



Top Stories

30 dead, over 50 injured as blasts rock Maharashtra town

Three bombs go off near a mosque in communally volatile Malegaon, security forces rush to the area to prevent violence.

State Police: New York fugitive Ralph 'Bucky' Phillips cornered

New York State Police are reporting that fugitive, Ralph 'Bucky' Phillips, 44 may be cornered in a wooded area near the Pennsylvania border with New York and that he attempted to point a gun at an officer resulting in shots fired by the officer and Phillips.

Featured story

Princess Kiko gives birth to imperial baby boy

Princess Kiko has given birth to a 2,558 gram (5.639 lb) baby boy, on 6 September at 8 h 27 (Japan Standard Time). He is the first male baby born in the Japanese imperial family since his father in 1965.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The United States Senate states there is no evidence of formal links between Iraqi ex-leader Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda leaders in Iraq prior to the 2003 Iraq War.
- Missing United States Air Force officer Major Jill Metzger who disappeared in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan is found in good

Wikipedia Current Events

health.

- Shuji Nakamura is awarded the 2nd Millennium Technology Prize for his work on blue and white LEDs. The first recipient of the award was Tim Berners-Lee, developer of the World Wide Web.
- A series of bomb blasts rock Malegaon town in Nashik district of the Indian state of Maharashtra, killing 22 and injuring around 100.
- Zimbabwe has failed to keep its promise to build new homes for the thousands whose houses were demolished last year during Operation Murambatsvina.
- Taliban insurgency: A suicide car bomb explodes near the United States embassy in Kabul, killing at least ten people.
- Peter Brock is killed in car accident in WA car race.

ABC comes under fire for alleged partisan slant in 9/11 miniseries

For ABC, the fifth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks will be marked with a new kind of controversy over alleged political motives in a new miniseries, slated to be aired on prime-time slots this coming Monday and Tuesday.

Titled The Path to 9/11, the 5-hour film is slated to be aired over the course of 2 nights, culminating on Monday with dramatizations of the October 2000 attacks on the US Navy ship, USS Cole, as well as fictionalized portrayals of the

attacks on the World Trade Center towers, which killed 2,973. Many officials and watchdogs, however, have criticized the film for allegedly stretching and fabricating the truth. Samuel R. Berger, a national security adviser made a statement denouncing the film claiming the film "flagrantly misrepresents my personal actions." Former secretary of state Madeleine Albright called one scene involving her "false and defamatory," and former White House aide Bruce R. Lindsey said "it is unconscionable to mislead the American public about one of the most horrendous tragedies our country has ever known."

A flurry of on-line email campaigns, protesting the film and demanding it be corrected or not aired, has erupted. According to the libertarian group Truemajority, "It's not just that ABC's movie is slanted. Big parts of it are simply untrue. The producer himself even admitted to simply improvising a key scene which depicts the Clinton administration letting bin Laden go when they had him in their sights -- a complete fabrication. Last night, the movie's star, Harvey Keitel, said 'It turned out not all the facts were correct.'"

According to ABC's entertainment division, the film is a "dramatization... not a documentary." However, several key scenes, which critics allege distort the September 11 commission's report on which the film is based, are being reworked, reshot, or pulled altogether, and

ABC is reportedly "mulling the idea of yanking the mini altogether."

For ABC, credibility, along with what is reported to be millions of dollars in advertising dollars, is on the line. The film includes many noted actors, including Donnie Wahlberg, Patricia Heaton, and Harvey Keitel, who plays counterterrorism official John O'Neil. However, criticism has come from within as well. Many who worked on the film have spoken out, claiming the film's accuracy and objectivity is questionable. One writer, Cyrus Nowrasteh, in an interview with Los Angeles radio station KRLA-AM, claimed that moments had been improvised, and writer James Bamford claimed on MSNBC that an FBI agent working as a consultant on the film quit due to allegations of fabrication.

Action committees from all across the political spectrum have made statements on the film, including liberal watchdog MoveOn.org, which, in a recent statement to its members, stated that "ABC shouldn't have any role in the political exploitation of 9/11."

"This docudrama is designed to do just that," the statement continued. "It's spreading a false message to millions of viewers across the country."

"No one has seen the final version of the film, because the editing process is not yet complete, so criticisms of film specifics are premature and irresponsible," said Disney, the company that owns ABC.

Massive suicide car bomb in Kabul kills 18, including two U.S. soldiers

The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the massive

suicide bomb which killed 16 citizens, and two US soldiers near the Kabulian US Embassy. Master Sergeant Chris Miller commented, "A coalition convoy was the target of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device this morning near the U.S. Embassy here."

The convoy was comprised of three armored Humvees. Sixteen Afghans were wounded in the attack, and several were killed.

Gen. James Jones, NATO's supreme allied commander, said on Thursday that the troops have encountered "more resistance than we originally thought."

The fighting is extraordinarily intense. The intensity and ferocity of the fighting is far greater than in Iraq on a daily basis," Brig. Ed Butler, the commander of British Forces in Afghanistan, told ITV news on Friday. He echoed Jones' call for more troops.

In western Afghanistan, four Italian soldiers were wounded Friday in a roadside bomb blast while on patrol, the Italian Defense Ministry said.

The ministry said an improvised explosive device detonated around 9 a.m. near Farah while an Italian military vehicle was on patrol.

Motor sport legend Peter Brock dies in rally

Organisers of the Targa West Tarmac Rally have confirmed the death of Australian motor sport legend Peter Brock, 61, as reported on Australian Media.

Brock died after his Daytona Coupe left the road and stuck a tree, shortly after 11:50AM today near the small town of Gidgengannup in Western Australia. His co-driver, Mick Hone

was injured and taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Brock had admitted earlier in the day that he was "still coming to grips with the car" on radio. Spectators report seeing the rear of Brock's car sliding out as he negotiated a corner. They say he was going no faster than anyone else.

Race organisers and the Confederation of Australian Motorsport will conduct an investigation into the accident once the civil authorities have completed their investigation.

Brock was one of Australian motorsport's most significant figures, having won the Bathurst 1000 nine times. His death comes only days after the death of fellow Australian celebrity Steve Irwin.

Colombian army officials allegedly fake terrorist attacks to show positive results in the fight against terrorism

An investigation carried out by Colombian leading newspaper El Tiempo claims that some Colombian soldiers, members of the 13th brigade, fabricated terrorist attacks in the weeks prior to the inauguration of president Alvaro Uribe second term in office, and that for some of these hoaxes they got the collaboration of demobilized member of the leftist guerrillas FARC who were paid for the plan.

These fake attacks, most of them "prevented" by the army's action, had the purpose of showing the public and the government "positive" results in the fight against terrorism. Security measures were tightened during the days prior to August the 7th, when Uribe initiated his second term in office. Four years before,

during the inauguration ceremony of Uribe's first term in office few rockets were launched by FARC from some of the houses of the city center near the presidential palace, causing minor material damages.

One of these staged terrorist attacks that went wrong happened on July 31, 2006, in the north of Bogotá which killed a garbage collector and wounded ten soldiers. The army commander has acknowledged (September 7) that two military are under investigation: "The recent attack with a car bomb, in which ten soldiers were wounded and a citizen died, and which was attributed to outlawed groups, as well as the alleged confiscation of explosives during the last two months, seems not to correspond to real events. This deception might have been carried out by unscrupulous people, two of whom are army officials".

In addition, doubts have been cast about few similar incidents such as the case of a truck bomb, the confiscation of few kilos of explosives, the finding of a house bomb and other three car bombs in the latest weeks. In one of these cases, according to El Tiempo, witnesses said that the same man that abandoned a taxi bomb in the south of the capital was the same man who claimed the cash rewards for the tip-off.

Until now only two military have been investigated about these cases, however, according to other sources there are 7 members of the institution involved in the hoaxes.

Canadian PM to make televised address for 5th anniversary of Sept 11. attacks

Stephen Harper will have a

televised address for the 5th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. It will be held in the Hall of Honour in the Parliament Buildings. It will also be in both official languages (English and French). Harper will make the statement of five to eight minutes on national Canadian television.

The PM is expected to address concerns over Canada's role in Afghanistan, where 2,200 Canadian troops are in the midst of battling insurgents.

Carolyn Stewart-Olsen said that Harper wanted to recognize the 24 Canadians who perished in the attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York. Olsen says Harper wants to speak to the "families and victims, and to people who fight terrorism on a daily basis."

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she will travel to Halifax on Monday to mark the anniversary.

The time of the address has yet to be decided.

Experts: obesity is a bigger threat than AIDS or bird flu

From September 3 to 8, experts gathered at the 10th International Congress on Obesity in Sydney, Australia, to discuss what they call the worldwide "obesity epidemic". According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 1 billion people in the world today are overweight, and 300 million of those are obese. "Obesity and overweight pose a major risk for serious diet-related chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke, and certain forms of cancer", a WHO fact sheet states. According to AP, experts at the conference "have warned that obesity is a bigger

threat than AIDS or bird flu, and will easily overwhelm the world's health care systems if urgent action is not taken".

Of particular concern is the large number of overweight children. Dr. Stephan Rossner from Sweden's Karolinska University Hospital, a leading obesity expert who was present at the conference, has warned that as a result of the increasing number of overweight children, "we will have, within a decade or two, a number of young people who are on [kidney] dialysis. There will not be organs for everybody". UK-based International Obesity Task Force has said that junk food manufacturers target children, for example, through Internet advertising, chat rooms, text messages, and "advergames" on websites. Politicians are not doing enough to address the problem of obesity, including childhood obesity, the experts said.

According to Wikipedia, examples of junk food include include, but are not limited to: hamburgers, pizza, candy, soda, and salty foods like potato chips and french fries. A well-known piece of junk food is the Big Mac. The US version of just one Big Mac burger contains 48% of calories from fat, 47% US Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of fat, 52% RDA of saturated fat, 26% RDA of cholesterol, 42% RDA of sodium, and little nutritional value. It also has 18% of calories from protein. According to WHO, most people need only about 5% calories from protein. Staples such as rice, corn, baked potatoes, pinto beans, as well as fruits and vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, zucchini, oranges, and strawberries, provide more than this required amount of protein without the unhealthy amounts of fats or sodium,

without cholesterol, and with plenty of fiber, vitamins, and minerals.

Both WHO and the American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) define overweight in adults as a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or above, and obese as a BMI of 30 or above. To combat overweight and obesity, WHO recommends that, among other things, people should be taking the following steps

“eating more fruit and vegetables, as well as nuts and whole grains; engaging in daily moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes; cutting the amount of fatty, sugary foods in the diet; moving from saturated animal-based fats to unsaturated vegetable-oil based fats.”

— "Obesity and overweight" fact sheet from the World Health Organization

State Police: New York fugitive Ralph 'Bucky' Phillips cornered

New York State Police are reporting that fugitive, Ralph 'Bucky' Phillips, 44 may be cornered in a wooded area near the Pennsylvania border with New York and that he attempted to point a gun at an officer resulting in shots fired by the officer and Phillips. It is unknown if Phillips was hit, but the trooper was not injured.

"We believe we have him contained. I won't say that I'm completely convinced that this is going to come to the conclusion we want," said Wayne Bennett, the New York State Police Superintendent.

Bennett also said that Phillips may be cornered in between Carroll,

New York, and Russell, Pennsylvania and that Phillips "made a mistake" in threatening to fire upon an officer. Officers began the search for the fugitive around 2:00 a.m. after a man failed to stop for an officer performing a traffic stop. The man fled into the woods and officers responded with a massive search. Officers then used dogs to track the man down and at 9:00 a.m. was seen by at least two N.Y. troopers.

"I think he's made a mistake. I hope it's a big enough one and we can capitalize on it," added Bennett.

Phillips became one of the FBI's top ten most wanted men yesterday and the reward for his arrest or a tip leading to it jumped from \$225,000 to \$420,000.

Phillips broke out of an Erie County prison in Alden, New York with a can opener on April 2 and shot a N.Y. state trooper in June. He is also believed to have shot two more troopers on August 31 which resulted in the death of one trooper.

WSEE is reporting that the U.S. military is assisting in the search for Phillips.

30 dead, over 50 injured as blasts rock Maharashtra town

At least 30 people have died and 112 people have been injured, many critically in three explosions in a crowded market in the town of Malegaon, in the state of Maharashtra in India. The explosions appeared to have been caused by crude bombs and occurred between 1:45 PM and 1:49 PM (IST) on Friday afternoon. The blasts took place near the Noorani Mosque, when a Shab-e-Barat procession was

passing through the market. Curfew has been imposed in the town, which itself has been cordoned off, to prevent communal tensions from escalating. Mobile networks in the city have been jammed.

Maharashtra DCP P. S Pasricha, however, claimed that only one blast had occurred resulting in 5 fatalities. An MLA from the area later confirmed the occurrence of three explosions. Special Inspector-General of Nashik, P. K Jain, said that two state police companies and ten Rapid Action Force had been sent to Malegaon to control the situation. He also added that prior intelligence had been received about the possibility of such an attack.

An angry mob attacked the Superintendent of Police when his team tried to reach the blast site. Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, R R Patil is headed to the town to assess the situation. The Union Home Secretary has asked the state authorities to speak to local leaders in Malegaon and ask them to help maintain the peace there. A high alert has been declared throughout the state and paramilitary forces are en route to control the situation in communally volatile areas.

Malegaon, in the Nasik district of Maharashtra, is famous for its powerlooms, and one of the biggest cities in Northwest Maharashtra. It has a history of communal tensions between its majority Muslim population and their Hindu neighbours. The town witnessed riots in 1984 and then again in 1992 (in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition) and, most recently, in 2001.

The police are investigating the incident and Times of India

suggests that either the Hindu Sangh Parivar organisation Bajrang Dal or the Kashmiri separatist group Lashkar i Toiba are suspect. Bajrang Dal attacked the Parbhani's Mohammadi Masjid and mosques at Pona and Jalna earlier this year following a similar pattern. Lashkar i Toiba might want to create a communal divide. The incident happened a day after the Vande Mataram controversy marred India's communal relations.

Inauguration of the 71st Thessaloniki International Fair in Greece

Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and the whole of Cabinet is already in Greece's second-largest city Thessaloniki, in order to take part to the inauguration of the, organized by Helexpo, 71st International Fair, which will take place later today. The Greek Premier will address a speech - as it traditionally happens every year - at the Vellidion Conference Centre where he is going to speak about the upcoming governmental policies in Economy. Earlier today, Karamanlis visited the sites of two upcoming public works in the city; the Thessaloniki Metro construction site and the expansion of Makedonia International Airport. At 1pm(GTM +2), the Greek Premier will inaugurate the renovated Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki.

According to government officials, Karamanlis is expected to emphasize New Democracy's achievements in two-and-a-half years in government while avoiding promises of handouts, although he is due to announce some changes regarding economical issues, like the tax system.

Prime Minister Karamanlis will address his official speech at 8pm in Vellidion Centre while several demonstrations have been scheduled in the centre of Thessaloniki and around the area of the International Fair. Among those demonstrations, condemning the governmental policies, are the supporters of PAOK FC who demand solution to the their team's administration as well as Greece's largest labour unions, GSEE and ADEDY, which have also organized a protest in the city center at 6pm and demonstrators are due to march to the exhibition center where the Thessaloniki International Fair is being held.

Today in History

1000 - King Olaf I of Norway fell overboard during the Battle of Svolder and disappeared in the Baltic Sea.

1513 - King James IV of Scotland (pictured right) was killed at the Battle of Flodden Field in Northumberland while leading an invasion of England.

1850 - As part of the Compromise of 1850, California was admitted into the United States as a free state.

2004 - A car bomb exploded outside the Australian embassy, killing at least 9 people and injuring 140 others in the Jakarta embassy bombing.

September 09 is Republic Day in North Korea (1948), Independence Day in Tajikistan (1991).

Quote of the Day

"My personal feeling is that this is how any further improvement of the world will be done: by individuals making Quality decisions and that's all."

~ Robert M. Pirsig

Word of the Day

phantasmagoria; n

1. A series of events involving rapid changes in light intensity and colour.
2. A dreamlike state where real and imagined elements are blurred together.

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