



### Top Stories

#### **Inmates take over Indiana prison, two employees injured**

Order has been restored after inmates took over an Indiana prison today at about 2:00 pm EDT after local and state police were called to the scene.

#### **20 tons of cocaine seized by US Coast Guard**

The United States Coast Guard has seized 20 tons (nearly 40,000 pounds) of cocaine with a street value of over US\$500 million in what authorities call the one of the largest cocaine busts in history.

### Featured story

#### **Entire fossilized forest found in Illinois, USA**

The 300 million years old rain forest, discovered by miners in a coal mine, is the largest fossilized forest ever to be found.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- Former Russian President Boris Yeltsin dies at the age of 76.
- Prime Minister Nouri Maliki calls for construction to be halted on the three-mile wall being built by the United States military around the predominantly Sunni district of Adhamiyah, Baghdad. Thousands of Iraqis also protest the wall.
- Nine U.S. soldiers are killed by a suicide car bomb near a United States Army patrol base in Diyala.
- Three of the six members of the Bali Nine – Tan Duc Thanh Nguyen, Si Yi Chen and Matthew

### Wikipedia Current Events

Norman – who were sentenced to death have launched a judicial review appeal with Denpasar's District Court.

- Barclays plc agrees to buy ABN Amro in a €67 billion deal.
- Umaru Yar'Adua is declared the winner of Nigeria's presidential election that EU observers said "cannot be considered to have been credible."
- NASA releases the first 3-D images of the Sun acquired by the STEREO spacecraft.
- The United States' 391st National Park Unit, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, is formally established.

#### **India's first commercial satellite launch**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced India's first commercial launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). It is carrying the Italian satellite AGILE which will gather information about the origins of the universe through imaging of distant celestial objects in the X-ray and Gamma ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

India joined the elite club of nations who have the capacity to deploy their space exploration resources for commercial use. Currently, only the United States, Russia, China, Ukraine and the European Space Agency have the capacity to deploy their space exploration resources for

commercial use. These nations dominate the commercial satellite launch services segment which is estimated to be worth \$2.5 billion a year.

The PSLV rocket only has the capability of carrying relatively lighter loads of under 1,000 kilograms, but ISRO hopes to increase payloads soon.

#### **New kids' drink sparkles up debate**

A new drink called Robby Bubble has sparked up some sparkled debate with distributors and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in Calgary, Alberta.

The drink, similar to sparkling wine, is a non-alcoholic sparkling drink which is currently for sale in Alberta liquor stores. The bottle has the words "Party, Party!" with cartoon characters. Their slogan is "Celebrate like the grown-ups" and is shaped as a champagne bottle. It is under the approval of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission.

Tracy Franklin, president of MADD in Calgary, said: "It's calling out to kids, but the whole thing is geared as a champagne bottle, as an alcohol product ... Do we want to give them something, although it's non-alcoholic, and have them partying like an adult?"

Other "adult products" marketed to children, such as candy cigarettes, have been banned in Canada. Studies have shown a link between the marketing of candy cigarettes to children and the promotion of

smoking in later life. It had been shown that tobacco companies cooperated with candy manufacturers in the design of candy cigarettes.

The Tobacco Act legislation in Canada has eliminated the ability of companies to market tobacco-looking products to children. In Section 27, the Act states, "No person shall furnish or promote a tobacco product if any of its brand elements is displayed on a non-tobacco product, other than an accessory, or is used with a service, if the non-tobacco product or service is associated with young persons or could be construed on reasonable grounds to be appealing to young persons."

President of the German company responsible for the distribution of Robby Bubble, Darryl Weinbren, defended his product saying it is non-alcoholic and parents are responsible for serving their children the drink.

"I can understand Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and certainly I respect their objectives and what they are after. There wasn't any intention from our point of view to encourage kids to drink alcohol. It was just a matter of trying to find something that would meet a family celebration with something for their kids."

A spokeswoman for the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, Marilyn Carlyle-Helms, said liquor stores can distribute non-alcoholic drinks and if there were a health concern they would have disapproved them.

### **Archbishop says abortion and euthanasia are 'terrorism with a human face'**

A Vatican City official has referred to abortion, and euthanasia as

"terrorism with a human face."

Archbishop Angelo Amato is the acting Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith which is led by William Cardinal Levada. He was addressing Vatican chaplains, when he made the remarks on Monday in a keynote address that opened an April 23 to 27 seminar in Rome with Catholic airport chaplains. The seminar's main focus is security and preparedness against acts of terrorism.

"[Abortion clinics are] slaughterhouses of human beings" and abortion is "abominable terrorism. [There are other] parliaments of so-called civilized nations where laws contrary to the nature of the human being are being promulgated, such as the approval of marriage between people of the same sex," said Amato, who has been a bishop for four years.

"For example, abortion is called voluntary interruption of pregnancy and not the killing of a defenceless human being, an abortion clinic is given a harmless, even attractive, name: centre for reproductive health and euthanasia is blandly called death with dignity," added Amato.

Amato called the press "a perverse film about evil. Evils that remain almost invisible" and also accused the press of "manipulating" their news content "to hide the tragic reality of the facts." Also listed as evil were "parliaments of so-called civilised nations where laws contrary to the nature of the human being are being promulgated, such as the approval of marriage between people of the same sex."

### **Earthquake in Chile triggers landslide**

At least 3 people have been killed and 7 others are missing after a 6.2 magnitude earthquake set off landslides in a fjord in Southern Chile, creating massive waves that swept people off the beach to sea. According to the United States Geological Survey or USGS, the epicenter was located 55 kilometers [35 miles] northwest of Coihaique, Chile in the village of Aisen and had a depth of 27 kilometers [16.8 miles] and the quake occurred at 17:53 (UTC) on Saturday.

Initial reports from Chile's government said that there were no signs of deaths, injuries or damage.

Later, it emerged that at least 10 people on a nearby beach were swept away by the 25-foot waves. The waves were not a tsunami wave, according to volcanologist Juan Cayupi, but were created by the debris of the landslide falling into the waters in the narrow fjord.

Rescuers have recovered only three bodies. According to the Chilean Emergency Bureau, the bodies have been identified as; Ernesto Contreras, 65, Elsa Poblete, 54, his wife and Genaro Linay, 2, their grandson.

No tsunami warning was issued following the earthquake.

Several boats were damaged by the waves generated by the landslide, but there was no report of structural damage to any buildings.

### **Boris Yeltsin, former president of Russia, dies at 76**

Former President of Russia Boris Yeltsin has died at age 76, according to a Kremlin spokesperson.

"Today, at 15:45 (11:45 GMT) Boris

Nikolayevich Yeltsin died in the Central Clinical Hospital as a result of a deteriorating cardio-vascular problem," said the spokesperson. Yeltsin had a history of heart problems.

Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin (Russian: Борис Николаевич Ельцин) was the first President of the Russian Federation from 1991 to 1999. The Yeltsin era was a traumatic period in Russian history— marked by widespread corruption, economic collapse, and enormous political and social problems.

Yeltsin maintained a low profile since his resignation, making almost no public statements or appearances. However, on February 1, 2006, Yeltsin celebrated his 75th birthday. He used this occasion as an opportunity to criticize a "monopolistic" United States foreign policy, and to state that Vladimir Putin was the right choice for Russia

### **Snowy Mountains Hydro could be closed as drought tightens on Australia**

Operations at Snowy Mountains Hydro may be suspended in weeks as water supplies fall due to the drought which has affected much of South-Eastern Australia. Water stores as part of the scheme are at their lowest levels since it was opened in 1973.

Mayor of the Snowy Mountains Shire Council, Richard Wallace warned that should water levels in dams continue to fall, many towns in the area may suffer from water shortages. He also warned that the Snowy Mountains Hydro electric scheme could be suspended.

Snowy Hydro Limited, the company which operates the scheme, has predicted that water levels in Lake Jindabyne will fall below the

threshold needed to operate power turbines by mid to late May. Lake Eucumbene, the second water source for the scheme will fall below its threshold by late July or early August.

A statement by the company claims that over the last decade, water levels have continued to fall as the drought continues. The drought has lasted longer than the region's previous worst which lasted from 1936 to 1946.

According to the company, water flows are around 30 percent lower than average, with the last eleven months flows being lower than those recorded in 101 years.

It is also feared that low water stores may affect the supply of water for some towns in the region. The Snowy River Alliance, an organisation which promotes the conservation of the Snowy River predicts that water may have to be trucked into towns such as Dalgety in the near future.

### **Iran: no sign of former FBI agent**

Hojjatol-Islam Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejeie, the intelligence minister of Iran, stated in the report released today that Iran is investigating the disappearance of Robert Levinson, an ex-FBI agent from Florida since his trip to Iran's Kish Island who went missing while in Iran on private business, in March. He is believed to have gone missing several weeks ago on the island of Kish.

Iran has not confirmed the U.S. citizen entered its territory. Nonetheless, the State Department spokesman said, "To the best of our knowledge we have been able to determine that he went (to Iran) ... and we have not seen any evidence that he left." The State Department

contacted Iranian authorities regarding the matter from the U.S. Embassy in the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi earlier. Later, Iran relayed a reply to the U.S. via the Swiss embassy in Tehran which acts as a go-between since there are no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On April 3, the FBI said that he has not worked for them in a decade nor is he a contractor for them. A U.S. State Department spokesperson declined to give name, age or occupation of the missing man at the time. The spokesperson also said that they have no indication that he is being held by any Iranian entity.

There were rumors that Iran wanted to swap the former FBI agent for Ali-Reza Askari. Askari, who was a deputy defense minister of Iran, had defected. However, Hujjat al-Islam Mohseni-Ejei denied such stories.

### **Australians and News Zealanders increasingly support shared currency**

A recent survey has shown that the public support of a shared currency between Australia and New Zealand has risen.

The Australian survey, released at the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum, has shown that the support for a shared currency in New Zealand is at 49%. The Australian support is slightly lower at 41%.

Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand, has said that New Zealand would not have a shared currency, but an Australian currency. She fears that the new dollar would be run by an Australian Reserve Bank, driving interest rates that are unrelated to the state of the New

Zealand economy. Miss Clark told the New Zealand Press Association, "The convergence of trying to bring the two [economies] together could be quite rough on the smaller party [New Zealand]."

Opposition National party leader, John Key is supporting an exploration of the idea of a shared currency.

### **Classes resume at Virginia Tech**

Classes resumed today at Virginia Tech in Virginia, United States, for the first time since the April 16, 2007 mass shooting.

At 7:10 a.m. EDT, students gathered for a moment of silence, to mark the first of the shootings last week. Similarly, at 9:45 a.m. another moment of silence is planned to mark the second shooting. After the silence, a bell will toll 32 times, once for each victim and 32 white balloons will be released.

The Roanoke Times reported that the campus seemed tranquil and that most students were wearing the school colors, orange and maroon.

### **Bomb threat forces landing of Greek airliner**

An Olympic Airlines Boeing 737 jet was forced to make an emergency landing following a bomb threat. The plane, which was carrying 136 passengers, including 11 Greek Members of the European Parliament, landed safely in Munich, Germany, instead of its intended destination of Strasbourg, France.

"I hope this is just a bad joke," Greek Foreign Ministry spokesperson George Koumoutsakos said on Greek state television. "It will soon be over, I

hope."

### **Russian radio journalists told to report 'positive news'**

The new Kremlin-allied managers of the radio network Russian News Service have told journalists that half of their reporting must be 'positive stories', opposition leaders should not be talked about on air and the United States is to be represented as an enemy; the network's staff say.

Russian News Service is the largest independent radio network with an estimated seven million listeners. The country's three television networks are all state-controlled, while radio stations and small newspapers tend to be independent.

Reports on deaths, violence and poverty are all to be considered as not positive, an editor at the network told the New York Times. A former news editor, Mikhail G. Baklanov told the NYT that owners had previously not interfered in editorial matters.

The press freedom watchdog group Reporters Without Borders ranks Russia 147th out of 168 countries listed in its annual press freedom index, citing the murders of prominent journalists, the control of media outlets by business groups close to the Kremlin and the passing of restrictive laws.

### **Obasanjo's pick declared winner in disputed Nigerian polls**

Umaru Yar'Adua, the ruling party candidate picked by President Obasanjo has been declared the winner by a large margin in Saturday's Nigerian presidential polls.

Opposition candidates Muhammadu Buhari and Atiku Abubakar rejected

the result and said they would take the dispute to the courts. Election monitors have said the elections were marred by violence, fraud and chaos.

The election commission said Yar'Adua polled 24.6 million votes, compared to 6 million for Buhari and 2.6 million for Abubakar.

### **Denmark welcomes new princess**

Denmark welcomed a new princess, born Saturday to Crown Princess Mary and her husband Crown Prince Frederik. The couple left the national hospital today. Mary addressed the throngs of press: "She slept well... She has been very good and kind to her mother... We have not decided on a name yet but we are considering a few."

The yet-to-be named princess is third in line to the Danish throne behind her father, Frederik, and her brother, Prince Christian. She is the fourth grandchild of Queen Margrethe II, the reigning monarch.

The mother was born Mary Donaldson in Australia and married Frederik in May of 2004.

### **Today in History**

1800 - The U.S. Library of Congress was founded as a research library for the U.S. Congress.

1916 - Patrick Pearse and various members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood instigated the Easter Rising, a rebellion against British rule in Ireland, and proclaimed the Irish Republic an independent state.

1967 - The Soyuz 1 spacecraft crashed in Siberia, killing cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov.

1980 - Eight U.S. servicemen died in Operation Eagle Claw, a failed attempt to rescue the hostages in the Iran hostage crisis.

1990 - The Hubble Space Telescope was launched by the Space Shuttle Discovery in mission STS-31. April 24 is Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel (2007); Republic Day in the Gambia; Genocide Remembrance Day in Armenia.

### Quote of the Day

I judge a man by his actions with men, much more than by his declarations Godwards. When I find him to be envious, carping, spiteful, hating the successes of others, and complaining that the world has never done enough for him, I am apt to doubt whether his humility before God will atone for his want of manliness. ~ Anthony Trollope

### Word of the Day

sardonic; adj

1. Scornfully mocking or cynical; disdainful.

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