



Top Stories

Armenian President Kocharyan declares state of emergency

President Robert Kocharyan declared a 20-day state of emergency in Armenia Saturday. The declaration comes after police stopped a mass protest stating that the presidential election was rigged.



Bombing in Pakistan kills 40

A bomb in the outskirts of Pakistani town of Dara Adamkhel has killed at least 40 people. The bombing may have been a suicide attack, although that has not yet been confirmed.



Thousands of Filipinos call for President Arroyo's resignation

Tens of thousands of Filipinos called for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's resignation in the streets of Manila in the wake of a corruption scandal. Among the protesters were nuns, farmers, students, and even two former Presidents.



Ahmadinejad makes landmark visit to Iraq

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has begun his visit to Iraq, the first time an Iranian President has visited the country. He intends to visit both Prime Minister al-Maliki and President Talabani.



Wikipedia Current Events

President of Venezuela Hugo Chávez orders the closure of the Venezuelan embassy in Colombia and moves ten battalions to the Colombian-Venezuelan border in response to the killing of FARC leader Raúl Reyes in Ecuador by Colombian armed forces the previous day. Rafael Correa, the President of Ecuador, orders troops to the Colombian border. The Colombian government accuses Correa of having "a relationship and commitments" with FARC.

- Two bombings in quick succession hit a Russian police convoy in the town of Khasavyurt in the Republic of Dagestan.
- Eight people are killed in violent protests in Yerevan, Armenia, following protests over the outcome of the latest presidential election.
- President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrives in Baghdad for the first state visit to Iraq by a Iranian president since the

Wikipedia Current Events

Iran-Iraq War.
•Russian voters go to the polls to decide the country's next president. Dmitry Medvedev of the United Russia wins the election and is expected to succeed Vladimir Putin as the President of Russia.

Heavy metal band Teräsbetoni to represent Finland at Eurovision 2008

Finland is to be represented at the Eurovision Song Contest 2008 by heavy metal band Teräsbetoni with their song Missä Miehät Ratsastaa (Where Men Ride).

Teräsbetoni picked up 38.9% of the vote, with Kari Tapio second at 33.9% and Cristal Snow came third with 26.5%. The selection show was arranged as three qualifying rounds, with two songs selected to go through from each. The remainder competed again amongst themselves for one wild card position, then it went to the public vote.

Teräsbetoni will compete on May 20 in the first of the Eurovision semi finals for a place in the final. Both events will be held in Belgrade, Serbia.

Finland won the contest in 2006 when hard rock band Lordi's Hard Rock Hallelujah scored a record 292 points. However, the following year in Helsinki Finnish entrant Hanna Pakarinen's Leave Me Alone finished outside the qualifying positions for this year's contest at

number 17, with 53 points, meaning that if Teräsbetoni are to make the final they will have to qualify.

Missä Miehët Ratsastaa was released as a single by Warner Music Finland on February 2.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas cuts ties with Israel

The President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas has cut all diplomatic ties and relations with Israel including any and all communications.

Abbas made his decision after recent Israeli crackdown on Palestinian militants has left over 100 people dead and dozens injured. On Saturday March 1, 70 Palestinians alone were killed in clashes. At least two soldier from the Israeli Defense Force were also killed.

Abbas says that he will continue his silence towards Israel until "all aggression" against Palestine is stopped.

"The negotiations are suspended, as are all contacts on all levels, because in light of the Israeli aggression such communication has no meaning. The Israeli government has decided to prosecute an unjust war and the open slaughter of our people. It bears sole responsibility for the hindering the peace process and all the effects and consequences of this decision," said Nabil Abu Rudeina, a spokesman for Abbas in a statement to the media.

According to reports by Africasia quoting Agence France-Presse (AFP), Israel calls the move by Abbas a mistake.

"Suspending peace talks is a mistake and it gives the keys to

the negotiations to Hamas," said an Israeli official to AFP who was not named.

The United States among other nations have called for Israel to stop its strikes, but Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said that "nothing will prevent us from continuing operations to protect our citizens."

At least 40 killed by bombing in Pakistan

A bomb in Pakistan has killed at least 40 people and injured several more. The attack took place on the outskirts of Dara Adamkhel, a town which is close to the border with Afghanistan. It has been reported that the bombing may have been a suicide attack, although that has not yet been confirmed.

A Pakistani official at the scene said that "at this point, we [the Pakistani government] have reports of over 40 dead and scores of wounded." The Pakistani Interior Ministry spokesman said that "we [the Interior Ministry] are trying to get information. Initial reports suggest it was suicide attack."

The bomb exploded during a jirga, or tribal meeting, regarding security in the northwestern Pakistani town.

Dara Adamkhel is located about 40 km away from Peshawar, the provincial capital.

Iranian President Ahmadinejad to make landmark visit to Iraq

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived in Baghdad Sunday on the very first visit to Iraq by an Iranian president.

The trip is expected to be both symbolic and aiding in Baghdad-Iran relations, which are both

predominately Shia. It will be closely watched by the United States, who already has over 150,000 troops in Iraq.

Iran and Iraq fought each other in a 1980s war that cost one million deaths, an effective stalemate, and torn Iraqi-Iranian relations. Relations have improved since Saddam Hussein and his Ba'ath Party were overthrown in 2003.

Ahmedinejad is expected to visit Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and President Jalal Talabani, both of whom have visited Iran before while in office.

"It will surely help strengthen the Iraqi nation and the government ... and peace and security in the region," Ahmadinejad told Iranian state television. "Withdrawal of the occupying forces is in everyone's advantage," he added.

South African sprinter Philip Rabinowitz dies at age 104

Philip "Flying Phil" Rabinowitz, a sprinter from South Africa who on July 10, 2004, entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the fastest 100-year-old in the 100 meters has died on February 28. He was 104.

He was born on February 16, 1904 in Lithuania to a Jewish family.

Rabinowitz finished in a time of 30.86 seconds; breaking the previous mark of 36.19 set by Erwin Jaskulski of Austria. A week before, the centenarian broke the record, but a faulty electronic timer kept the mark out of the books.

For comparison, the world record for the men's 100 meters —9.74 seconds— was set by Asafa Powell of Jamaica at the age of 24.

American guru Joseph M. Juran dies at age 103

Dr. Joseph M. Juran, an American industrial engineer and philanthropist, has died from a stroke on February 28 at the age of 103.

He was born on December 24, 1904 in Brăila, Romania. In 1924, with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota (he would later earn a law degree), Juran joined Western Electric at the Hawthorne Works. His first job was in the inspection branch.

Juran was promoted to a managerial position in 1928, and the following year became a division chief. He would publish his first quality related article in Mechanical Engineering in 1935. In 1937 he moved to Western Electric/AT&T's headquarters in New York City.

After World War II, Japan was experiencing a crisis in mass manufactured product quality. Japanese goods were thought to be inexpensive, however, easily broken and in general poor quality. The Japanese Union of Scientists and Engineers (JUSE) recognized these issues and invited Juran to Japan in 1954.

Juran is survived by his wife Sadie Shapiro, 3 sons and 1 daughter.

Armenian President Kocharyan declares state of emergency

Armenian president Robert Kocharyan declared a state of emergency in Armenia Saturday after policemen used tear gas and firearms to disperse protesters of alleged fraud in the presidential election that occurred last month, leaving at least eight persons dead in clashes between police and opposition.

The announcement came from President Kocharyan's office shortly after riot police suppressed the rally of roughly 15,000 protesters. Earlier, demonstrators living in tents near the city of Yerevan's mayor's office were forcibly evacuated using batons.

"They attacked peaceful demonstrations in parts of Yerevan," said opposition official Alexander Arzumanyan. "But the people are very resolute and they will struggle for their rights... There are a lot of wounded people".

Witnesses told the Associated Press about people being injured in the nighttime police action, although there were no official reports on casualties at the time. The health ministry said that at least 30 people, including six police officers, have sought treatment.

Kocharyan's office said that the state of emergency will be in effect for 20 days. The measure imposes a ban on all mass gatherings and an order that news reports of Armenian matters only include official information.

Armenia, officially the Republic of Armenia, is a landlocked, multi-party, and democratic nation-state. It is still technically at war with neighboring Azerbaijan over the de facto independent republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Today in History

1585 – The Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, Italy, a theatre designed by the Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio, was inaugurated.

1776 – American Revolutionary War: Samuel Nicholas and the Continental Marines successfully landed on New Providence and

captured Nassau in the Bahamas. 1878 – The signing of the Treaty of San Stefano established Bulgaria as an autonomous principality in the Ottoman Empire.

1931 – "The Star-Spangled Banner", originally a poem written by American author Francis Scott Key after watching the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812, officially became the national anthem of the United States.

1958 – Nuri al-Said became the Prime Minister of Iraq for the 14th time.

1997 – The Sky Tower in Auckland, the tallest free-standing structure in the Southern Hemisphere at 328 metres (1,080 ft), opened.

March 03 is Casimir Pulaski Day in Illinois (2008); Liberation Day in Bulgaria (1878); Hinamatsuri in Japan.

Quote of the Day

Consent in virtue knit your hearts so fast,

That still the knot, in spite of death, does last;

For as your tears, and sorrow-wounded soul, Prove well that on your part this bond is whole,

So all we know of what they do above,

Is that they happy are, and that they love.

Let dark oblivion, and the hollow grave,

Content themselves our frailer thoughts to have;

Well-chosen love is never taught to die,

But with our nobler part invades the sky.

~ Edmund Waller ~

Word of the Day

dearth n

1. A period or condition when food is rare and hence expensive; famine.

2. (by extension) Scarcity; a lack or short supply.

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http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page

Word of the Day

http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page

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