



Top Stories

NASA's Phoenix spacecraft lands safely on Mars

NASA's Phoenix spacecraft has landed safely on Mars, following a ten-month flight.



Landing occurred yesterday evening at around 23:38 GMT (20:38 EDT),

with confirmation being received by flight controllers around fifteen minutes later at 23:53. Phoenix was launched atop a Delta II rocket last August. It is the first Mars Scout spacecraft to be sent to explore Mars. It will search for water and complex molecules at the North Pole of Mars.

Former vice president of Democratic Republic of Congo arrested on charges of war crimes



One of the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) vice presidents and former

militia leader Jean-Pierre Bemba, has been arrested in Belgium on charges of war crimes. This comes as United Nations (U.N.) peacekeepers discovered three mass graves in the nation containing an estimated total of 100 bodies.

President Bush to meet with LDS Church leaders in Utah

United States President George W. Bush is set to meet with leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ



of Latter-day Saints next week in Utah. President Bush's primary purpose in visiting Utah is to raise money for Republican presidential candidate John McCain's general election campaign. The Deseret News and The Salt Lake Tribune have reported that the meeting is scheduled for May 29.

Eleven days later, a survivor pulled from rubble after Chinese earthquake

Eleven days, or 266 hours after an earthquake in Sichuan Province in China which killed over 60,000 people, a survivor has been rescued from the rubble of his own house in the city of Mianzhu. Xiao Zhihu, 80, who is said to be in stable condition at a local hospital, was paralyzed prior to the earthquake and was found underneath a pillar that once held up his house.



Wikipedia Current Events

- The Phoenix lander arrives at Mars, landing successfully in the "Green Valley" region of Vastitas Borealis.
- New Zealand driver Scott Dixon wins the 2008 Indianapolis 500 ahead of Vitor Meira.
- Laurent Cantet's film *Entre les murs* (The Class) wins the Palme d'Or at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival.

French Fry 'king' J. R. Simplot dies at age 99

J. R. Simplot, french fry "king" & founder of the J. R. Simplot Company, an agricultural supplier specializing in potato products has died today in Boise, Idaho. He was 99 years old.

He was born John Richard "Jack" Simplot on January 4, 1909 in Dubuque, Iowa, United States. By World War II, the J. R. Simplot Company had become the largest shipper of fresh potatoes in the nation. By the early 1960s it was the primary supplier of french fries to McDonald's; by 2005 it supplied more than half of all french fries for the fast food chain. Simplot also produced fertilizers for agriculture.

In 1961, Simplot financed the Brundage Mountain ski area area near McCall, two hours north of Boise. The Simplot Company sold its 50% interest in Brundage in April 2006 to the longtime co-owner, the DeBoer family.

Wikipedia Current Events

A severe storm in Hugo, Minnesota kills one person with another 20 missing with unconfirmed reports of a tornado.

Simplot is survived by his wife, Esther.

Missiles fly out of control during air base fire in Russia

A video has surfaced online that appears to show at least two Russian missiles flying out of control after the Lodeynoe Pole air force base caught fire in St Petersburg on May 23.

The video, which was broadcast by BBC News is about 45 seconds long and shows at least two out of control missiles being launched from within the base as the fire rages on and landing nearby. No one was killed or injured when the missiles were set off, but witnesses report that several missiles "were flying over" their heads as they watched the blaze. Russian military officials initially denied the reports.

According to unnamed police officials investigating the fire, at least 400 to 450 air-to-air missiles were damaged or destroyed in the fire. Officials estimate that the cost of the damage could exceed 80 to 100 million United States dollars.

"The fire destroyed 450 rockets of the air-to-air class. We have yet to establish how many of them exploded and how many were damaged by fire, but in any case they can't be used," said an unnamed Russian official as quoted by the International Herald Tribune which quoted Interfax. The base housed missiles and Sukhoi Su-27 fighter jet planes.

Boeing 747 cargo plane breaks in two after failed takeoff at Brussels Airport

A Boeing 747 cargo plane has broken in two after crashing off the end of the runway at Brussels Airport near Zaventem, Belgium. Some reports say four of the five

crew were slightly injured when the Kallita Air jumbo jet failed to takeoff on a flight to Bahrain, but others state no injuries.

Press images show the aircraft, which did not catch fire, broken immediately behind the wings, with the forward section level and the front end of the back section raised in the air. The right hand door has been opened and the emergency evacuation slide deployed by the crew, one of whom is in a state of shock. The area around the plane's wings was doused with specialist fire retardant foam as the tanks were full of fuel for the journey.

The force of the crash at 1:30 p.m. local time today sent the plane 300 meters beyond the end of the runway. Air operations have continued as normal on the airport's two other runways, but a nearby railway line is closed. Reports of the cargo on board vary, with one news agency reporting 70 tons of diplomatic mail, batteries and a car, while other reports state 76 tons of unspecified cargo.

It is unclear what caused the accident, but the pilot reported hearing a loud noise as the aircraft attempted to takeoff. Weather conditions were clear, and the airport had seen some light rain in earlier this morning.

Kalitta is a United States based carrier founded in 2000 by Conrad Kalitta with three 747s and now owns 18 including the one involved in today's accident.

South Africa's largest weekly newspaper wants President Mbeki to resign

A front page editorial in South Africa's largest weekly newspaper, The Sunday Times, criticizes

President Thabo Mbeki's "incompetent" handling of the country's ongoing anti-immigrant violence, and urges him to resign from office.

"Either he will not lead or he cannot lead. Whichever is the case, the conclusion is the same: he must go," the editorial reads. "And so we appeal to President Mbeki: Stand down in the interests of your country."

In the past two weeks, mob attacks against foreigners have spread across the capital of Johannesburg and surrounding cities. The foreigners, many of whom have come from neighboring Zimbabwe, are being blamed for South Africa's rising crime rates and job shortages.

Violence has now been reported in seven of South Africa's nine provinces. Police have reported at least 50 deaths as a result of the violence, and The Sunday Times reports that around 44,000 have been displaced from their homes. An estimated 700 people have been arrested, police say.

"And so we appeal to President Mbeki: Stand down in the interests of your country."

—The Sunday Times editorial

On Wednesday, Mbeki deployed the National Defence Force in an effort to quell the violent situation. This was, The Sunday Times says, "an admission that things were out of control." But the newspaper criticizes Mbeki for proceeding to go about "business as usual", by attending events such as a meeting with business leaders and the restoration of a school.

"Throughout this crisis — arguably the most grave, dark and repulsive moment in the life of our young

nation — Mbeki has demonstrated that he no longer has the heart to lead," The Sunday Times says.

Although Mbeki has spoken out against the violence, he has been criticized for not visiting any of the affected areas or addressing the entire nation about the crisis. Mbeki seeks to remedy this with a nationally televised address scheduled for Sunday night.

Other calls for Mbeki's resignation have come from the Mail & Guardian newspaper and the Democratic Alliance, South Africa's main opposition party.

If Mbeki were to resign, he would be temporarily replaced by deputy president Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, until the National Assembly would meet to vote for a new president who would serve the rest of Mbeki's term.

If Mbeki doesn't resign, The Sunday Times warns that he could be dismissed with a two-thirds vote of Parliament. In this case, Mbeki's cabinet would also be forced to resign. The office of President would be held by Baleka Mbete, the Speaker of the National Assembly, until a new election was held.

Dima Bilan wins the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest for Russia

Dima Bilan has won the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest, the 53rd, for Russia with his song Believe. The song was developed by US R&B artist Timbaland. The song won the competition with 272 points; 42 points ahead of Ukraine's Ani Lorak in second place with 230 points for the song Shady Lady. Third was Kalomira for Greece with Secret Combination. The voting for the competition came from 43 countries across

Europe, but with 25 countries competing, the others having failed to get through the semi finals. Russia has never won the contest before, Bilan having come second in 2006, losing out to Finnish hard rock band Lordi with Hard Rock Hallelujah.

Further down the scale Germany's No Angels with Disappear, Poland's Isis Gee with For Life and the United Kingdom's Andy Abraham with Even If came joint last with 14 points. Fourth last was Teräsbetoni, a Finnish heavy metal band performing in their native language with Missä Mihet Ratsastaa (Where Men Ride). Sweden's Charlotte Perrelli had been predicted to repeat her 1999 victory, this time with Hero, but also received a low score.

There was an estimated 100 million television viewers from across Europe.

UK commentator Terry Wogan has garnered significant media attention for criticising the contest live towards the end of the broadcast for being overly political. "It's a disappointment, considering that Andy Abraham gave, I think, the performance of his life with a song that certainly deserved more marks than it got when you look at the points that Spain got, that Bosnia-Herzegovina got - some really ridiculous songs," he said. "You have to say that this is no longer a music contest... I have to decide whether we (himself and his producer, who already announced he wanted to leave) want to do this again. Western European participants have to decide whether they want to take part from here on in, because their prospects are poor." He called the contest "political".

Spain was represented by Rodolfo

Chikilicuatre with Baila el Chiki Chiki (Dance the Chiki Chiki) and Bosnia and Herzegovina by Elvir Laković Laka with Pokušaj (try).

Bilan, who received the maximum 12 points from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus and Armenia, all of which are former Soviet countries, was sent a telegram from Putin to congratulate him after his victory. Mevedev also contacted him later by phone to congratulate him. "Russia is the favorite now, it's just tearing everybody up — in basketball, football, hockey, and Eurovision!" commented champion figure skater Evgeni Plushenko, who had joined Bilan onstage to skate as part of the winning performance. He is now also a politician.

Next year's contest will be held in Russia.

Eleven days later, a survivor pulled from rubble after Chinese earthquake

Eleven days, or 266 hours after an earthquake in Sichuan Province in China which killed over 60,000 people, a survivor has been rescued from the rubble of his own house in the city of Mianzhu.

Xiao Zhihu, 80, who is said to be in stable condition at a local hospital, was paralyzed prior to the earthquake and was found underneath a pillar that once held up his house. Officials said that the only reason he survived so long was because he was being fed by his wife.

At least 30,000 people are missing as a result of the magnitude 7.9 quake on May 12. Officials fear the death toll could go above 80,000. The quake's epicenter was located in the Aba prefecture, 90 kilometers (55 miles) west,

northwest of Chengdu, Sichuan, China and was recorded at a depth of 10 k.m. (6.2 miles).

This was the largest earthquake to strike the region in almost 60 years. The deadliest quake in China's history was of magnitude 7.8, striking Tangshan in 1976. Approximately 250,000 people were killed. On May 23, a man who survived that quake after being buried for 10 days, was found alive in the rubble of an office building in Beichuan. He was the only survivor.

2008 Major League Soccer: Toronto FC vs. D.C. United

Toronto FC 2-3 D.C. United

Toronto FC ended their 6 game undefeated streak after conceding 2 late goals in the 2nd Half. D.C. United also ended their 4 game losing streak.

Danny Dichio scored on the only two shots in an excellent 1st half for Toronto FC. However, Toronto FC gave up 2 goals in 2 minutes in the 2nd Half.

Toronto FC continued the pressure in the 20th minute but were not able to capitalize on a 4-on-2 counterattack that was started by Guevara and culminated with a shot from Guevara himself that was deflected away by Namoff.

D.C. United scored an equalizer on a corner kick with 4 minutes left before halftime. Devon McTavish flicked a the ball to the back post that Peralta pushed over the line with a diving header to make the score 1-1. The goal ended a 272-minute shutout streak for Sutton and Toronto FC. The streak spaned over three games.

Dichio scored with just seconds before Half-Time to regain Toronto

FC's lead.

D.C. United put a lot of pressure on Toronto FC in the 2nd Half. D.C. United pressure finally paid dividend when Moreno and Emilio score 2 goals in 2 minutes to take a 3-2 lead.

The 2nd Half got worse for Toronto FC when French Winger Laurent Robert received a red card.

Toronto FC's next game is the first ever Canadian Champions League game against Montreal Impact in Montreal.

Former vice president of Democratic Republic of Congo arrested on charges of war crimes

One of the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) vice presidents and former militia leader Jean-Pierre Bemba, has been arrested in Belgium on charges of war crimes. This comes as United Nations (U.N.) peacekeepers discovered three mass graves in the nation containing an estimated total of 100 bodies.

Reports say that the warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) was included at least two counts of crimes against humanity and four counts of war crimes which he allegedly committed in the "Central African Republic from 25 October 2002 to 15 March 2003."

Bemba, who fled the DRC in 2007, was arrested near Brussels on Saturday, May 24 sometime in late in the day. He exiled himself when he faced accusations of treason, which Bemba denies. He was DRC's vice president from July 2003 to 2006 and in 2007 was elected to the nation's senate. He was also in control of a militia from about 2002 until 2006 called the

Movement for the Liberation of Congo, in which he refused orders for them to throw down their weapons after a new government was elected in 2006. Bemba is also a businessman who is worth an estimated several hundred million United States dollars. He has business ties in radio as well as television and aviation.

Charges listed in the warrant list the specific charges that Bemba is facing in accordance with the Rome Statute of the ICC: Two counts of crimes against humanity: rape - article 7(1)(g), torture - article 7(1)(f); Four counts of war crimes: rape - article 8(2)(e)(vi), torture - article 8(2)(c)(i), outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment - article 8(2)(c)(ii), pillaging a town or place - article 8(2)(e)(v).

"Pre-Trial Chamber III found that there are reasonable grounds to believe that in the context of a protracted armed conflict in the Central African Republic from about 25 October 2002 to 15 March 2003, MLC forces led by Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo carried out a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population during which rape, torture, outrages upon personal dignity and pillaging were committed in, but not limited to, the localities of PK 12, Bossongoa and Mongoumba," stated the ICC in a statement on their website.

The ICC states that this is the first arrest in a series expected in an ongoing investigation.

"The warrant of arrest for Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo is the first warrant issued in the situation in the Central African Republic. Four situations are currently under investigation by the Prosecutor:

Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan (Darfur) [and the] Central African Republic," added the statement.

A U.N. mission spokesperson states that the bodies discovered in the DRC have been there possibly since the 1990's or even the early 2000's, but an investigation is ongoing. Troops were patrolling an area in Maboya, a village in the Kivu province, when they found the bodies.

"Apparently they were graves dating back to the 1990s, but it's difficult to know accurately. The first one they excavated contained 100 bodies. The second was seven, and the third one they couldn't estimate," said Kemal Saiki, a mission spokesperson for the U.N..

Millions of people are believed to have been killed during the years of 1998-2002 when the nation was ravaged with war.

2007/08 UEFA Women's Cup: FFC Frankfurt vs. Umeå IK

FFC Frankfurt 3–2 Umeå IK

Germany's FFC Frankfurt became the 1st team to win a 3rd UEFA Women's Cup after a competition record 27,640 fans in attendance. The attendance record is more than double than any previous game in tournament history.

A 1-1 draw in Sweden between the tournament's only multiple-time winners had set up this return under at Commerzbank Arena.

Conny Pohlers opened the scoring in the 7th minute, before finding the target again in the 2nd Half. Lisa Dahlqvist pulled one back with a converted penalty shot. Petra Wimbersky regained Frankfurt's 2 goal lead on a free-kick. Frida

Östberg's scored with less than 10 minutes of normal time left.

With the victory, FFC Frankfurt becomes the 1st team to win the tournament 3 times and the only team to record 5 appearances in the final.

Wikipedia Current Events

The former President of Malawi Bakili Muluzi is arrested in Lilongwe after returning from the United Kingdom in relation to an alleged coup attempt.

- Michel Suleiman is elected as President of the Republic of Lebanon.

- China's Cabinet states that the death toll from the earthquake has reached 62,664.

- An aftershock measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale topples thousands of buildings in Sichuan Province and injures hundreds of people.

- The Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon hosts a conference in Myanmar with representatives of 50 nations on how to aid in recovery from Cyclone Nargis.

- At Brussels Airport, a Boeing 747 cargo airliner from American operator Kalitta Air slips off the tarmac during take-off, crashes and breaks in two. All 5 crewmembers survive.

Today in History

1828 – Kaspar Hauser, a foundling with suspected ties to the Royal House of Baden, first appeared in the streets of Nuremberg, Germany.

1896 – The Dow Jones Industrial Average, representing the average of 12 stocks from various American industries, was first published by journalist Charles

Dow as a stock market index. 1918 – The Democratic Republic of Georgia was proclaimed following the breakup of the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic.

1972 – U.S. President Richard Nixon and Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow, concluding the first round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. 1986 – The European Community adopted the Flag of Europe, a flag previously adopted by the Council of Europe in 1955.

May 26 is Memorial Day in the United States (2008); Independence Day in Guyana and Georgia; Mother's Day in Poland; National Sorry Day in Australia

Quote of the Day

Thunder only happens when it's raining.
Players only love you when they're playing.

Say... Women... they will come and they will go.
When the rain washes you clean... you'll know.
~ Stevie Nicks ~

Word of the Day

subsequently adv
1. Following, afterwards in either time or place.

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