



Top Stories

Iran says its nuclear program is unchanged

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Chinese Wikipedia unblocked by government

According to reports, the government of China has stopped restricting access to the Chinese Wikipedia in some parts of the country. The report originated on the Wikimedia Foundation's mailing list, although other sites have now covered the development.

Train cars derail into the Thompson River, chemicals spilled

Chemicals in the Thompson River were said to be found after four Canadian Pacific Railway cars containing chemicals derailed near Lytton, British Columbia, Canada on Tuesday night. The cars were reportedly carrying ethylene glycol, commonly found in products such as antifreeze and windshield washer fluid.

South African president wrongly announces death of Zambian counterpart

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nation's leader Levy Mwanawasa had died. Mbeki had asked for a minute's silence for Mwanawasa during a ceremony.

Wikipedia Current Events

In rugby union, New Zealand defeat World Cup winners South Africa 19-8 in the opening match of the Tri Nations.

- Margaret Hoelzer sets a world record for the 200 metre backstroke at the United States Olympic trials in Omaha, Nebraska.
- Venus Williams defeats sister Serena 7-5, 6-4 at the 2008 Wimbledon Championships Ladies' Final.

Iran says its nuclear program is unchanged

Iran said today that the policies regarding its nuclear program have not changed, despite a proposal made by world powers last month that the country suspend uranium enrichment in exchange for economic and political incentives.

Government spokesman Gholam-Hossein Elham delivered the remarks. "Iran's stand regarding its peaceful nuclear program has not changed. Iran insists on negotiations while respecting its rights and avoiding any loss of international rights," Elham said. He indicated that Iran "will continue with the path determined by the Supreme Leader Ayatollah

Seyed Ali Khamenei."

His statement came a day after Iran officially responded to the incentives package, which was offered by the foreign ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Russia, France, and Germany, as well as European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana. They had called for formal negotiations to be held "as soon as Iran's enrichment-related and reprocessing activities are suspended."

The proposal also included a preliminary negotiations phase, in which the world powers would not pursue any further sanctions against Iran if the nation does not manufacture or install uranium-enriching centrifuges for six weeks.

Iran's response, a letter written by Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, has not been made public. However, officials involved in the diplomacy have discussed some of its contents. They say the letter failed to address their proposal, and that it criticized the way diplomacy has been conducted, including the sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council. "The time for negotiating from the condescending position of inequality has come to an end," the letter said, according to the anonymous officials.

Nevertheless, the letter says Iran is willing to begin negotiating with Javier Solana and the other countries who made the offer.

Solana is also willing to negotiate, according to his spokesman, Cristina Gallach. She said Iranian security chief Saeed Jalili had requested a meeting in a telephone call. "One of the things to decide is to meet Jalili, and if so when," Gallach said.

London police launch new anti-gang taskforce

London's Metropolitan Police Service (the Met) have launched a new 75-man taskforce to combat the rising tide of gang-related knife crime. This comes after the Met's Deputy Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson claimed yesterday that knife crime has replaced terrorism as the force's "number one priority".

"We all have to work together to get the message across that carrying knives has got to stop... we need to broadcast the message quite simply: if you carry a knife, you are likely to be caught, you will be charged and you will be likely to go to prison." —Sir Paul Stephenson

Over the last six months the city has seen 18 knife attacks - nearly as many as were committed throughout the whole of 2007. On Thursday 16-year-old Shakilus Townsend was the victim of one of such crimes, being stabbed near his home in Thornton Heath in the south of the city. This is allegedly what persuaded the Met to create the taskforce, which aims to prevent these attacks by patrolling the streets of London's toughest areas.

Kit Malthouse, deputy for policing to London mayor Boris Johnson, has welcomed the move, stating that "I'm extremely pleased the Met are ramping up their already significant efforts on Operation Blunt 2." Cindy Butts, deputy

chairwoman of the Metropolitan Police Authority, added: "It would be wholly wrong if the Met had not responded to the further dreadful murders that have happened this week."

The taskforce is to be composed of specialists, members of the Territorial Support Group, traffic officers and dog handlers who seek to target known gangsters and their contacts, as well as conducting random searches. Stop and search powers have already been enacted in Operation Blunt 2, using Section 60 of the Public Order Act. There have so far been 26,777 of such searches, yielding over 1,200 arrests and 528 knife confiscations.

Sir Paul appealed yesterday for help from London's communities. "Sadly, in recent days, more young people have lost their lives to knife crime. This is not tolerable and clearly the message is not getting through," he said, adding that "we all have to work together to get the message across that carrying knives has got to stop... we need to broadcast the message quite simply: if you carry a knife, you are likely to be caught, you will be charged and you will be likely to go to prison."

Death toll in Arizona helicopter collision at seven as only survivor dies

The death toll in a collision between two helicopters in Arizona, United States has been finalised at seven after the only survivor died. James Taylor was an emergency nurse present on one of the helicopters, which were both Bell 407s performing patient transfers to nearby Flagstaff Medical Center. The other six, including two patients, died at the scene.

Taylor, 36, worked at Salt Lake's St. Mark's Hospital, and also part-time with Life Flight, who operated the helicopter he was on board at the time. He had only recently started working at St. Mark's after 17 years at the Intermountain Medical Center, and was also a veteran of Desert Storm as a member of the Utah Army Reserve.

His sister said of him "He loved serving others ... and especially being paged for lifeflight duty. He gave his life trying to save another ... he truly was a hero." As well as an extended family mostly residing in Utah Taylor is survived by his wife and three young sons.

Zion's Bank have established the James Taylor Memorial Fund to help the family he left behind.

UK court rules Pringles are potato-light

A British High Court judge has ruled that Pringles are not a potato snack and therefore not subject to a 17.5% tax.

The judge, Justice Nicholas Warren, overruled a Value Added Tax (VAT) Tribunal decision that imposed the 17.5% tax which is also applied on other potato products.

Pringles' owner Procter & Gamble had claimed at a ruling in May that Pringles do not feel, look, or taste like a crisp. Justice Warren ruled that since Pringles are only 42% potato, it is exempt from VAT.

South African president wrongly announces death of Zambian counterpart

South African president Thabo Mbeki has been asked for an explanation from Zambia after announcing wrongly that the nation's leader Levy Mwanawasa

had died. Mbeki asked for a minute's silence for Mwanawasa during a ceremony in honour of those killed during recent violence against foreigners in South Africa.

Mwanawasa was flown into Paris, France on Sunday for emergency treatment after he suffered a stroke in Egypt before an African Union summit. On Wednesday, the night he was supposed to have died, he in fact had a "satisfactory night" according to Rupiah Banda, Zambia's vice president.

Mbeki said he had been informed of the death by the Southern African Development Community's executive secretary. He has since telephoned Zambia's high commissioner to South Africa, Leslie Mbula, to apologise personally.

Zambian Minister for Foreign Affairs Kabinga Pande has sent a letter to the South African government requesting a full explanation for the misunderstanding.

2008 Taste of Taiwan Cuisine: A complex to redefine Taiwan's MICE industry

Ever since the Taste of Taiwan Cuisine, a complex to promote the MICE (meeting, incentive travel, conference, and exhibition) and cultural industries in Taiwan exclusively in June, made its initiation at 2006, the tourism ratio from foreigners were progressively increased in this complex event.

To bring up the MICE industry, Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), the event organizer, arranged several key events including Taipei Trade Shows, travel packages, views, and conferences for international businesspeople. This effectively redefined the MICE

industry in Taiwan during the event.

Trade show & conferences: Where buyers discussed from.

As the 2008 WiMAX Expo Taipei and COMPUTEX Taipei jointly showcased in the Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1 - 3, Taipei International Convention Center, and TWTC Nangang, the potential of ICT industry in Taiwan were demonstrated to drive more discussions between international businesspeople during the show hours and conferences.

Products related to current incidents including energy-efficiency, environmental-friendly, and low-prices were highly respected from industrial businesspeople. In addition to several forums and seminars, topical issues including environment and energy-saving were also mentioned during the shows.

Apart from seminars and trade shows, since the TWTC Nangang was launched on March 13, the venue brought opportunities for several industries. As the government claimed to promote the MICE industry positively, Taiwan will keep its stable position on international sourcing center in Asia with more trade shows expanded to TWTC Nangang.

Culture: Its potential were, but figure?

Culinary, historical ancestry, natural views, and country images, are key factors to demonstrate the culture of a nation. Different from them, the creativity and innovations showcased another style in its [cultural] industry.

A good example was the organization of three theme shows

for food and packaging industries - "Food Taipei", "Foodtech Taipei", and "Taipei Pack", a collective with different cultures from twenty-seven countries including United States, South Korea, Canada, Japan, Sri Lanka, Austria, Philippines, Chile, Malaysia, Spain, Fiji, Poland, and six nations from Africa.

Not only the shows, the TAITRA also provided several special coupon cards for international businesspeople to discount in several local department stores, hotels, tourism views, and gourmet stores to rise up the tourism industry.

Although the tourism industry was firmly prosper as trade shows went smoothly, but when a great shows took place at Taipei World Trade Center, it still exposed a major problem on transportation although Walter Yeh, Vice President of TAITRA, ever emphasized to improve this critical issue in a press conference.

Train cars derail into the Thompson River, British Columbia, chemicals spilled

Chemicals in the Thompson River were said to be found after four Canadian Pacific Railway (CP Rail) cars containing chemicals derailed near Lytton, British Columbia, Canada on Tuesday night.

The derailment occurred just northeast of Lytton when a landslide hit in the middle of a freight train with about 100 cars at around 7:00 pm PDT (02:00 UTC) Tuesday evening. One car remained on the tracks, another was on a river bank, and two were submerged in the Thompson, one of them fully submerged and the other partially submerged. CP states that the cars were carrying the chemical ethylene glycol,

commonly found in products such as antifreeze and windshield washer fluid. Glycol is water soluble and biodegradable but is causing concern to local fisheries and people dependent on aquatic life survival. Even though there is not enough chemical to be toxic after dilution in the water, there is still expressed concern that it may cause additional stress to aquatic life.

Despite protective measures, like a protective double hull, investigations found that broken valves and holes are causing the chemical to leak into the river. CP Rail originally denied that any chemical was leaking, but is now driving efforts to plug the leaks.

The Thompson River is a tributary of the larger Fraser River. The area is sensitive to harm because migrating salmon pass through and are in already in dwindling numbers in recent years.

Today in History

- 1415 – The Council of Constance executed Jan Hus, founder of the Christian Hussite reform movement, for committing heresy.
- 1809 – Napoleon's French forces defeated Archduke Charles' Austrian army at the Battle of Wagram, the decisive confrontation of the War of the Fifth Coalition.
- 1887 – King Kalākaua of Hawai'i was forced to sign the Bayonet Constitution, stripping the Hawaiian monarchy of much of its authority as well as disfranchising all Asians, most native Hawaiians, and the poor.
- 1966 – Hastings Banda became the first president of Malawi, exactly two years after the country was granted independence from the United Kingdom.
- 1998 – Hong Kong International Airport, built on the island of Chek

Lap Kok by land reclamation, opened for commercial operations, becoming one of the world's busiest airports.

July 06 is Independence Day in Malawi (1964) and in Comoros (1975); Statehood Day in Lithuania (1253); Jan Hus Day in the Czech Republic; the festival of San Fermín begins in Pamplona, Spain

Quote of the Day

I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast; for I intend to go in harm's way. ~ John Paul Jones

Word of the Day

elliptical adj

1. In a shape reminding of an ellipse; oval.
2. Of, or showing ellipsis; having a word or words omitted.

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