



Top Stories

Heat protection system on Space Shuttle Atlantis damaged during liftoff

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US President George W. Bush falls ill during G8 Summit

U.S. President George W. Bush has fallen ill with a stomach bug and missed the morning session of the G-8 Summit, but has returned to the days events.

Featured story

Judge orders Paris Hilton to return to jail

A day after being released to house arrest, Paris Hilton is brought back into court in handcuffs, and ordered to return to jail.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The Council of Europe publish a report claiming to prove member states Romania and Poland conspired with the American CIA to kidnap and torture suspected terrorists.
- Chinese police rescue 31 workers kept as slaves at a brickworks in Linfen in Shanxi province run by the son of a local official of the Communist Party of China.
- At least 14 people are killed in two bomb explosions in Qurna

Wikipedia Current Events

near Basra in Iraq.

•New South Wales in Australia is battered with severe storms causing an elderly couple to be missing and prompting distress calls from several ships off the coast of Newcastle, New South Wales.

•The Space Shuttle Atlantis launches with a crew of seven on an assembly mission to the International Space Station on mission STS-117.

Iraq protests Turkish artillery attacks

The artillery attacks of the Turkish Armed Forces were officially protested by Iraq, says a news report. The foreign minister of Iraq sent a protest letter to Turkey, accusing Turkey of "shelling" the Kurdish areas in Iraq. The letter said that the artilleries caused a heavy damage in northern Iraq and that it went on for several hours. It also said that these kinds of attacks "undermine confidence between the two nations and negatively affect their friendship". Turkey has not confirmed such over-the-border attacks however has been moving armed troops into position on the border for the last several days.

"Iraq would like to take this opportunity to declare its resolve to co-operate with Turkish authorities to allay Turkey's legitimate fears through a constructive dialogue and positive co-operation," the letter said.

News reports say that Iraq is trying to keep the situation calm for the moment, and is trying to cooperate with Turkish forces to deal with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) members thinking that this situation should not be dealt by the Kurds and Turks.

Aer Lingus buys twelve new long-haul Airbus jets

Irish national airline Aer Lingus have purchased 12 new long-haul Airbus jet liners as a means of modernizing it's long-haul fleet and improving it's transatlantic service to the United States.

Under the agreement, the Aer Lingus Group PLC said it will receive six new A330-300E aircraft from 2009 to 2011, then between 2014 and 2016 it will take delivery of six new A350 XWB (Extra Wide Body) aircraft, a new design currently under development by Airbus. Aer Lingus have also negotiated a possible purchase of six more A350s for delivery by 2018.

Aer Lingus already operates an all-Airbus fleet consisting of 30 short-haul A320s and eight long-haul A330s, and had made the purchase of new long-haul airliners a top priority since the formerly state-owned company was floated on British and Irish stock markets in September. The airline had approached Airbus rival Boeing regarding a potential deal for their new 787 aircraft, but Aer Lingus Chief Executive Dermot Mannion stated that he believed the

Airbusses were "better on fuel and better on range" than the 787. He also said that, although the aircraft have a catalogue value of €1.78 billion (US\$2.4 billion), Airbus had offered them at an "exceptional price". Some of the A330s will be replaced by the new aircraft.

As well as new routes to the US, Mannion stated that there was a possibility of routes elsewhere resulting from the new aircraft as well, saying, "We will prioritize the U.S. ... (but) we have an eye as to what's happening to the Far East and South Africa." The airline already offers flights to New York, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles. It will resume flights to Washington and Orlando this year, having cancelled Washington due to the September 11th terrorist attacks and Orlando due to a union dispute. The airline will also launch a new San Francisco service this year.

Aer Lingus shares on the Irish Stock Exchange fell 2.5 percent to €2.73 (\$3.68) the day the deal was announced. It will fall through unless backed by shareholders.

Aer Lingus rival Ryanair has been attempting to take over Aer Lingus since December, and if this bid is successful, the new aircraft may become redundant as Ryanair intends to end transatlantic services. However, the Irish government, which holds a 25 percent share in Aer Lingus, disapproves of the takeover, as do Aer Lingus employee-controlled trusts that hold more than 15 percent shares. Ryanair owns a 25 percent share in Aer Lingus. The takeover is also unlikely to receive regulatory approval from the European Union.

Mannion said of the integration of the new aircraft "The A350 XWB

fits in with our ambitious plans to expand existing routes and to open up new ones from our hub in Dublin. We already have an all Airbus fleet and the new aircraft will fit in seamlessly."

Lordi horror movie receives 300,000 euros of Finnish government funding

Dark Floors, a horror film under production in Northern Finland and starring the hard rock band Lordi (who are famed for their monster costumes and lyrical themes), has received 300,000 euros (£200,000) funding from the Finnish government.

Lordi are also famed for their record-breaking 292 point victory in the Eurovision Song Contest 2006 with their song Hard Rock Hallelujah. It was also the first time a hard rock song had won the contest, and Finland's first ever victory.

The film is being shot in English, with a largely Finnish cast, and has a production cost of 4.2m euros (£2.84m). The plot features a "monster attack" on the world, with a young Autistic girl being the only person in a position to save it.

Lead singer Mr Lordi said that as their masks and costumes were derived from horror films it was "kind of natural" that they should make their own.

Belgian voters decide faith of socialist-liberal coalition tomorrow

The federal elections in Belgium tomorrow will decide the fate of the 8-year-long coalition of liberals and socialists, and will shake the cards for what politicians admit will be long and difficult negotiations.

Voting is mandatory in Belgium,

and Belgians abroad have already voted, although their votes will only be counted tomorrow. A recent survey in the French-speaking part of Belgium shows that if voters could choose, 1 out of 3 would stay at home.

On the Flemish side, the final poll predicted a 29,9% victory for the Christian democratic party, which supports Flemish independence in a cartel with nationalist party NV-A. The far-right party Vlaams Belang was predicted to become the second largest political party with more than 20% of votes. The Flemish socialist and liberal parties would follow, the latter with the greatest setback of more than 8%.

The Flemish green party would get over 5% and get into parliament again, after their electoral loss 4 years ago, when the liberals and socialists decided to govern without them. The new right party of ex-judo wrestler, coach and politician Jean-Marie Dedecker would fail to do so, with only 3,8% of votes.

On the Walloon side of Belgium, no spectacular changes are expected. The socialist party of Elio Di Rupo might lose a few per cents, but with 33.1 per cent of votes would remain the largest political fraction in the south part of the country. The liberal party would become the second largest party, before the Christian democrats and the green party.

In the polls, some 20% of voters remain undecided.

The Christian democrats are on a shared election list with the nationalist party NV-A, and remains to be seen how much of their demands for Walloon concessions will uphold in the negotiations after Sunday's vote.

Both Yves Leterme (Flemish Christian democrats) and Elio Di Rupo (Walloon socialists), the expected winners of the elections, are seen across the language borders as great threats to the other part of the country, Leterme because he strongly supports more Flemish autonomy, and Di Rupo because he symbolises the need to negotiate toward that goal. Leterme partially owes this perception to an interview in which he questioned the intellectual capacity of his French-speaking compatriots to learn Dutch.

The Flemish politicians who support more independence for Flanders have argued during the campaign that voters could trust them to break the force of the Walloon socialist party. While socialists and Christian democrats in Wallonia seem to be heading for a coalition, the leader of the Flemish socialists made it clear that he would not let his bigger sister party dictate their course, not excluding the possibility of an asymmetrical coalition in the two regions.

Following closely after the French presidential elections, the campaign focused more on the leaders than on the content, and gave the impression at times that these elections were about who would succeed Guy Verhofstadt (Flemish liberals) to become Prime Minister of Belgium.

Also, for the first time in 20 years, the elections have not centered around the far-right party Vlaams Belang, although topics of immigration and integration played an important role in the campaigns.

The relations between the French- and Dutch-speaking parts of the country, and related constitutional

reforms, were an important topic during the campaign. Most Flemish parties support the idea that some responsibilities should be transferred from the federal level to the regions, but the opinions differ on the exact extent. The Flemish parties also want the electoral district around Brussels to be split.

The opposition parties during the campaign fiercely criticised the way the Ministry of Justice was handled during the past 8 years, and have blamed the liberals and socialists for the crowded situations in and escapes from the prisons.

The environment has also been an important element in the debates leading to the elections. All agree that there is a need to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The left parties want to close the nuclear power plants to be sure that solar panels and windmills are fully developed, whereas the others disagree with this strategy and think nuclear power plants will be needed to ensure power supply.

In the ethical discussions, an interesting question was if the euthanasia laws, which make the act legal in Belgium, should be extended to include elderly patients who suffer from dementia, and to minors.

Other traditional elements such as taxes, employment, and social security also were present in the electoral campaigns of most parties.

Lewis Hamilton on his first pole for McLaren

McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won his first pole position and together with his teammate Fernando Alonso will start from the front row of tomorrow FIA

Formula-1 2007 Canadian Grand Prix at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montréal, Canada.

During the first and second qualifying session Alonso stayed in the lead of his young companion, but on the dying lap of the third he lost the pole to Lewis by nearly half of a second.

The qualifying sessions on this track showed a number of driver errors, most notable of them was a collision of Heikki Kovalainen, Renault, when the Finn attacked the concrete wall too aggressively, causing severe damage to the back of his car.

Race stewards voided the penultimate lap done by Nick Heidfeld, when he mistakenly cut one of the track turns. However, in the last of his hotlaps, he had an error-free lap that counted and nabbed the third starting spot, overtaking both Ferrari cars of Massa and Raikkonen.

This pole became the major step to the first Formula One victory for Lewis, after he won four consecutive second places in the previous races.

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"There's not a whole lot of concerns just yet," said a spokesman for NASA, Louis Parker.

"Preliminary Area of Interest in TPS inspection: Around a 4 inch

blanket reported sticking out at the port OMS pod. Crew reported that on the port OMS pod they can see a 4 to 5 inch piece of blanket sticking up. They are getting photos," said NASA.

The OMS is used to control the shuttle's movement in space and is also used for orbital injection and NASA says that preliminary imaging shows that the OMS was not damaged.

"Analysis by launch team looking at other camera views show that the tyvek cover did NOT strike the OMS pod," said NASA.

Astronauts on Atlantis are expected to begin inspecting the shuttle for more damage at approximately 2:00 p.m. (eastern time) using Atlantis's robotic arm with digital cameras placed on the end.

Church of England threatens legal action over PS3 game

The Church of England has threatened legal action against Sony Entertainment over the inclusion of the Manchester Cathedral in the PS3 launch title *Resistance: Fall of Man*. The game (set in various England locations during an alternate history) includes a gun fight within the building.

The scene in question involves a small group of humans (which include the player) taking refuge in the cathedral and attempting to fight off aliens who are attacking them.

The Church has requested an apology, saying that Sony did not ask for permission to include the Cathedral in the game, describing the game as "sick and sacrilegious". The Dean of Manchester Cathedral criticised

Sony for failing to take into account Manchester's gun crime problems, saying "it is a shame to have Sony undermining our work".

Meanwhile a spokesman for Sony defended the game, telling the Daily Telegraph, "[the game] is not based on reality at all" and comparing it to the fictional series *Doctor Who*.

The Church will send a letter directly to Sony on Monday requesting an apology and that they remove the game from sale.

Canoe completes voyage from Hawaii to Japan

More than five months after setting off from Hawaii, the Polynesian voyaging canoe *Hokulea*, reached Yokohama, Japan today.

The 62-foot (19-meter) doubled-hulled canoe, rigged with two sailing masts, completed a journey of 8,450 miles (13,600 kilometres).

Bruce Blankenfield, captain of the 10-member crew, said the journey was meant to celebrate the contributions that Japanese immigrants have made in Hawaii.

"It is like a reconnection," he was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. "We also hope to build awareness of culture and our history."

The *Hokulea*, or *Hōkūleʻa*, is patterned after the voyager canoes of ancient Hawaiian islanders. It was the tenth major journey for the boat, which first sailed in 1976 from Hawaii to Tahiti.

For part of the boat's voyage, it was accompanied by a sister voyager canoe, the *Alingano Maisu*, to *Satawal*, where the

Maisu was delivered as a gift to navigator *Mau Piailug*, who guided the *Hōkūleʻa* on its first cruise 31 years ago.

Along the way across the Pacific, it stopped in the Marshall Islands, Truk, Yap, Palua, Okinawa, Uwajima and Hiroshima before reaching Yokohama.

The return voyage for the *Hōkūleʻa* will be by ship, and it is expected be back in its Honolulu home port by July.

Atlantis launched, heads for International Space Station

In the first space flight of 2007, Space Shuttle *Atlantis* blasted off on schedule yesterday, starting on an 11-day mission to the International Space Station.

Atlantis and its seven astronauts lifted off at 7:38 p.m. EDT (2338 GMT) from the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center, Florida. The launch pad, newly refurbished by NASA, had not been used since the launch of Space Shuttle *Columbia*, which ended in disaster on Feb. 1, 2003. *Atlantis* is scheduled to dock with the space station at around 1930 GMT tomorrow.

The goal for the *Atlantis* crew is to carry out the two missions that were left incomplete from the previous flight due to broken and jammed equipments. During the flight, the shuttle and its seven astronauts will deliver a new segment and will install energy-producing solar panels to the International Space Station. The payload is the heaviest ever flown to the space station, and includes a 45-foot (14-meter), 35,678-pound (16,183 kilogram) aluminium segment that will become part of the station's superstructure.

The mission, STS-117 has been dogged by trouble. It was scheduled to launch in March, but a hailstorm in February damaged the orange external fuel tank, so the shuttle had to be rolled back into the Vehicle Assembly Building for repairs. After repairs, the tank had white specks visible in the orange insulation, and there was some concern over whether the insulation would hold. Falling foam insulation was blamed for the Columbia crash, in which all seven astronauts aboard were killed.

But yesterday's launch appeared to be flawless. "Give me more speckled tanks," the shuttle program manager, N. Wayne Hale Jr., was quoted as saying.

The delay in the launch of Atlantis also pushed back other missions.

NASA faced a scandal earlier in the year when one of its astronauts, Lisa Nowak, was fired after being charged in the attempted kidnapping of a fellow astronaut, William Oefelein, with whom she had been having an affair.

NTSB announces safety recommendations to be made in aftermath of Comair Flight 5191 disaster

The American National Transportation Safety Board has announced that it will make new airline safety recommendations. This comes a result of its investigation into the Comair Flight 5191 disaster, in which a Bombardier Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ) CRJ-100ER crashed whilst attempting take-off from the wrong runway at Blue Grass Airport, Lexington, killing 49 people and leaving just one survivor. The plane was unable to take off because that runway was too short.

The NTSB has now announced that, on July 26, the date on which the NTSB is to determine the probable cause of the accident, they will issue safety recommendations regarding methods of preventing a recurrence of the disaster.

One of the recommendations will concern developing and implementing a cockpit-based system that will inform pilots when they are in the wrong location. Another will involve rescheduling the workloads of Air Traffic Controllers to ensure they receive more sleep, a request they had previously made in April.

Regarding location warning systems, the FAA has pointed out that they have been working on methods of preventing runway incursions (in which a person, ground vehicle or another aircraft is on the runway when or where it should not be), to which the National Transportation Safety Board chairman Mark Rosenker responded "The FAA is doing a great job testing these systems. The question we have is, when will you finally implement that technology?" FAA Associate Administrator Margaret Gilligan responded by saying that they were currently looking at just such a system, adding "We do have airlines that have committed to put that technology on the flight deck once it's approved". The system referred to involves runway signal lights and is currently being tested at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

The NTSB will also look at runway and taxiway markings and the ways they can confuse pilots, as this issue has been identified as a contributing factor in the accident. Rosenker said the NTSB was "very interested" in this area. 140

airports have unclear or confusing markings in the US, but it is not certain if Blue Grass Airport is one of them. However, the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) made a submission to the NTSB stating that they had found that the markings at Blue Grass Airport did not match those on the charts the pilots were using. ALPA went on to recommend greater standardisation of airport runway markings.

Blue Grass Airport responded yesterday by saying that there was nothing wrong with their runway markings, with spokesman Brian Ellestad saying "We have had numerous inspections before and after (the Comair crash) and have had no issues... FAA reiterates that we meet all requirements for signage, markings, lighting, runways and taxiways."

Salvage crew boards grounded ship in Newcastle, Australia

A salvage team boarded the bulk carrier Pasha Bulker that has been stuck on a reef off Nobby's Beach in Newcastle to assess damage.

New South Wales Maritime spokesman Neil Patchett told reporters that an aircraft from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority flew over the ship earlier this morning and reported there was no visible sign of oil leaking from the vessel, calling it "good news".

Meanwhile, casualties from the storm that hit Newcastle yesterday continue to mount. The bodies of an elderly couple were found earlier today, this bring the confirmed death toll to five with three more still missing.

Divers, around 45 Police officers and volunteers are still searching for another adult and child from

the family of five when their car crash down an embankment after a section of the Old Pacific Highway collapsed during the storm.

While the storm has eased, it is expected to worsen again overnight. The Bureau of Meteorology, says Sydney is also expected to be affected by the storm tonight as it moves south.

Duty forecaster Julie Evans said "The low pressure system is slowly moving south so the good news is it's stopped absolutely pelting down in Newcastle and the Central Coast but now Sydney's getting the brunt of it, and it's also becoming heavier in the Illawarra"

Médecins Sans Frontières warns of emerging crisis in eastern Chad

The non-governmental aid organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), or Doctors Without Borders, warned of a humanitarian crisis developing in the eastern region of Chad in central Africa, issued a press release Friday .

Chad, which shares part of its eastern border with Sudan, has been the recipient of refugees fleeing conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan. In addition to the estimated 234,000 Sudanese refugees it manages, Chad now has an estimated 150,000 internally displaced persons, or IDPs, fleeing from attacks on villages in the eastern region where the government of Chad has been fighting an insurgency, which it claims was supported in the past by Sudan.

The Chadian IDPs are set up in rudimentary camps, lacking basic necessities such as food, water and proper shelter. According to a

May, 2007 report by MSF's research and epidemiological survey centre, 20 percent of children in camps near Goz Beida were suffering from acute malnutrition and "catastrophic" mortality rates.

MSF complained of obstacles encountered in their effort to provide medical assistance to the needy. "In Goz Beida, the IDPs receive three to eight litres of water per person per day, whereas they should have 20 litres," said Franck Joncret, MSF Head of Mission in Chad. Approximately 100 children are receiving treatment for malnutrition, while MSF estimated the number of acutely malnourished children to be greater than 2,000. "This policy of rationed aid for IDPs is unacceptable," complained Joncret.

In April, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) initiated a three month intervention for the Chadian camps, which MSF described as "inadequate". MSF also complained that they have not been given approval to open a paediatric hospital in Goz Beida to help deal with the malnutrition.

In the near term, MSF anticipated an increase in malaria and epidemic diarrhoeal diseases along with an dramatic increase in malnutrition cases. To help avert a humanitarian crisis, MSF pleaded for increased hospital capacity, a safe water supply for the camps, and the cooperation necessary to deal with malnutrition.

"It is imperative that the emergency in eastern Chad be fully recognised, that aid organisations provide massive, immediate aid to the IDPs and that

the Chadian authorities facilitate humanitarian aid," said Isabelle Defourny, manager of MSF programmes in Chad. The government of Chad has said it would agree to a UN police presence, but not a military force, in its eastern regions.

Worst storm in thirty years hits Newcastle, Australia

Up to eight people may have died after Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia experienced its worst storm in thirty years.

NSW Premier Morris Iemma made the declaration at 9.30pm on the 8th June, as people waded through waist-deep water in the centre of the city. Authorities have had to call off the search for a family of five, who were lost when the Old Pacific Highway sank into a thirty-metre deep chasm underneath them. The bodies of an Adult and two children were found in the car this morning.

Police are also looking for an elderly couple missing in the Hunter Valley, and a Newcastle man who was swept down a storm water drain in the northern part of the city.

Authorities also fear a "potentially major environmental disaster," as bulk carrier Pasha Bulker is grounded on a reef in Nobby's Beach. The vessel contains over 700 tonnes of fuel and shows some signs of breaking up. Twenty-two crew members were rescued earlier in the day. Two other vessels, the Sea Confidence and the Betis required assistance from tugs with the Sea Confidence coming within 700m of the shore

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has issued further flooding and severe weather warnings, they expect the weather

to continue overnight easing during Sunday for the area.

Malaysian prime minister marries

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi married Jeanne Abdullah in a private ceremony today at Seri Perdana.

Premier Abdullah, 61, has been a widower since October 2005, when his wife of 40 years, Endon Mahmood, died of breast cancer. Jeanne, 53, is a hotel management professional who has served as a supervisor at the prime minister's official residence in Putrajaya.

Two killed, nine hurt in South Thailand violence

Two men were fatally shot today in Narathiwat Province in southern Thailand. The men were riding a motorcycle and were fired upon by gunmen who were waiting along the road.

Also in Narathiwat, a roadside bomb went off, injuring five Royal Thai Army soldiers. Three soldiers were wounded in an ambush attack. And, one police sergeant was seriously injured in a drive-by shooting.

Thailand deports 163 Hmong to Laos

Thailand today sent 163 Hmong people back to Laos, handing them over at the Vientiane-Nong Khai border point.

Thailand says the 163 entered the country illegally, but the Hmong said they were seeking political asylum, because in Laos they face persecution for their role in the Laotian Civil War, in which the Hmong sided with the United States in a war against the communist Pathet Lao. On Monday, Hmong military leader Vang Pao and eight others were

arrested in the U.S. in a plot to overthrow the Laotian government. Thai officials said today's deportations were routine, and were not linked with the Vang Pao case.

Today in History

1190 - Third Crusade: Frederick I Barbarossa drowned in the Saleph River in Anatolia.

1719 - Jacobite risings: British forces defeated an alliance of Jacobites and Spaniards in the Battle of Glen Shiel.

1805 - The United States signed a treaty with Yussif Karamanli, the Pasha of Tripoli, ending the First Barbary War and agreeing to pay Yusuf \$US 6,000 in exchange for the American prisoners of war.

1829 - Oxford beat Cambridge in the first Boat Race.

1864 - American Civil War: Confederates defeated a much larger Union force at the Battle of Brice's Crossroads.

1935 - Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Akron, Ohio. This is the traditional date of the first day of sobriety of Dr. Bob Smith, AA's cofounder.

June 10 is National holiday of Portugal observed: Camões, who wrote the national epic The Lusiads, died in 1580.

Quote of the Day

Goodness is achieved not in a vacuum, but in the company of other men, attended by love.

~ Saul Bellow

Word of the Day

gorged; adj

1. With a stomach stuffed full of food.
2. (heraldry) With the neck collared or encircled by an object.

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