



### Top Stories

#### Anti-China protesters clash with police in Tibet

In the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, Chinese security forces tried to control Tibetans who were setting fire to vehicles and shops in protest of China's rule.



Credit: futureatlas.com (CC-BY 2.0)

#### Church of Scientology denied injunction against Anonymous

The Church of Scientology's second petition for an injunction against online protest group Anonymous was denied by Judge Douglas Baird. The other petition, filed Tuesday, was denied yesterday by Judge Linda Allan. The injunction sought to prevent members of Anonymous from coming within 500 feet of Church of Scientology buildings.



Credit: Paul Williams (CC-by 3.0)

#### Jimmy Wales accused of editing for donations

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales has been accused of editing pages in the encyclopedia in return for a donation to the Wikimedia Foundation. In an article published Tuesday, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that former Novell computer scientist



Credit: EvgenyGenkin CC-BY-SA 2.5

### Top Stories

Jeff Merkey alleged Wales had made edits to his article on his behalf, in exchange for a donation to the Wikimedia Foundation. The news hit the website Slashdot later Tuesday, where the incident was dubbed "DonorGate".

#### Exclusive look at Bebo

Wikinews spoke to the Global Communications Director at Bebo to have a look at the popular social networking site. Sarah Gavin spoke via email to Wikinews' Gabriel Pollard exclusively.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

### Wikipedia Current Events

Iranian people vote in the Iranian legislative election, 2008. Nearly 90 percent of reformist candidates have been disqualified from the election.

•Two are reported dead in Lhasa as Tibetan protests turn to violence during the lead up to the Beijing Olympics. Protests began Monday on the anniversary of the failed 1959 Tibetan uprising with calls for the release of detained Buddhist monks. Other protests followed calling for Tibetan independence and displaying the banned Tibetan national flag.

#### Proton rocket launches AMC-14 satellite

At 23:18:55 GMT this evening, a Russian Proton-M/Briz-M rocket launched from Area 200/39 at the

Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, with the AMC-14 satellite for American communications organisation SES Americom. The rocket, operated by International Launch Services, lifted off on time, and headed towards a Geosynchronous orbit. AMC-14, which will be operated in conjunction with Echostar will provide direct-to-home satellite television services. It is based on the Lockheed Martin A2100 satellite bus.

This is the 11th orbital launch of 2008, the 334th launch of the Proton rocket, and the 45th launch to be conducted by ILS.

Launch operations are ongoing, with spacecraft separation expected tomorrow morning. The Proton performed nominally, and the Briz-M upper stage has successfully completed the first of three burns.

#### Anti-China protesters clash with police in Tibet

Friday, in protest of China's rule. At least two protesters are reported to have been shot dead by riot police.

The Chinese government reacted quickly to the protests. An eyewitness report describes hundreds of police forces barricading the city's main square, some opening fire on protesters. Other reports suggest the city is under a sort of lockdown. "The Sera monastery is surrounded by Chinese soldiers or police," an eyewitness told ABC News. "I went

yesterday to an area nearby to meet a Tibetan friend, and I saw the monastery surrounded by them."

The protests began rather peacefully on Monday, when a group of monks marched in Lhasa to advocate religious freedom. The march came on the 49th anniversary of Tibet's 1959 rebellion against China. When 50 or 60 of the monks were arrested, hundreds of other monks took to the streets to demand their release. Soon, ordinary Tibetans became involved as well, and the protests grew more violent.

Around 400 protesters gathered at a market near the Jokhang temple, where they were confronted by 1,000 police, according to a witness cited by the Free Tibet Campaign. Cars, buses, and military vehicles were burned as plumes of smoke rose above the city. Protesters also set fire to shops, most of which were owned by ethnic Chinese. "Some of them are looting those shops, taking out the contents and throwing them on huge fires which they've lit in the street," said James Miles, a British journalist.

"People have been burning cars and motorbikes and buses. There is smoke everywhere and they have been throwing rocks and breaking windows." —Lhasa resident

Near Barkhor, one man said that two soldiers have been killed, and that Tibetans were beating Chinese residents with iron rods. Another eyewitness in Lhasa said that people were being carried away on stretchers. "People have been burning cars and motorbikes and buses," one resident said. "There is smoke everywhere and they have been throwing rocks and

breaking windows. We're scared."

Psurbu Tsering of the "Tibetan Association of New York and New Jersey" said his members had received phone calls from Tibet, claiming 70 people had been killed and 1,000 arrested in Tibet. These reports could not be verified.

The unrest has reportedly spread to other provinces, and even other countries. Similar protests were seen in Nepal's capital of Kathmandu, where 1,000 protesters, including monks, gathered at a rally in support of the Tibet demonstrations. Around 12 monks were injured. In the United States, six Tibetans were arrested after holding protests outside the United Nations building in New York City.

An official from the Tibet Autonomous Region accused the Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, of orchestrating the protests, saying there was enough evidence to prove they were "organized, premeditated and masterminded" by Gyatso and his close supporters. A spokesperson for the Dalai Lama denied these allegations, saying the protests were "completely spontaneous".

In a statement, the Dalai Lama called the protests a "manifestation of the deep-rooted resentment of the Tibetan people". He insisted that both sides end the violence, telling the Chinese government to "stop using force and address the long-simmering resentment of the Tibetan people through dialogue," and he urged his "fellow Tibetans not to resort to violence."

Xinhua, the Chinese state-run news agency, reported in the early hours of Saturday that the situation had "basically returned to

normal", although some people had been injured and were taken to the hospital. A Chinese official said the government is "fully capable of maintaining social stability" in Tibet.

The events prompted responses from European leaders, including Dimitrij Rupel, foreign minister of Slovenia and current President of the European Council. "We would like to see some kind of reconciliation between the Chinese authorities and the Tibetan representatives," he said.

French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner alluded to a connection between the protests and the 2008 Summer Olympics, which are set to occur in Beijing this August. "France can draw attention to the link between the Olympic Games and this Tibetan aspiration, which China has to take into account." However, he will not be supporting a boycott of the games. Neither will European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who said, "As far as the Olympic Games are concerned I intend to be there."

### **2008 Tour de Taiwan Stage 6: A jersey battle between American cyclists**

The 6th Stage of 2008 Tour de Taiwan held its long-distance race through 9 townships including Banciao, Hsinchuang, Wugu, Bali, Tamshui, Jinshan, Sanjhih, Shihmen, and Wanli in Taipei County today. Even though this race is the second longest race in 2008 Tour de Taiwan, the weather challenged 89 cyclists due to an earlier rain in Taipei-Keelung metropolitan area.

"The Tour de Taiwan is secondly chosen here (Taipei County) as a stage. Last year, we cooperate with the Chinese Taipei Cycling Association for some race

arrangements to chose Bali Township as the termination of the 6th Stage. After the Tour de Taiwan was firmly set without cross-divisions' stages, we [the Taipei County Government] chose the North Coast Line as the check-point of this race, and set up the race lane with some elements especially scenery. Though it rained in Taipei County that we didn't expect before, but I hope every cyclist can safely finish this race." —Hsi-wei Chou, Magistrate of Taipei County.

Even though some cyclists were unable to finish this race due to some crashes, but several participated cyclists still successfully finished this race steadily and safely. Finally, Kyle Gritters from Health Net Pro Cycling Team won the Champion of this stage. Shawn Milne and Peter McDonald still threatened the current sprint and overall leader John Murphy within a difference less than 10 seconds.

#### Key Results

Stage Champion: Kyle Gritters (Health Net Pro Cycling Team)  
 Asian Leader (Blue Jersey): Taiji Nishitani (Aisan Racing Team)  
 Taiwan Leader (White Jersey): Kuan-hua Lai (Giant Asia Racing Team)  
 Sprint Leader (Green Jersey): John Murphy (Health Net Pro Cycling Team)  
 General Leader (Yellow Jersey): John Murphy  
 Group Leader: Giant Asia Racing Team

### **Gay Iranian awaits decision on asylum**

Britain has stated that it will reconsider the asylum application of a gay Iranian teenager who believes he will be persecuted for his sexuality if he is deported back to Iran. The announcement Friday

by the British government came after the European Parliament urged a resolution to the case and said that Iran has a history of torturing and executing homosexuals.

"I have decided that Mr. Kazemi's case should be reconsidered on his return to the UK from the Netherlands." —Jacqui Smith

Britain had initially rejected an asylum request by 19-year-old Mehdi Kazemi, and Kazemi fled to the Netherlands, where his case was turned down and he returned to Britain. British Home Secretary Jacqui Smith released a statement on the case: "Following representations made on behalf of Mehdi Kazemi, and in the light of new circumstances since the original decision was made, I have decided that Mr. Kazemi's case should be reconsidered on his return to the UK from the Netherlands."

Eighty members of Britain's upper house of Parliament sent a letter to Jacqui Smith, appealing to the government to "show compassion and allow Mr. Kazemi to have a safe haven in the United Kingdom." Roger Roberts of the House of Lords initiated the petition, and stated: "There is no doubt that he will be persecuted and possibly face state-sanctioned murder if he is forced to return." Simon Hughes, Member of Parliament for North Southwark and Bermondsey, said he would support Kazemi if he returns to the United Kingdom: "I hope Mr Kazemi will now come back to Britain where arrangements are already in place for an urgent meeting with him, his family, specialist lawyers and myself to prepare a new application to the Home Office."

Gay rights advocate and spokesman for the British gay rights group OutRage!, David Allison commented "It's cruel to even suggest sending him back ... The history of gays in Iran has been horrific." Ben Summerskill of the British gay rights organization, Stonewall, said: "We are obviously delighted that the home secretary has listened to the representations that were made in this case ... There are overwhelming reasons why people should not be deported to Iran in the current circumstances, and it is important that Britain is seen as a safe haven."

Borg Palm, Kazemi's solicitor, stated Kazemi was pleased with the news but would have an unstable future in Britain without asylum: "He is very much afraid of being allowed to stay in Britain but without being granted official permission. That would then put him in a no man's land. He would be very unhappy in the long term."

"I cannot stop my attraction to men ... If I return to Iran I will be arrested and executed."  
 —Mehdi Kazemi

Kazemi came to Britain in 2005 to study English. His uncle spoke with CNN on condition of anonymity, and said that his nephew was studying in Britain in 2006 when his partner in Iran was arrested and hanged after being charged with sodomy. Kazemi's uncle told CNN: "Under torture and pressure, (the partner) revealed Mehdi's name as his boyfriend." Gay sex is considered a crime in Iran, and is punishable by death. Kazemi told British authorities in his asylum application that Iranian police were after him, and that he could face execution if he returned to Iran. Kazemi stated in his asylum

request: "I cannot stop my attraction to men ... If I return to Iran I will be arrested and executed like [my boyfriend]. Since this incident ... I have been so scared."

After Britain's Home Office initially denied Kazemi's asylum application, he fled to Canada and then the Netherlands, where he was detained. Kazemi faces deportation from the Netherlands to Britain, after their highest court rejected his plea on Tuesday. The Netherlands' highest court rejected the case, citing EU law that Kazemi's case was the responsibility of the country where he first requested asylum.

A resolution passed by the European Parliament Thursday asked EU states "to find a common solution to ensure that Mehdi Kazemi is granted asylum or protection on EU soil and not sent back to Iran." The resolution also stated that Iranian authorities "routinely detain, torture and execute persons, notably homosexuals" and that "Mehdi's partner has already been executed, while his father has threatened him with death."

In a September 2007 speech at Columbia University, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was challenged by University president Lee Bollinger for Iran's treatment of gays. Ahmadinejad stated that "In Iran we don't have homosexuals like in your country," drawing laughter from the audience. "In Iran we do not have this phenomenon, I don't know who has told you that we have it." According to Iranian human rights activists, over 4,000 gay men and lesbians have been executed since the Iranian Revolution of 1979.

### **2008 Tour de Taiwan Stage 5: Shawn Milne threatens John Murphy's leading**

The 5th Stage of 2008 Tour de Taiwan went to Hsinchu City yesterday. It started from Hsinchu City Hall through Dung-da Road and Province Route 61 to Splendid Coastline. This 148km-long race is the longest race in this Tour de Taiwan and conceals some factors such as wind in Hsinchu and cyclists' physical strength.

Sung-baek Park and Erik Hoffmann ever sprinted for a short-team leading, however, with lane's steadily in this race, the main group insisted the differences closely until the finish line.

Finally, Merida Europe Team sprinted the finish line with main group, but Shawn Milne, former champion of Tour de Taiwan, won the stage champion in this stage and threatened John Murphy's leading into a difference with 10 seconds. As a result, Shawn showed his determination to try retaining the champion this year.

#### Stage Results

Stage Champion: Shawn Milne (Team Type 1)

Asian Leader (Blue Jersey): Taiji Nishitani (Aisan Racing Team)

Taiwan Leader (White Jersey): Kuan-hua Lai (Giant Asia Racing Team)

Sprint Leader (Green Jersey): John Murphy (Health Net Pro Cycling Team)

General Leader (Yellow Jersey): John Murphy

Group Leader: Giant Asia Racing Team

### **Jimmy Wales accused of editing Wikipedia for donations**

published Tuesday, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that former Novell computer scientist Jeff Merkey alleged Wales had

made edits to his article on his behalf, in exchange for a donation to the Wikimedia Foundation. The news hit the website Slashdot later Tuesday, where the incident was dubbed "DonorGate".

According to The Daily Telegraph, Merkey claims that he was told by Wales in 2006 that the Wikipedia article about him could be made more favorable in exchange for a donation. Merkey made a donation of USD\$5,000 to the Wikimedia Foundation, and Wales made edits to the Wikipedia article about Merkey around the same time. Merkey published his claims on a public Wikimedia mailing list and sent a statement to The Associated Press.

"Of course I would never offer, nor accept any offer, whereby a donation would buy someone special editorial treatment in the encyclopedia." —Jimmy Wales

In a response Wales called Merkey's statements "nonsense", saying "Of course I would never offer, nor accept any offer, whereby a donation would buy someone special editorial treatment in the encyclopedia. I do routinely assist people with WP:BLP issues, and I do courtesies for many people. Donations have no bearing on that at all." WP:BLP refers to Wikipedia's policy regarding biographies of living persons on the encyclopedia.

After deleting the Wikipedia article about Merkey in 2006, Wales wrote to Wikipedia editors he had done so "because of the unpleasantness of it" and requested that they "be extra careful here to be courteous and assume good faith". After erasing the article, Wales placed the article under protection with editing access limited to established

users. Merkey ceased his \$5,000.00 per year payments to the Wikimedia Foundation after reviewing what he called "evidence of diversion and mismanagement of the charities funds by Wales and the Wikimedia Board of Trustees".

"The Wikimedia Foundation, its staff and board members, and the users of Wikipedia itself hold the core principles of 'no conflict of interest' in the highest regard"  
—Jay Walsh, Wikimedia Foundation

In a statement responding to a post about the incident on the site Techtree.com, Wikimedia Foundation's Head of Communications Jay Walsh addressed the Foundation's principles regarding conflict of interest: "The Wikimedia Foundation (the Foundation which operates and maintains Wikipedia and other free knowledge projects) has never solicited or accepted donations for the purposes of making edits or offering protection to Wikipedia articles. Nor has Jimmy Wales ever solicited or accepted donations for the Foundation in this capacity. These allegations are completely false. ... Jimmy has been unfailingly ethical and frugal in the use of all Foundation funds. The Wikimedia Foundation, its staff and board members, and the users of Wikipedia itself hold the core principles of 'no conflict of interest' in the highest regard."

After leaving Novell amidst allegations of misappropriation of trade secrets, Merkey was sued by his former employer. He filed a harassment lawsuit against organizations including the website Slashdot in 2005. Merkey filed a suit against Delta Air Lines and Natural Selection Foods in 2006, claiming his son had become sick

from E. coli contaminated spinach.

Merkey is banned from editing Wikipedia due to a ruling by Wikipedia's Arbitration Committee. The Wikipedia Signpost, Wikipedia's community-written and community-edited newspaper, reported that a Wikipedia user account used by Merkey was blocked in October 2005 for "Personal attacks, legal threats, harassment, disruption". Merkey was later allowed to come back to edit Wikipedia in May 2007 under a different account. As the result of a ruling by Wikipedia's Arbitration Committee in a July 2007 arbitration case, Merkey and two users who had harassed him on Wikipedia were banned from editing the encyclopedia for one year.

Last week Jimmy Wales faced accusations by former Wikimedia Foundation executive Danny Wool that he misused the non-profit organization's funds, and attempted to expense a visit to a Moscow massage parlor and high-priced bottles of wine. In an interview with CNET TV, Wikimedia Foundation Executive Director Sue Gardner described Wool as "a disgruntled former employee" and called his claims "a whole bunch of unsubstantiated rumors and gossip". Wales's former girlfriend, journalist Rachel Marsden, recently leaked purported instant message transcripts with Wales, which implied Wales had used his influence to change the article about Marsden on Wikipedia. Wales ended his relationship with Marsden and made a public statement to that effect on Wikipedia, and in response Marsden opened an auction for some of Wales's clothing on eBay.

### **Earthquake hits Tonga region**

An earthquake with a magnitude

of 5.4 has hit Tonga and the surrounding region. The USGS reports that it hit the region just after 0400 local time (1600 UTC). The earthquake was offshore, with the nearest major islands being Tonga.

### **National Hockey League news**

There were 8 games played in the National Hockey League on March 13, 2008.

#### Game summaries

##### *Tampa Bay Lightning @ Boston Bruins*

Jeff Halpern scored first for the Lightning 7:41 into the first period on a Tampa Bay power play. Andreas Karlsson put the Lightning ahead by 2 7:43 into the second period. At 7:57 in the third period, Chuck Kobasew put the Bruins on the scoreboard. Vincent Lecavalier scored an empty net goal for Tampa Bay with 8 seconds left in the third period, to secure the victory for the Lightning. The Bruins have now lost their third straight.

##### *Calgary Flames @ Atlanta Thrashers*

Daymond Langkow scored a short handed goal 13:57 into the first period, putting the Flames ahead by 1. Jarome Iginla scored a few minutes later for Calgary. Iginla also scored 2:45 into the second period. Ilya Kovalchuk put the Thrashers on the scoreboard a couple minutes later, and Colby Armstrong scored 19 seconds after that to bring Atlanta within 1. The Flames went back up by two goals when Wayne Primeau scored 12:39 into the second period. Kovalchuk scored his second of the night on a Thrashers power play, making it a 1 goal game going into the 2nd intermission. In the second half of the third period, Atlanta tied the score when Chris

Thorburn scored. Bobby Holik gave the Thrashers the lead 16:13 into the third period, and Kovalchuk would complete the hat trick a few minutes later, scoring on an empty net while his team was on the power play.

#### *Ottawa Senators @ Montreal Canadiens*

Jason Spezza scored a pair of power play goals, first 8:21 into the first period, then 27 seconds into the second. Antoine Vermette also scored for the Senators with 1:59 left in the second period. Martin Gerber made 28 saves, improving his record to 27-13-3 and his 2nd shutout of the season. Ottawa has won their third straight.

#### *Dallas Stars @ Detroit Red Wings*

Trevor Daley put the Stars on the board 1:08 into the first period. Johan Franzen scored on a Detroit power play to tie the score at one goal apiece. Jere Lehtinen scored 44 seconds into the second period, retaking the lead for Dallas. Brenden Morrow scored a power play goal 13:42 into the second period to put Dallas up by 2. Detroit tied the score on a pair of goals by Pavel Datsyuk; first with 3:43 left in the second, then 36 seconds into the third. Mikael Samuelsson scored the go-ahead goal for Detroit less than a minute later. Valtteri Filppula scored an empty net goal to secure the Red Wings' victory with 5 seconds left. Dallas lost their 4th in 5 games, while Detroit won their fifth straight.

#### *Los Angeles Kings @ Nashville Predators*

Jean-Pierre Dumont broke a scoreless tie 8:50 into the second period. Alexander Frolov scored a power play goal to tie the score for Los Angeles with 1:27 left in the second period. Dustin Brown

scored the go-ahead goal for Los Angeles just over 5 minutes into the third. Frolov scored his second of the night to put the Kings ahead by 2. Then Matt Ellis scored a short handed empty net goal with just under 2 minutes left. Erik Ersberg made 37 saves for the Kings, earning his second career NHL win.

#### *New Jersey Devils @ Minnesota Wild*

Stephane Veilleux scored 3:26 into the first period, then Brent Burns put the Wild ahead by 2 by the end of the first period. In the second period, the Devils tied it up with goals by Vitaly Vishnevski and Brian Gionta. Marian Gaborik retook the lead for Minnesota with 14 seconds left in the second period. In the third period, the Devils would retie the score and force overtime when Dainius Zubrus scored his 10th goal of the season. Jamie Langenbrunner scored the only shootout goal, giving the Devils the extra point in the standings.

#### *Edmonton Oilers @ Colorado Avalanche*

Jeff Finger broke a scoreless tie with 1:08 left in the first period, giving the Avalanche the first lead of the game. Jaroslav Hlinka scored 18 seconds into the second period, giving Colorado a 2 goal lead. Tyler Arnason scored a power play goal a few minutes later on a Colorado power play. Sam Gagner put the Oilers on the scoreboard with a power play goal 7:21 into the second. At 14:36, David Jones retook a 3 goal lead for Colorado with a power play goal. Less than 2 minutes later, Wojtek Wolski put Colorado ahead by 4. Peter Budaj made 23 saves for the Avalanche, who have now won 8 of their last 9 games.

#### *Vancouver Canucks @ Phoenix Coyotes*

Niko Kapanen broke a scoreless tie just over halfway through the second period on a Coyotes power play. Daniel Winnik put Phoenix ahead by 2 goals 7:32 into the third. Ilya Bryzgalov made 24 saves for Phoenix, earning his third shutout of the season. Roberto Luongo allowed two goals on 45 shots for the Canucks.

#### *Player of the Day*

Today's Player of the Day is Ilya Kovalchuk of the Atlanta Thrashers. Kovalchuk scored a hat trick, and also assisted in Bobby Holik's game winning goal in Atlanta's 6-4 comeback victory against the Calgary Flames. His third goal was his 48th goal of his season, and is closest to being the next player to have their 50th goal this season, after Alexander Ovechkin (Washington Capitals) scored his fiftieth goal on March 4.



*Credit: Ilya Kovalchuk (cc-by-sa-2.0)*

#### **Today in History**

44 BC – Dictator Julius Caesar of the Roman Republic was stabbed to death by Marcus Junius Brutus and several other Roman senators on the Ides of March.

1311 – The Catalan Company defeated Walter V of Brienne in the Battle of Halmyros and took control of the Duchy of Athens, a Crusader state in Greece.

1877 – Cricketers representing England and Australia began the first match in Test cricket at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

1917 – Tsar Nicholas II of Russia was forced to abdicate in the

February Revolution, ending three centuries of Romanov rule.

1939 – Nazi German troops began their occupation of Czechoslovakia and established the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

1988 – Iran–Iraq War: Iraqi forces began attacking the Kurdish town of Halabja with chemical weapons, killing up to 5,000 people.

March 15 is National Day in Hungary, Hōnen Matsuri in Japan.

### Quote of the Day

As long as our government is administered for the good of the people, and is regulated by their will; as long as it secures to us the rights of person and property, liberty of conscience, and of the press, it will be worth defending.  
~ Andrew Jackson

### Word of the Day

bourgeois adj

1. Of or related to the middle class, especially its attitudes and conventions.

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