



Top Stories

US declares vital interest in space



President Bush has declared space to be essential to US defence in a new National Space Policy. Not only has the United States declared that it has rights in space, but, if necessary, it will deny its adversaries access to space.

Indian fighter aircraft crashes in West Bengal, pilots eject safely



The IAF plane crashed in Cooch Behar district at around 10:15 local time. Both pilots ejected safely, one is being treated at a local hospital for injuries to his leg. There are no reports of property damage or casualties on the ground.

Featured story

"Friday the 13" Buffalo, New York snow storm in pictures



At least 340,000 people and businesses are still without power as the City of Buffalo, New York begins to clean up after the worst October lake effect snow storm in "137 years of records" being kept, according to the National Weather Service.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Tan D. Nguyen, a Republican candidate for California's 47th congressional district in Orange County, California denies authorizing a letter warning Hispanic immigrants that they could go to jail or be deported if they vote next month, a mailing that prompted an investigation by the Government of California.
- An Antonov an-2 civilian plane crashes in Tashkent, Uzbekistan killing 13 soldiers and two crewmen. The Uzbek Emergency Ministry says the pilots lost control of the plane while trying to land.
- Scientists at Duke University have created an invisibility device that makes objects appear invisible at microwave frequencies.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average index closes at a record high just above 12,000 points in today's trading, as investors welcome the latest batch of corporate earnings.
- Jendayi Frazer, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, accuses Eritrea of arming the Islamic Courts Union in Somalia and of attacking Ethiopia.
- A spokesman for New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer claims that a judge has ordered former New York Stock Exchange Chairman and Chief Executive Richard Grasso to repay part of his deferred compensation pay package.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The United States has adopted a document that rejects any proposals to ban space weapons.
- Nissan Motor Co. begins recalling over 130,000 vehicles globally including 80,000 in North America because of an ignition key defect.
- Ethiopia's prime minister Meles Zenawi tells the parliament that he had sent military trainers to help Somalia's struggling government, but had not deployed a fighting force.
- A Chinese envoy has met North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong-il as tensions mount over the North's nuclear test, according to Chinese officials.
- South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon has warned that a second nuclear test by North Korea will bring "grave consequences."

Indian fighter aircraft crashes in West Bengal, pilots eject safely

An Indian Air Force MiG crashed today in Jarohi village in the Cooch Behar district of West Bengal. Police officials in Jailpaiguri said that the pilots of the plane managed to eject safely and that one of them has been taken to Hasimara airbase hospital to be treated for injuries to his legs. Although the jet went up in flames after hitting the ground, no property damage has been reported.

The only civilian casualty was a local girl who, officials say, fell unconscious after hearing the sound of the crash. She has been taken to Alipurdaur hospital for treatment. An IAF spokesman denied these reports, saying there had been no casualties or property damage on the ground.

This is the sixth jet, and the fourth MiG, the IAF has lost this year. On September 28, a MiG-29 went down in Haryana following a double engine failure. Another crash occurred in Gujarat this June. The Russian-made MiG series is said to have a history of engine problems.

Source pictures show what appears to be the wreckage of a MiG-27, however reports of a MiG-29 lost persist.

Interview with Dalbir S. Kathuria, Regional Council candidate for Wards 9 & 10 in Brampton, Canada

The upcoming 2006 Brampton municipal election, to be held November 13, features an array of candidates looking to represent their wards in city council or the council of the Peel Region.

Wikinews contributor Nick Moreau contacted many of the candidates, including Dalbir S. Kathuria, asking them to answer common questions sent in an email. This ward's incumbent is John Sprovieri; also challenging Sprovieri is Derek Begley, Sherdaljit Dhillon, Mahen Gupta, Satpaul Johal, and Vahid Saadati-Khanshir.

Q: List the three most important issues in your campaign.

A:

A) Infrastructure (sic)- The schools in Brampton are very unorganised. Kids are even sent to the portable, which is very depressing.

B) Addressing the increased and unorganised Traffic concerns.

C) Addressing the rissing (sic) property taxes and the concerns of our residents, regarding their quality of life.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Most important is the infrastructure, which is leading to more unplanned houses, which leading to mismanagement, which is effecting the development.

Q: What qualities or experiences do you possess, that make you more desirable than the incumbent?

A: Times fly, and lots of water has flowed under the river. I have the ardor, and passion to be in the community development programmes. Community work has been my forte, giving me wisdom, gathered over the years of experience. I am always on the forefront, to complete any assignment allotted to me, never shirking any responsibilities. I am a soft hearted Man, who has given solace to the needy in times of distress. I am a sympathetic listener to people's woes, goes all out of way to help them solving their personal or public related problems.

Q: Why do you want to represent your ward on council?

A: I would like to see that my ward gets better facilities, better hearing of their local problems, and honest hearing of their difficulties, and a quicker resolution to all of them through a Representative like me.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I am an enterprising Man, having been in the food and hotel business, successfully running a

restaurant in Brampton, I am the epitome of humanhood. I have the fervor, the zeal to work for uplifting of the society. I collected CDN\$50 000, and donated it to the Hospital for Sick Kids very recently. I am the Vice President of Liberal Riding Assosiation (sic) of Brampton.

Q: Much of Brampton's existing council is quite seasoned in the civic political process. What could you bring to the table as a "rookie", above and beyond the current roster of councillors?

A: Well times change and so does the working, a new member (as a rookie) brings in fresh ideas, newer innovations, as they are more alive to changed circumstances, of the city, which they have seen it grow since their childhood. In fact they are more vocal and concerned to today's changed conditions.

Q: The Rose Theatre recently launched. What are your thoughts on this facility? Have you had a chance to tour it yet?

A: I too agree that so far business has been good with the Rose Theatre as local Brampton residents and residents beyond our borders are taking advantage of the entertainment shows. But still some how I feel the money which have been spend for making this theatre is a huge amount, and if it would be spend for the hospitals, which are yet to get ready, then it would have been really awesome.

Q: The province has strongly encouraged the development of high-density residences near the downtown. Do these buildings fit in with your vision of the downtown? How much say should other levels of government have in urban planning?

A: Well down town means central area of city. My personal opinion is

that the development in down town should be restricted. More residences more taller buildings mean more people. It's a strain on the civic amenity. Environmental problems, lead to less of greenery. It shall cause of course traffic congestion and parking problems. Govt. should have full control on urban planning, with a future vision for next 25 years of residential, markets, playgrounds, & schools so that these people have adequate civic facility.

Q: How do you feel about Brampton's rate of expansion? Council recently capped the annual amount of new development; do you agree completely with this decision, would you have slowed development even further, or not have imposed a cap at all?

A: I do agree with the council's decision of capping annual amount. The rate at which Brampton is expanding, will lead to chaos. The golf course take over for residential buildings is an example.

Q: What are your opinions on Brampton's congestion and the level of public transit funding?

A: Yes the congestion levels are high, and more the people more the cars and private transportation. To bring down this we have to increase the level public transport funding to have more buses to make people reach their destination, quicker, faster and reliable, and on time so that they shall avoid their personal cars.

Q: Why should businesses be attracted to locating in Brampton?

A: Brampton is a fast growing city so far in Toronto. Many new immigrant are settling down here. We have a skilled population so I feel any business would find great success for their future prospects.

Q: How could Brampton further itself in attracting corporate investment?

A: Well Brampton can make good market places proper buildings to house large investments houses, giving then concessions in some civic taxes, areas on low rates to build factories, faster processing of files/documents of corporate house, who intend to invest in Brampton, all the facilities like water , power, low lease ground rates.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: Being a omnipresent person, I always shown (sic) my earnestness to help the genuine. I am impartial in judgmental works, tolerant and a dependable man towards which, any person can look forward. I strongly feel there is a need for a committed and active representative.

Q: What does Brampton mean to you?

A: Brampton to me is the entire blood which runs through out my body and keeps me active!! I will never say that I will die for the welfare of the Brampton people, rather I will always tell, that I will live for the Brampton people as long as they want, for their welfare and a safe and clean neighbourhood where people can raise their families and enjoy a good quality of life. Working hard in council for me would be a way to help ensure that this sort of environment continues for future generations.

Notes

The entire original text can be read on the article's talk page.

Kathuria was given multiple opportunities to respond to the question "Of the decisions made

by council since the last election, which one would you have changed, and why?", over the past week, having received the questions on 6 October 2006. He has failed to reply to this request.

Engineers develop robotic microhand

A tiny pneumatic hand, with the ability to grasp objects smaller than a millimeter across has been developed by Yen-Wen Lu and Chang-Jin Kim of UCLA's Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department.

The researchers developed the microhand hand, which has four fingers built of miniscule silicon segments and polymer-balloon joints, to have a firm but gentle grip to facilitate manipulating tiny, delicate objects.

The hand opens and closes when the balloons in the joints are inflated and deflated. Because it is constructed of inert materials and is operated pneumatically rather than electronically, the micro-hand can operate in air or water, giving it the ability to grasp small biological samples which tend to be moist or submersed in a liquid enviroment.

Lu and Kim presented their robotic hand in the article "Microhand for biological applications", published October 16 in the American Institute of Physics journal Applied Physics Letters.

US declares vital interest in space

President Bush has declared space to be essential to US defence in a new National Space Policy document published on September 14. Not only has the United States declared that it has rights in space, but, if necessary, it will deny its adversaries access to

space if those adversaries seek to impede US rights in space. The policy states that presence in space takes its place alongside sea and air power in the defence of the country. The US has announced officially that it is using space for surveillance and monitoring activities, including observing natural disasters on Earth, and it intends to develop the commercial potentialities of space.

The BBC reports Tony Snow, Whitehouse spokesman as saying, in response to questions about the militarisation of space, "The notion that you would do defence from space is different from that of weaponisation of space. We're comfortable with the policy".

The new policy was agreed upon in August but the document was not released until October. In September, the BBC reported that the US Missile Defence Agency had announced the successful test firing of an interceptor missile from California which hit a target missile launched from Alaska. This followed the test firing of ballistic missiles by North Korea in July.

The success of this US interceptor missile launch is the fifth out of eight attempts and the first to use the facilities at the Vandenberg base. In the last two attempts, in December 2004 and February 2005, the interceptor missiles failed to take off. This whole program is reported to have cost \$100 billion since 1983. The system employs radar and satellites to locate the target missile and to direct the interceptor towards it. The programme is not without its critics.

New Zealand Post introduces redirection and hold fees

New Zealand Post has introduced

fees for redirecting mail to a new home and also holding mail from being delivered, the fees will be introduced from November 1, 2006, unless the redirector is officially old.

The new fees will mean for the first two months you have mail redirection in place will cost NZ\$20, instead of the usual free two months. It is double price for international going mail. It will cost \$5 for residential users placing a hold on their mail, \$10 for businesses per week.

Graham Smith, marketing general manager for New Zealand Post, said: "The Redirection service provides peace of mind for busy people moving house and protects against other people receiving private mailed information."

New Zealand Post says the reason behind the fee introduction is because it is expensive and includes a lot of labour as it is an entirely manual process. "It involves lots of manual intervention and the reprocessing and delivery of mail and we need to recover some of the costs of providing these services," Smith said.

Elderly have been exempted from all hold charges and given the first two months of redirection for free.

"We thought long and hard about this decision. We believe that the Redirection and Hold services still offer excellent value for money and provide our customers with a convenient way of making sure all their mail gets to them when they move, or keeping it secure when they are away from home," said Smith.

It will cost \$20 for two months redirection, \$30 for four months,

\$45 for six months and \$85 for a year, it is double for international. It will cost \$125 for two months redirection for businesses, \$190 for four months, \$250 for six months and \$475 for a year, it is, again, double for international mail.

Winners of 2006 New Zealand Music Awards announced

The 2006 New Zealand Music Awards, or Tuis, were announced yesterday night at Auckland.

Campbell Smith, organiser, said it has been encouraging to "see the Tuis spread among a wide group of artists, rather than being dominated by one or two. It shows the New Zealand music scene is vibrant, diverse and growing."

The album of year was won by Bic Runga for her album, *Birds*. She beat other musicians including Dave Dobbyn and Don McGlashan.

Pluto with their single *Long White Cross*, won the single of the year. This beat other singles by Bic Runga, *Goldenhorse*, Mt Raskil Preservations Society featuring Hollie Smith, and *The Feelers*.

Elemeno P won the best group. They beat other bands, *Bleeders* and *Fly My Pretties*.

Dave Dobbyn was the best male solo artist, taking it out over Che Fu and Don McGlashan.

Bic Runga was the best female solo artist beating Aaradhna and Anika Moa.

Bleeders were announced as the breakthrough artist of the year beating Aaradhna and *Frontline*.

The best music video was awarded to Mark Williams for the music video of *Fat Freddy's Drop*;

Wandering Eye.

Bleeders won best rock album for their album, *As Sweet As Sin*, beating *Blindspott* and *Elemeno P*.

The best urban/hip hop album was awarded to *Borrowed Time* by *Frontline*. This album beat *Fresh Men* by *Nesian Mystik* and *Kaleidoscope* by *Opensouls*.

The best dance/electronica album was *Chaos By Design* by *Concord Dawn*. *Concord Dawn* beat other groups *Reclouse* and *Sola Rose* to win the prize.

The Return of Fly My Pretties by *Fly My Pretties* won the best Aotearoa roots album.

Te Reotakiwas Dunn by *Te Reotakiwa Dunn* won the best Maori album by beating *Mahara Tocker* with their album *Hurricane's Eye* and *Rodger Cunningham* with *Toto*.

Juliagrace won the best gospel/christian album.

Spirit of the Land by *Tower Voices* of New Zealand won the best classical album.

Fat Freddy's Drop was awarded with the people's choice award, beating *Pluto*, *Frontline*, *Elemeno P*, *Bic Runga* and *Goodnight Nurse*.

The Warehouse highest selling New Zealand album was awarded to *Fat Freddy's Drop*, Based on a True Story.

All I Ask by *Rosita Vai* won the highest selling NZ single.

The NZ on Air radio airplay record of the year was won the *The Feelers* for their record, *Stand Up*.

Today in History

1740 - Maria Theresa assumed the throne of Austria, following the Pragmatic Sanction of 1713.

1818 - The United Kingdom and the United States signed the Treaty of 1818, which settled the Canada-United States border on the 49th parallel for most of its length.

1827 - An allied British, French, and Russian naval force destroyed a combined Turkish and Egyptian fleet at the Battle of Navarino, a decisive moment in the Greek War of Independence.

1941 - World War II: Thousands of civilians in Kragujevac in German-occupied Serbia were killed in the Kragujevac massacre.

1973 - Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II. October 20 is Al-Quds Day in Iran (2006); Birth of the Báb, a holy day in the Bahá'í Faith.

Quote of the Day

There is surely a piece of divinity within us, something that was before the elements, and owes no homage unto the sun. ~ Thomas Browne

Word of the Day

ensconce; v

1. To place in a safe or secure environment.

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