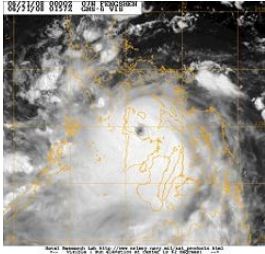




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Over 700 feared dead after ferry hit by typhoon

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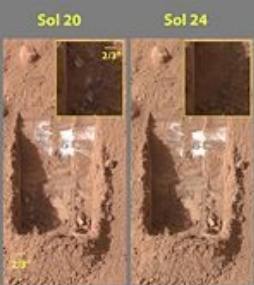
MDC pulls out of Zimbabwe elections

Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Zimbabwe's main opposition party, has said that he will pull out of the race to become the president of Zimbabwe. He said that he is doing this because "the outcome [of the elections] is determined by... Mugabe himself," and is therefore not fair.



Phoenix lander confirms presence of water ice on Mars

For the first time ever, NASA has confirmed the presence of water ice on Mars. The Phoenix lander which landed on Mars on May 25, has confirmed to scientists that the white substance it found while



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digging a trench on June 15, is water ice.

Jason-2 satellite launched to measure sea levels

The Ocean Surface Topography Mission (OSTM), or Jason-2, satellite, has been launched into low Earth orbit. A Delta II rocket carrying the satellite lifted off from Space Launch Complex 2W at the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, United States, at 07:46 GMT this morning. Spacecraft separation occurred around an hour later, and the solar panels on the satellite have deployed.



Wikipedia Current Events

Tarija Department becomes the fourth Bolivian department to vote for greater autonomy from the government of the President of Bolivia Evo Morales.

- A female suicide bomber kills at least 16 people and injures another 40 in Baquba, Iraq.
- Saudi Arabia offers to increase its oil production slightly at an oil summit in Jeddah.
- Zimbabwean opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai pulls out of the June 27 run-off presidential election after President Robert Mugabe's supporters attacked his rally.
- 2008 Pacific typhoon season: The

Wikipedia Current Events

death toll in the Philippines from Typhoon Fengshen rises to at least 155 according to Red Cross estimates with 59 people dead and 40 people missing in Iloilo province alone.

- A large bus collides head-on with a smaller minibus in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, leaving nine dead.

15 confirmed dead after Iraq bombing

A bombing in the Iraqi province of Diyala has killed 15 people, according to local officials. The suicide bomb exploded at the entrance to a local government centre in the city of Baquba, which is one of the most deadly areas in Iraq. 39 people were also wounded by the attack.

An anonymous witness of the blast described the bomber. "I heard some of the injured people saying they saw a woman wearing a black robe blow herself up."

This attack comes after a bombing on Tuesday killed 51 people, according to local police. That bomb exploded near a bus stop in the Hurriya area, which is mainly populated with Shia Muslims. 75 people were also wounded in Tuesday's attack, which was the deadliest in the area for three months.

Felipe Massa wins 2008 French Grand Prix

Ferrari driver Felipe Massa won the FIA Formula One 2008 Grand Prix de France at the Circuit de Nevers

Magny-Cours, France.

Though his teammate Kimi Räikkönen started from pole, Massa was able to get closer and overtake after a problem with exhaust lines onboard Räikkönen's car started.

Jarno Trulli done his best to withstand Heikki Kovalainen from McLaren Mercedes pushing hard on him. Trulli made the first podium finish for Toyota team. This achievement was dedicated to the memory of Ove Andersson, team founder died in a rally crash recently.

BMW Sauber driver Robert Kubica, the previous GP winner, finished only 5th this time.

4 Renault-engined cars occupied the placeholders from 6 to 9th of the final protocol. Mark Webber gained 3 points for Red Bull. Fernando Alonso dropped to 8th place from the 3rd upon the start. His teammate Nelson Piquet Jr. passed Alonso on the closing laps of the race after a slight driving error by the Spaniard.

Lewis Hamilton qualified third but was penalized 10 places down the grid after his collision in the previous race. Soon after the start he made an error attacking Sebastian Vettel cutting the Nurburgring chicane and was penalized again by a drive-through penalty. He finished 10th.

2008-09 FA Premier League: Blackburn Rovers F.C. hire Ince
Paul Ince has succeeded Mark Hughes as new Blackburn Rovers Manager after signing a 3-year contract with the club.

He becomes the first black manager to manage in the Premier League and top-flight football. Ince

will be unveiled at a press conference at Ewood Park on Tuesday 24th of June.

Ince moved into management with Macclesfield Town, keeping them in the Football League in the 2006-07 season. He moved to the MK Dons in June 2007, leading them to the League 2 title and he Johnstone Paint Trophy.

Over 700 feared dead after ferry hit by typhoon

It is feared that over 700 people have died after a ferry near the Philippines capsized after being hit by Typhoon Fengshen. Only four people from the ferry have been found alive.

The ferry left Manila en route to Cebu on Friday, and according to the owners, Sulpicio Lines, contact was lost at about 12:30 local time Saturday.

A rescue ship was sent to rescue the survivors, although this only happened 24 hours after contact was lost with the boat.

One of the survivors described the incident. "There were many of us who jumped overboard, but we were separated because of the big waves," he said.

He continued, "the others were also able to board the life rafts, but it was useless because the strong winds flipped them over."

MDC pulls out of Zimbabwe elections

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and is therefore not fair.

"We in the MDC have resolved that we will no longer participate in this violent, illegitimate sham of an election process," said Tsvangirai in a press conference made today. "The courageous people of this country and the people of the MDC have done everything humanly and democratically possible to deliver a new Zimbabwe and a new government."

Tsvangirai also said that governments worldwide should intervene to help improve the situation in the country.

Today in History

1757 – Seven Years' War: British forces under Robert Clive defeated troops under Siraj ud-Daulah at the Battle of Plassey, allowing the British East India Company to annex Bengal.

1858 – Edgardo Mortara, a six-year-old Jewish boy, was seized by Papal authorities and taken to be raised as a Roman Catholic.

1887 – The Parliament of Canada passed the Rocky Mountains Park Act, creating Banff National Park as Canada's first national park.

1894 – Led by French historian Pierre de Coubertin, an international congress at the Sorbonne in Paris founded the International Olympic Committee to reinstate the Ancient Olympic Games.

1991 – The video game Sonic the Hedgehog was first released, propelling the Sega Genesis 16-bit console into mass popularity.

June 23 is Jaaniõhtu in Estonia; Jāņi in Latvia; Saint Jonas' Festival in Lithuania; Grand Duke's Official Birthday in Luxembourg

Quote of the Day

We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be

done. ~ Alan Turing

Word of the Day

chutzpah n

1. (slang) Nearly arrogant courage; utter audacity, effrontery or impudence.

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