



Top Stories

Condoleezza Rice in Iraq for surprise visit



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has arrived in Baghdad's Green Zone for an unannounced visit to Iraq.

Pope addresses UN in NY as US visit continues

Benedict XVI arrived in New York Friday, as part of his visit to the United States. On the first day of his visit to New York



City, he went to the United Nations and addressed the General Assembly speaking extensively about human rights. Later, he visited a Synagogue on the Upper East Side.

Soyuz TMA-11 spacecraft lands



This morning, the Soyuz TMA-11 spacecraft landed in Kazakhstan, with three cosmonauts

aboard. Russian Yuri Malenchenko, and American Peggy Whitson were returning from the International Space Station, where they had spent six months as the Expedition 16 crew.

Featured story

California student arrested in criminal threats made on Wikipedia

A student at Glen A. Wilson High School in Hacienda Heights, California was arrested Friday on suspicion of making criminal threats against students. The student arrested, described as a male minor by Hacienda La Puente Unified School District police, confessed to making threats against students at the high school via a post to the Wikipedia article about the school.

11 killed in Mexican military helicopter crash

Eleven people have died after a military helicopter crashed during an anti-narcotics flight in Western Mexico. The Bell 212 went down near Uruapan in Michoacan.

Michoacan is a major area in Mexico's anti-narcotics operations, which are conducted by the nation's military. The rotorcraft went down around midday. Police cordoned off the scene and forensic officers have moved in to examine the site. The Defense Department is investigating.

Wikipedia Current Events

Former bishop Fernando Lugo is elected as the President of Paraguay.

•Radio Television of Kosovo in a TV statement released on their website, wants to participate as soon as possible in the Eurovision Song Contest and therefore want to be a member of European Broadcasting Union. The question remains whether RTK will be able to get active EBU membership, since countries like Serbia, Russia and Greece can object, as they don't recognise the new Republic of Kosovo.

•Danica Patrick becomes the first woman to win a race in any top-flight American motor racing series with her victory in IndyCar's 2008 Indy Japan 300.

•The New York Times publishes an exposé on the Pentagon message machine

A statement by the military confirmed the crash. "There are 11 men dead, including a colonel, and one soldier was injured," said a state attorney general's office spokesman. The wounded soldier, who was the sole survivor, was flown to a Mexico City military hospital, and remains there in a serious condition.

Although authorities released no crash details, witnesses say the helicopter lost power during attempts to land. "The motor stopped and the helicopter plummeted to the ground," said one local resident named Agustin Vargas. The flight had been headed to a marijuana field with the intention of raiding it.

Condoleezza Rice in Iraq for surprise visit

United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has arrived in Baghdad's Green Zone for a previously unannounced visit to

Iraq.

Yesterday Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr threatened an "open war" against the current Iraqi government unless they stopped their operations against his Mahdi Army. In response to this, a US-Iraqi coalition clashed with his forces in Baghdad and to the south. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has also threatened to ban al-Sadr and his supporters from political life if they continue to use militias.

Miss Rice hopes to see more reconciliation of the various factions in Iraq. She praised al-Maliki's work, saying that she has seen a "coalescing of a centre in Iraqi politics".

The primary purpose of Rice's visit is to attend conferences in Gulf states. She called on these states to offer diplomacy and debt relief to Iraq earlier today. "The neighbours could do more to live up to their obligations because I do believe the Iraqis are beginning to live up to theirs," she told reporters on her plane.

On Tuesday she is attending a meeting in Kuwait which will have representation from Iraq's bordering nations in which she is expected to push for further aid for Iraq.

Families evacuated in Bristol, United Kingdom not allowed to return to home

Families who were evacuated in Bristol, United Kingdom have been told that they will not yet be allowed to return to their homes. This is despite the fact that many news reports from the time of the evacuation, including those from BBC News indicated that they would be able to return yesterday.

Avon and Somerset police recently released a statement on the evacuation, part of which is available below:

"Around 30 people – including one 80-year-old woman – were evacuated from their homes after police put a cordon in place around the man's home and then carried out a controlled explosion.

The people evacuated were initially housed at a local school and also stopped in the homes of Neighbourhood Watch members from the area, before being transferred to a city centre hotel, where they remained until Saturday. They then moved to another hotel."

This move comes after Avon and Somerset police arrested a man in the Westbury on Trym area of the city on suspicion of terrorism.

Italian ambassador to South Africa dies in accident

The Italian ambassador to South Africa died in a car accident Saturday while hunting and on a game viewing safari in Limpopo province. At least two others were injured, one seriously.

Alessandro Cevese, 57, was traveling in a vehicle when it maneuvered to miss hitting an antelope. It is reported to have crossed the dirt road they were traveling on and when attempting to miss hitting it, the vehicle overturned and Cevese was thrown out of the car.

"The ambassador was flung from the car window and died instantly," said counselor Pier Folano. Authorities will be performing a culpability homicide investigation into the accident.

Cevese had served as Italy's ambassador to Lesotho, Mauritius

and Madagascar and South Africa since July 2006. He was an attorney with experience in diplomacy.

Cevese is survived by his wife and three children.

Today in History

753 BC – Romulus and Remus founded Rome, according to the calculations by Roman scholar Varro Reatinus.

1836 – Texan forces led by Sam Houston defeated General Antonio López de Santa Anna and his Mexican troops in the Battle of San Jacinto near La Porte, the decisive battle in the Texas Revolution.

1894 – Norway formally adopted the Krag-Jørgensen, a repeating bolt action rifle designed by the Norwegians Ole Herman Johannes Krag and Erik Jørgensen, as the main firearm of its armed forces.

1918 – The German fighter pilot known as "The Red Baron", the most successful flying ace of World War I with 80 confirmed air combat victories, was shot down and killed near Vaux-sur-Somme in France.

1967 – Colonel Georgios Papadopoulos overthrew the government of Prime Minister Panagiotis Kanellopoulos in a coup d'état, establishing the Regime of the Colonels in Greece.

April 21 is Patriots' Day in Massachusetts and Maine (2008); Grounation Day in the Rastafari movement; First day of Ridván in the Bahá'í Faith; Tiradentes Day in Brazil.

Quote of the Day

How hard to realize that every camp of men or beast has this glorious starry firmament for a roof! In such places standing alone on the mountaintop it is easy to realize that whatever special nests we make — leaves and moss like the marmots and birds, or tents or

piled stone — we all dwell in a
house of one room — the world
with the firmament for its roof —
and are sailing the celestial spaces
without leaving any track.
~ John Muir

Word of the Day

bucolic adj

1. Rustic, pastoral, country-styled
2. Pertaining to herdsmen or peasants.

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Word of the Day