



Top Stories

Canada confirms fifth case of Mad Cow Disease

Canada's Food Inspection Agency has announced that tests done on a six-year-old dairy cow, have come back positive for Mad Cow Disease. This is Canada's fifth confirmed case of the disease since 2003.

Missing nun found dead

Sister Karen Klimczak, 62, a Catholic nun who went missing on Friday in Buffalo, New York, has been found murdered and her body placed in a shallow grave. According to police, Craig Lynch, 37, was arrested and confessed to the murder and admitted to being high on drugs at the time.

Featured story

US allegedly committed acts of violence in Iran using ex-members of MEK during past year

Different sources claim that the US is committing acts of violence in Iran. The Internet news publication Raw Story says minority groups in Iran, rather than traditional US soldiers, fight a proxy war for the US and that the incursions have been occurring for about a year.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The H5N1 strain of avian flu is reported in Sudan following reports in neighbouring Egypt.
- The New York Stock Exchange is in merger talks with London

Wikipedia Current Events

Stock Exchange, creating a stock exchange giant.

•The Tenth National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam opens in Hanoi amid the PMU-18 corruption scandal.

•2006 European floods: Thousands of emergency workers in Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia try to bolster dikes to prevent flooding along the swollen Danube River, which has surged to its highest level in more than a century. Several thousand people have been evacuated from their homes.

•An El Al airplane in which a malfunction had been detected made a successful emergency landing at the Ben Gurion Airport. The flight, which had departed for Moscow made its way back to Tel Aviv after a malfunction was discovered in one of its wheels upon liftoff. The plane emptied its fuel tank above the sea and then landed at the Ben Gurion airport.

•Today marks the 100th Anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Events marking the centennial will be held today and will continue through the end of the year.

Greenpeace report says Chernobyl death toll has been underestimated

A report published by Greenpeace questions an estimate made by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that 4000 deaths have resulted from the Chernobyl

nuclear accident. Greenpeace claims that this estimate is 'a gross simplification of the breadth of human suffering' and that over the last 15 years, 60,000 have died in Russia because of the accident, and estimates that the total death toll for Ukraine and Belarus could be another 140,000.

The figure of 4,000 deaths given by the IAEA report referred to cancer fatalities within a group of 600,000 people, comprising of those who were sent in to clean up after the accident and those relocated after the accident. The Greenpeace report calls this figure 'misleading', saying that the report 'hid the true scale of human impact of Chernobyl'.

Ivan Blokov of Greenpeace said "it is appalling that the IAEA is whitewashing the impacts of the most serious nuclear accident in human history".

The IAEA have not yet responded to the report.

The World Health Organization (WHO) spokesman Gregory Hartl stated that "The Greenpeace report is looking at all of Europe, whereas our report looks at only the most affected areas of the three most affected countries." Furthermore, "The WHO felt it had recourse to the best national and international scientific evidence and studies when it came up with its estimates of [up to] 9,000 excess deaths for the most affected areas. We feel they're very sound."

The report has been released at a time when the UK government is considering whether new nuclear power stations should be built in the country.

Missing nun found dead

According to Buffalo, New York Police Commissioner H. McCarthy Gipson, Sister Karen Klimczak, 62, a Catholic nun who went missing on Friday, has been found dead in a shallow grave. Her body was found inside a shed in the backyard of an abandoned house just five miles from her home. Police believe that she was either suffocated or strangled and her body did not show any immediate signs of a gunshot wound or a stab wound, but are waiting for the results of an autopsy.

"We've lost a tireless champion of the people," Buffalo Mayor, Byron W. Brown said on Monday.

Klimczak founded and lived in the Bissonette House in 1989, a halfway house for ex-convicts who are considered to be non-violent. It was named after the Rev. A Joseph Bissonette who was a priest that was killed in the house in 1987 by an ex-convict that was residing there.

"It is a tremendous tragedy that this repeats itself 19 years later," added Brown.

Craig Lynch, 37, an ex-convict who has been residing in the house since April 5, according to Gipson, was arrested and confessed to the murder while also admitting to being on drugs at the time. However; according to Gipson, Lynch said the murder was "an accident." Lynch was paroled in January from Wyoming Correctional Facility after time served from a conviction related to

auto theft.

Police say he was attempting to steal Klimczak's cellular phone from her room, when she returned home on Friday. Then according to Detective Sgt. James P. Lonergan, the lead investigator on this case, Lynch attacked Klimczak from behind when she got to the door and then proceeded to dispose of the body.

"He initially hid the body behind a house on George Street and he covered it with some debris. He [then] went to a shed behind a vacant house and dug a shallow grave, then he brought the body there and put it in the grave," said Lonergan.

The phone along with some of the victims clothing and various personal belongings were found in two different trash cans near her home.

Lynch is expected to be charged with larceny and second-degree murder.

Man attacks, kills mental patient

Last Thursday, a mental patient at Rotorua Hospital's psychiatric ward in New Zealand was assaulted and later died in intensive care. Today, she was named as Moria Albert, 51, from Rotorua. After the attack, she was taken to the intensive care unit and placed on life support, but died that afternoon.

The attacker, Nigel Mountford of Rotorua, was charged with murder and appeared in court on Friday. He entered no plea, and a psychological assessment is pending.

Dead body found in suitcase floating in Auckland harbour

In Auckland's Harbour a suitcase

containing a dead body has been found. Police, first suspecting a possible kidnap and ransom plot, has now arrested two male students from China. They have not been accused of any crime, however they are in custody and "are helping police", as Detective Inspector Bernie Hollewand told IOL reporters.

The found body had, according to specialists, been dead for about 24 hours when found and had multiple injuries. Forensic police believes that the murder took place in an inner-city Auckland hotel.

US allegedly committed acts of violence in Iran using ex-members of MEK during past year

On Thursday, the Internet news publication Raw Story corroborated claims that the U.S. is involved in acts of violence committed in Iran. It claims that these are being carried out by retrained ex-members of the People's Mujahedin of Iran (MEK) rather than by traditional US soldiers.

A previous claim was made by former United Nations weapons inspector Scott Ritter in June 2005 that United States security forces have been sending members of the MEK into Iranian territory. Ritter claimed that the CIA had used the MEK "to carry out remote bombings in Iran of the sort that the Bush administration condemns on a daily basis inside Iraq".

Early this month, Seymour Hersh made a similar statement in New Yorker Magazine about the entry of US troops themselves into Iranian territory, but without supporting the claim that they carried out acts of violence. Hersh claimed that US combat troops are

"now operating in Iran" and that according to a "government consultant with close ties to civilians in the Pentagon, the [combat troop] units were also working with minority groups in Iran, including the Azeris, in the north, the Baluchis, in the southeast, and the Kurds, in the northeast [sic]." According to Hersh, the government consultant also said that the US troops "are studying the terrain, and giving away walking-around money to ethnic tribes, and recruiting scouts from local tribes and shepherds."

In Thursday's report, Raw Story supported the previous claims about the US committing acts of violence in Iran, with the difference that it claimed that the acts are being carried out by proxy retrained ex-MEK members rather than by traditional US soldiers, and that the incursions have been occurring for about a year.

Wikipedia has one or more articles about U.S.-Iran relations, 2005-2006 US-Israeli threats to attack Iran.

Wikipedia has one or more articles about People's Mujahedin of Iran (MEK).

Raw Story cited an unnamed United Nations source "close to" the UN Security Council who stated that former MEK members have been used as a proxy by the US for "roughly a year" inside of Iranian territory. An intelligence source quoted by Raw Story said that the former MEK members were made to "swear an oath to Democracy and resign from the MEK" before being incorporated into US military units and retrained for their operations in Iran. The MEK is an Iranian

opposition group listed by the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization but describes itself as "secular" and "patriotic, Muslim and democratic".

Raw Story cited the UN official saying that "We are already at war". Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Sam Gardiner made similar remarks on CNN on Friday saying "I would say -- and this may shock some -- I think the decision has been made and military operations are under way."

Raw Story said that the MEK has been used in the Iranian provinces of Baluchistan and Khuzestan and quoted a senior British intelligence official saying that British intelligence believes that the MEK is responsible for the violent attacks in the southern Iran, and that people from a "US Special mission unit" are present on Iranian territory, but was unsure as to the links between US military and the MEK.

According to the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which is alleged by the FBI to be "an integral part of the MEK", Professor Raymond Tanter of Georgetown University and a former White House aide argued on Al-Jazeera television that the only way to confront Iran's threats is to support the MEK and its removal from the U.S. State Department list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations and from its classification as a terrorist organization by the Council of the European Union.

Raw Story reports that the office of the Undersecretary of Defense Intelligence did not return calls for comment.

British National Party to tempt voters in May local elections

In the run up to the UK's May local elections, attention has again been drawn to the British National Party (BNP). Party spokesman and councillor candidate for the Fulham Broadway area of London Steven Tyler stated "Now we're a party with sensible policies which have made us much more electable than in the past,"

The BNP local election manifesto of April 14 outlined the party's commitment to environmental and tax reforms, with a focus on a zero-tolerance campaign against anti-social behaviour and the removal of what the BNP sees as preferential treatment of asylum seekers.

The party has said it will field a total of 365 candidates for local authority seats in the May 4th elections. Currently the BNP has 15 councillors across England and stated at its campaign launch that it intends to add "another 15 or 20" seats.

Research undertaken on behalf of the The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust has indicated that up to 25% of people have said that "they might" vote for the BNP. MPs from mainstream parties have admitted that they need to face the challenge presented by the BNP in the May 4th election.

Conservative and Liberal Democrat members have suggested that disillusionment with the government is to blame for the current findings of the report.

Former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith told BBC radio 4's Today program that the BNPs message was gaining headway in disadvantaged areas and identified that "What we have picked up in

these very difficult communities is the collapse in the quality of life for so many people," Duncan Smith went on to say "The whole sense of the quality of life in these communities has become a rich feeding ground for people who want to stigmatise others as being the cause of this."

"If voters are unhappy with conventional parties, one of the key reasons is because successive Tory and Labour governments have failed to provide enough affordable housing where families wish to live," commented Liberal Democrat Simon Hughes. He added that voters should not be taken in by the "simplistic promises" of the BNP.

Today in History

- 1713 - Emperor Charles VI issued the Pragmatic Sanction to ensure his daughter Maria Theresa would inherit the Habsburg monarchy.
- 1775 - The American Revolutionary War began with the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- 1839 - The signing of the Treaty of London formally recognised Belgian independence from the United Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- 1971 - The first space station, Salyut 1, was launched.
- 1995 - Oklahoma City bombing: A car bomb was detonated in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killing 168 people.

Quote of the Day

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
 Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;
 Here once the embattled farmers stood;
 And fired the shot heard round the world.
 ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~

Word of the Day

intransigent; *adj*

Definition

1. Stubbornly unwilling to compromise or moderate a position; unreasonable.

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