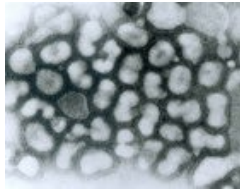




Top Stories

Major new bird flu outbreaks reported in Asia



New outbreaks of the lethal H5N1 strain of the avian influenza have been documented in

Vietnam and China. Health officers in these regions have identified more than 300,000 potentially infected birds.

Paris riots continue into second week



Violent riots continue in the suburbs of Paris, where residents have set fire to buildings, cars, and buses and

shot at police and firefighters.

Featured story

US state of Kansas in battle over "Intelligent Design" in education



Kansas' school board efforts to write Intelligent Design into the public

school science curriculum may have unleashed entertaining, but unintended, consequences.

Wikipedia Current Events

• The Coca-Cola company has announced that they will have a new flavor, Diet Black Cherry Vanilla Coke.

Wikipedia Current Events

•Kenneth Tomlinson, the [former] chairman of the U.S. CPB, resigns after the publication of an internal investigation into Tomlinson's actions toward making PBS programming more "conservative."

•The Old Bailey in the U.K. has sentenced five white supremacists to jail for 15 years for creating and distributing race hate material.

•Three men arrested last month in the U.K. have been charged under the Terrorism Act.

•The 2005 Paris suburb riots continue for an eighth consecutive night. Hundreds of arson attacks have taken place in the last few nights. Shots fired at police and firefighters. Rioting continues to spread. France described as facing a crisis.

•Israelis have begun to mark the 10th anniversary of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

•Massive demonstrations against U.S. President George W. Bush continue to grow at the Fourth Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina

Major new bird flu outbreaks reported in Asia

New outbreaks of the lethal H5N1 strain of the avian influenza have been documented in Vietnam and China. According to a Vietnamese animal health officer, 4,000 poultry and water fowl have died of the virus after October 25 in provinces

70 kilometres north of Hanoi. In China, 9,000 chickens and twenty wild birds have died of the virus in just over two weeks with more than 300,000 birds culled as a precaution.

Meanwhile, Japanese authorities are planning on culling 180,000 chickens in response to the discovery of the first case of bird flu in the country in over a year. Most of Japan's previous avian influenza outbreaks have been due to the H5N2 strain, which poses no known threat to humans. The virus found in a farm north-east of Tokyo has been confirmed as belonging to the H5 family, but additional tests are needed to find out whether it is the H5N1 strain. A Japanese agriculture ministry official said that there was "little concern" of the virus being the H5N1 type as no case of the strain has previously been found in the area.

At least 60 people have died of the H5N1 strain in east Asia. Over 40 of the fatalities have occurred in Vietnam, where tests are currently being conducted for at least one possible additional human infection. China has not reported any human infections of the avian flu.

First Google Print books unveiled

On Thursday, Google revealed the first addition of over 10,000 texts to its Google Print service. The works can now be searched and viewed for free via the project's website.

Much of Google's new digital library contains copyright-void American literature and historical documents from the 19th century. This initial expansion is comprised of documents found in the the New York Public Library and the libraries of Harvard University, Stanford University, Oxford University, and the University of Michigan.

In a formal statement, University of Michigan president Mary Sue Coleman said, "Today we welcome the world to our library. As educators we are inspired by the possibility of sharing these important works with people around the globe."

Google Print was announced as a beta project last year. Since then, it has been legally threatened by publishing companies and authors, who want to ensure that Google does not scan and publically distribute copyrighted material without permission. Because of this, the project was for a time placed on hold and was speculated by some to be a failure.

Google's controversial service also faces competition from the Open Content Alliance, formed by internet companies including Yahoo! and the Internet Archive.

Today in History

1688 - Glorious Revolution: Protestant Prince William of Orange landed at Brixham in Devon, on his way to depose his father-in-law King James II, the last Catholic monarch in England.

1838 - The collapse of the United Provinces of Central America began with Honduras separating from the federation.

1872 - Suffragette Susan B. Anthony voted in the U.S. presidential election for the first time. She was later fined \$100 for her participation.

1917 - St. Tikhon of Moscow was elected the Patriarch of Moscow and of the Russian Orthodox Church.

1935 - The Parker Brothers's version of the board game Monopoly was first released.

November 05 is Guy Fawkes Night in the United Kingdom (1605), All Saints Day in Sweden (2005).

Quote of the Day

"I feel for all faiths the warm sympathy of one who has come to learn that even the trust in reason is a precarious faith, and that we are all fragments of darkness groping for the sun." ~ Will Durant

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