we are not a beaten party. We will fight back." He said however, that he "would not lead the comeback", and announced his resignation as Prime Minister but also that he would resign as party leader in March 2007, at the party conference convened to choose his successor. Mr Persson has announced that he will hand in his resignation at 16.00 CET today.

The Speaker of the Riksdag, who in Sweden is constitutionally responsible for proposing a new government to the Riksdag, is expected to officially ask Mr Reinfeldt to form a government tomorrow. The opposition Alliance for Sweden (composed of the Moderate Party, the Centre Party, the Liberal People's Party and the Christian Democrats) had already agreed a common programme and on Mr Reinfeldt as its prime

ministerial candidate before the election.

The centre-right opposition has bounced back from a decisive defeat in the general election of 2002, when the Moderate Party's proposal of large tax cuts and disunity between the four parties led to the government increasing its majority. Commentators are agreed that the move of the Moderate Party towards the centre under its new leader Fredrik Reinfeldt and the agreements reached between the four parties of the centre-right on major policy areas were important in gaining victory. The Moderate Party in particular did well, achieving its best result since 1928 and making a gain of 10.9 percentage points, the biggest gain made by any party since 1914. In contrast, the Social Democrats had their worst result since 1914, with 35.2% of the vote.

The key issue in the election was employment. The opposition argued that more needed to be done to get people into work to support Sweden's generous welfare state, and proposed to cut income taxes on those with lower incomes and to cut payroll tax, especially for the private services sector and for companies hiring long-term unemployed. This was to be funded mainly by cutting unemployment benefit from 80% of previous income to 65% after 200 days. The opposition also argued for more choice in the welfare system.

The government pointed to Sweden's impressive economic growth, good fiscal situation and low unemployment rate of around 6%. They also attacked the opposition for wanting to undermine the "Swedish model" and attacking those who were

already most vulnerable by cutting unemployment benefit. The opposition countered by arguing that unemployment is higher than official statistics suggest because of the large numbers of people on long-term sick leave and in early retirement, as well as government employment schemes.

Sweden's new government will be presented to the Riksdag on 6 October.

### Iranian-American woman in space

An Iranian-American today became the first female paying passenger astronaut. Paying \$20 million for the trip, she replaced a Japanese businessman considered unfit. Forty year old Anousheh Ansari blasted off at 0410 GMT from the Baikonur base in a Soyuz rocket, in the company of Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin and US astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria, who will join German astronaut Thomas Reiter on the International Space Station.

Ms Ansari is a successful businesswoman in the telecom industry and put up the Ansari X Prize for the first privately funded trip to space won by Burt Rutan of Scaled Composites and his team.

The mission is expected to dock with the ISS on Wednesday.

### Today in History

1356 - Hundred Years' War: Despite a shortage of arrows, English and Welsh forces led by Edward the Black Prince decisively won the Battle of Poitiers and captured King Jean II of France.

1692 - Giles Corey, who had refused to enter a plea, was pressed to his death during the Salem witch trials.

1893 - New Zealand became the first country to introduce universal suffrage, following the women's suffrage movement led by Kate Sheppard.

1982 - ":" and ":" were first proposed by Scott Fahlman for use as emoticons .

1995 - The Manifesto of "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski was published in The Washington Post and The New York Times, almost three months after it was submitted.

September 19 is Independence Day in Saint Kitts and Nevis (1983), Armed Forces Day in Chile, International Talk Like a Pirate Day.

### Quote of the Day

"His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. And in the middle of them, with filthy body, matted hair, and unwiped nose, Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy."  
~ William Golding

### Word of the Day

reconnoiter; v

- To survey something (generally an enemy's land and position).

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