



Top Stories

Al-Qaeda explosives expert killed in Pakistan

Mohsin Musa Matawalli Atwah, 45, one of Al-Qaeda's explosives experts is believed to have been killed in an airstrike by Pakistani forces. So far, the United States has not confirmed the report, but a Minister for Egypt confirms "the death of this Egyptian terrorist."

Canada tests cow for mad cow disease

Initial tests for mad cow disease done on a cow in British Columbia, Canada, have come back inconclusive. Results from further tests being conducted are expected on Sunday.

Featured story

Police confirm lagoon bodies are boys missing from Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Police have confirmed that the bodies of two children found in a small pond in McGovern Park are Purvis Parker, 11, and Quadrevion Henning, 12, who went missing on March 19. Police say there was no foul play involved and that the autopsy reports show the boys had drowned.

Wikipedia Current Events

- In a gunfight with the Afghani Police Force, the Taliban lose 41 fighters and the police lose 6.

Flight 93 cockpit recorder played in Moussaoui trial

The Los Angeles Times reports that the transcript of the voice recorder on United Airlines Flight 93 was read during the on-going trial of Zacarias Moussaoui, the self-proclaimed Al-Qaeda member being charged with terrorism in connection with the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The transcript is the first recording of the hijacked airplane's voice recorders to be released to the general public. In 2004, when the 9/11 Commission Report was finished, some details of the recording were published, however the full transcript was not included in the publication.

The transcript, which has been viewed by the 9/11 Commission Report, references to people trying to get in the cockpit at 9:58 a.m. EST. The transcript at timestamp 09:58:57 records a voice in Arabic saying, "(They want to get in here. Hold, hold from the inside. Hold from the inside. Hold)." Minutes later, a voice in English is recorded, stating, "In the cockpit. If we don't, we'll die."

As already stated in the findings of the 9/11 Commission, there is nothing to show any passenger ever got into cockpit or fought the terrorists before the plane crashed at 10:03 a.m.

Police confirm lagoon bodies are boys missing from Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Police in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

have confirmed that the bodies of two children recovered yesterday from a small pond in McGovern Park are indeed those of Purvis Parker, 11, and Quadrevion Henning, 12, who lived nearby. The two boys were reported missing nearly a month ago.

Police had shown photos of the two bodies to Parker's mother, Angela Virginia, who said she believed that the bodies were those of the two missing boys. Today's autopsy confirms their identities, and lists drowning as the cause of death. Police have said there is no evidence to suggest foul play.

"Honestly I don't think there was any foul play. That makes it kind of nice for the family that they weren't held against their own will," said Dennis Frazier, Henning's uncle.

"It looks like it has been in the lagoon for quite some time," said Nan Hegerty, Chief of the Milwaukee Police, when the first body was found. According to Hegerty, two people walking in the park spotted the first body at around 7:23 p.m. CDT on Friday. The second body was found at about 10 p.m. CDT by divers for the police department. Both boys were fully clothed when found.

According to Hegerty, the pond where the bodies were found had been checked several times in the past.

"Apparently that body too had come up to the surface and was

caught in a somewhat of a weedy, wooded area of the lagoon," added Hegerty.

Both boys had been missing since March 19, 2006.

U.S. claims of Iraqi bioweapons labs contradicted in classified Pentagon report filed on 27 May 2003

In an article published on Wednesday by The Washington Post, reporter Joby Warrick alleged that the Bush administration and the CIA "possessed powerful evidence" that contradicted assertions made by President Bush one month after the Iraqi war began, where trailers found in Iraq were said to have been mobile biological weapons labs.

On May 27, 2003, two days before President Bush made public statements on these trailers, asserting that "We have found the weapons of mass destruction" and the CIA published their whitepaper detailing how these trailers were allegedly used to produce biological weapons, a fact-finding group comprised of U.S. and British civilian experts that investigated the labs concluded unanimously that these had nothing to do with biological weapons production and relayed their results back to Washington, according to the Washington Post. The Washington Post said it interviewed six of the nine group members.

According to The Washington Post, this preliminary report was followed up with a detailed 122 page final report three weeks later, titled "Final Technical Engineering Exploitation Report on Iraqi Suspected Biological Weapons-Associated Trailers." The report remains classified to this date.

Rendering of alleged mobile bioweapons labs used by Colin Powell in his Security Council speech

Reuters reported that an unnamed U.S. official confirmed the existence of the field report filed on May 27, 2003, and said that the field report had not been evaluated at the time of Bush's statement. "You don't change a report that has been coordinated in the (intelligence) community based on a field report," he reportedly said. The Bush administration continued to make claims about having found mobile biological weapons facilities throughout 2003.

On June 8, 2003, an unnamed senior CIA official stood by the interpretation that the trailers were mobile bioweapons labs saying "It is what we think it is, to the best of our knowledge".

Then Secretary of State Colin Powell claimed in June 2003 that "confidence level is increasing" that the trailers were intended for biological weapons production.

White House speaker Scott McClellan said on July 16, 2003, that "We've seen some of the evidence of his weapons of mass destruction program through two mobile biological weapon labs that have been discovered."

Vice President Dick Cheney claimed in September 2003 that the trailers were "mobile biological facilities". Then CIA director George Tenet claimed in a speech on February 5, 2004, that the trailers "could be made to work" as biological weapons labs.

The alleged existence of mobile biological weapons laboratories was one of the cornerstones in

Colin Powell's presentation in front of the United Nations to make the case for war on February 5, 2003. Much of the information came from an Iraqi defector dubbed Curveball who was an asset of the German BND. The credibility of this source was disputed by the BND.

The Iraq Survey Group reported in September 2004 that the trailers were impractical for biological agent production" and "almost certainly designed and built for the generation of hydrogen." Asked about the prospects to turn the trailers into biological weapons labs, Rod Barton, a member of the Iraq Survey Group, said "It would be easier to start all over with just a bucket".

The Washington Post cites unnamed sources among officials and members of the initial survey group as claiming that the original classified report from May 27th 2003 and the classified final report three weeks later came to the same conclusions as the unclassified findings of the Iraqi Survey Group.

Scott Ritter, a former United Nations weapons inspector, wrote September 8, 2003: "However, it now is clear that these so-called labs were nothing more than hydrogen generation units based upon British technology acquired by Iraq in the 1980s, used to fill weather balloons in support of conventional artillery operations, and have absolutely no application for the production of biological agents."

In April 12's press conference Scott McClellan said "I will point out that the reporting I saw this morning was simply reckless and it was irresponsible. The lead in The Washington Post left the

impression for the reader that the President was saying something he knew at the time not to be true. ... The President's statements were based on the joint assessment of the CIA and DIA that was publicly released the day before [the President made his statements]."

He did not answer repeated questions whether the President knew of the secret report at the time he was asserting that "we found biological laboratories" on May 29 2005. When asked why the secret report was not made public earlier McClellan responded by saying that "it takes a substantial amount of time to coordinate and run through a declassification process".

Salon: Rumsfeld allowed Guantanamo abuse

According to the online magazine Salon on Friday, United States Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld let an "abusive and degrading" interrogation happen in 2002, citing an Army document obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request as its source. The magazine quoted a December 2005 Army inspector general's report where officers told of Rumsfeld's direct contact with the overseeing general at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

According to the article, the victim, Mohammed al-Kahtani, was made to stand naked in front of a female American interrogator and accused of being a homosexual, forced to wear women's underwear and to perform "dog tricks" on a leash and went through 18-20 hours of interrogation per day during 48 of 54 days.

Salon reports that "on Dec. 2,

2002, Rumsfeld approved 16 harsher interrogation strategies for use against Kahtani, including the use of forced nudity, stress positions and the removal of religious items." According to the report, Rumsfeld revoked these harsher interrogation techniques in mid-January 2003 and they were not approved again.

Salon cites Army investigator Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt's statement, which was made under oath, that he concluded that although Rumsfeld did not specifically order the interrogation methods used on Kahtani, the open-ended policies approved by Rumsfeld paired with lack of supervision of day-to-day interrogations permitted the abusive conduct to take place.

Pentagon spokesman Jeffery Gordon told Reuters that "We've gone over this countless times and yet some still choose to print fiction versus facts," and added that "Twelve major reviews, to include one done by an independent panel, all confirm the Department of Defense did not have a policy that encouraged or condoned abuse. To suggest otherwise is simply false."

Amber Alert canceled in Toronto

Nevaeh Gough is back with her family, and police in Toronto have canceled the Amber Alert issued earlier today when she was driven away by her father, Daniel James David, after an alleged domestic altercation between the 10-month old's parents.

Police were called to a home on Warden Avenue at 1:35 p.m. EDT (1735 UTC) regarding a domestic dispute. Police allege Mr David arrived at a motel where the mother and child were staying and assaulted the infant's mother, then

drove away with the child. When he returned to the hotel, they allege he forced the mother into the car and drove her to the home on Warden Avenue, from which he later fled.

Police issued the alert, along with descriptions of Mr David and his vehicle, and the warning that he may have a gun.

The alert was canceled off after approximately an hour when the baby's grandfather brought her to the police, about 7 p.m. local time.

Mr David was described as 5'10", black, with black, short hair and brown eyes and has a cheek scar under his right eye. His vehicle is a silver, four-door, 2006 Mazda M6, with Ontario license plate AYFZ 177.

Anyone with information to his whereabouts is asked to contact police at 416-808-4300, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), or online at www.222tips.com .

Canada tests cow for mad cow disease

Initial tests done on a six-year-old dairy cow in Fraser Valley, a farming community near Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada, are inconclusive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or "mad cow disease," said Canada's Food Inspection Agency.

Further tests are being conducted at Winnipeg's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease and results are expected on Sunday. Officials also say the cow did not enter the human food chain.

"Canada has a suite of internationally recognized safeguards that work together to

provide high levels of human and animal health protection," officials for the agency said in a statement.

If the results are positive, this will be Canada's fifth case of the disease since 2003.

Today in History

1746 - The Battle of Culloden, the final battle of the Jacobite Rising, was fought in Culloden, Scotland.

1853 - Indian Railways launched its first passenger train service.

1917 - Vladimir Lenin returned to Petrograd from exile in Finland.

1943 - Dr. Albert Hofmann discovered the psychedelic effects of LSD.

1947 - Texas City Disaster: Thousands of tons of ammonium nitrate in Texas City's port exploded.

April 16 is Easter in Western Christianity, Mawlid in Shi'a Islam (2006)

Quote of the Day

"Although to penetrate into the intimate mysteries of nature and thence to learn the true causes of phenomena is not allowed to us, nevertheless it can happen that a certain fictive hypothesis may suffice for explaining many phenomena." ~ Leonhard Euler

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