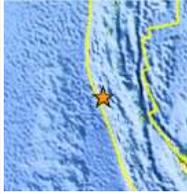


Top Stories

Large 7.2 quake rocks Indian Ocean



In response to another major earthquake, near India's Nicobar Islands (in the Indian Ocean, about 690 miles southwest of Bangkok, Thailand), government agencies

briefly issued official tsunami warnings. However, it was later determined that the earthquake, although strong, was of a type which does not commonly spawn large tsunamis.

WHO: China engaging in bird flu cover up



The World Health Organization's Beijing spokesman has said that the People's Republic of China has withheld vital information regarding

H5N1 outbreaks, a type of bird flu that is infecting animals throughout Asia.

Featured story

Britain's Royal Windsor Castle to get hydro-electric power plant



Windsor Castle, one of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom's

official residences, is to get a hydro-electric power scheme.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Bilateral negotiations have resumed between the US and North Korea.
- The Service Employees International Union and the Teamsters, the two largest unions in the AFL-CIO, announce their intentions to leave the labor federation, underscoring a major schism within the U.S. labour movement.
- Brazil hosts annual AIDS conference in Rio de Janeiro.

Wikipedia Current Events

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- Two men, one today, one yesterday, have been arrested in the New Southgate area of London during police investigations into the recent London bombings.
- At least five people have been killed after grenades were thrown at a night-club and official residences in Ethiopia's Somali region.
- A mystery illness spreading through Western China has claimed its 17th victim. Doctors have confirmed the disease is neither bird flu nor SARS. Chinese health officials announce that autopsies point to the swine bacteria Streptococcus II as the probable culprit.
- Sunni Muslim Arab representatives appointed to the the committee tasked with writing up a new Constitution of Iraq have ended their boycott.
- At least seven people have died following a twin suicide car bomb attack on police checkpoints in the centre of the Iraqi Capital Baghdad.
- The New Zealand general election 2005 is set for Saturday September 17, 2005.
- Philippine electoral crisis, 2005: Opposition files impeachment complaint against president Gloria Arroyo for election fraud. President has declared a day a holiday and intends to make a key policy speech.

Britain's Royal Windsor Castle to get hydro-electric power plant



Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen and the largest occupied castle in the world.

Windsor Castle, one of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom's official residences,

is to get a hydro-electric power scheme.

The £1 million project will consist of a series of under-water turbines to be installed at Romney Weir in the nearby River Thames. The system will generate 200kW, enough to meet approximately one third of the castle's electricity needs.

The electricity from the four turbines will not be sold into the local electricity grid, but will instead be directly connected to Windsor Castle's electrical system. It will save 600 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere every year.

The scheme was announced after it gained planning permission from the local council, the plans having been submitted in February of last year. A feasibility study will now be conducted, with construction scheduled to start next year.

The Windsor Castle is not the only environmentally-friendly Royal scheme. A borehole beneath Buckingham Palace provides cold water for air-conditioning and the Duke of Ediburgh's taxi runs on liquid petroleum gas.

London artists release a video about attacks

The London artists "Frofar Allstars" have collaborated on a music video called "Make it through the rain". This collaboration is a joint project of the artists collectively featuring Steve Johnstone, Kieye, Darshna, Dreyce, Haley, and Alisha. The video was made about losing people through tragedy, and how we deal with bereavement and grief.

The track and video have been circulating on the net, generating a lot of attention. It shows all the artists individually, spliced together with current footage from the tragedy.

Fifth bomb discovered in London after July 21 attacks

A suspect package discovered in Little Wormwood Scrubs, West London is apparently a fifth bomb made to the same design as those used in the 21 July attacks. The device was subjected to controlled explosion by the police over the weekend and its discovery has led to speculation that a fifth bombing attempt may have been intended that day. The device was apparently a nail bomb.

Little Wormwood Scrubs is just north of Shepherd's Bush (scene of one of Thursday's bombing attempts) and White City (the location of the BBC's TV centre). It also borders on North Pole sidings, which are used by the Eurostar cross-channel train which travels through the Channel Tunnel.

Australia wins first test of the Ashes series

Australia has won the first test of the the Ashes series against England by 239 runs at Lords in London.

Rain threatened to halt the Australia's charge towards victory on Day Four but it held off long enough for Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne to together pick up the five required wickets for victory.

Earlier, Australia's 9th and 10th wicket partnerships put on 95 runs between them, leaving England with the unlikely chase of 420 runs.

McGrath bowled superbly in the test and finished with match figures of 9-82. The 35 year-old claimed his 500th test wicket in the first innings, placing him fourth on the all-time list. For the home team, debutant Kevin Pieterston scored 57 and 64 not out to ensure England were not thrashed.

Scores: Australia 190 and 384, England 155 and 180

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Today in History

- 1139 - Afonso the Conqueror became the first king of an independent Portugal.
- 1822 - José de San Martín met with Simón Bolívar in Guayaquil to plan for the future of South America.
- 1887 - L. L. Zamenhof published Dr. Esperanto's International Language.
- 1953 - Fidel Castro led an unsuccessful attack on the Moncada Barracks, thus beginning the Cuban Revolution.
- 1963 - Syncom 2 became the world's first geosynchronous satellite.
- July 26 is Independence Day in Liberia (1847)

Quote of the Day

"Art is a kind of innate drive that seizes a human being and makes him its instrument. The artist is not a person endowed with free will who seeks his own ends, but one who allows art to realize its purpose through him." ~ Carl Jung

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