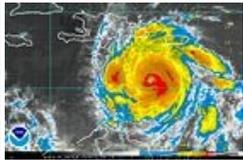




Top Stories

Hurricane Dean forecasted to become "catastrophic" Category 5 storm

The National Hurricane Center in Miami is calling Hurricane Dean "extremely dangerous," saying that the storm is gaining strength and will likely become a Category 5 storm.



Exclusive report on New Zealand's digital TV service

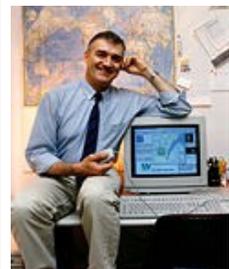
An exclusive, and special report by freelance journalist, Gabriel Pollard, has compiled the views from various politicians on New Zealand's latest digital television service, Freeview.



Featured story

Wikinews interviews World Wide Web co-inventor Robert Cailliau

Wikinews interviewed Robert Cailliau, co-inventor of the WWW, on the history and future of the Web.



Wikipedia Current Events

- Typhoon Sepat lands in Fujian, China after nearly a million people have been evacuated.
- Two more suspects are arrested

Wikipedia Current Events

in relation to a triple murder in a Newark, New Jersey elementary schoolyard.

- North Korea launches a flood relief program to help the hundreds of thousands of people left homeless.
- An armed clash between two Somali clans in the village of Goobo results in at least 16 people being killed and 30 injured.
- The Deputy Governor of Mogadishu Abdullahi Hassan Geney survives an assassination attempt after his car hits a landmine.
- One person is dead, four people are missing, after a fire at the Penhallow Hotel in Newquay, Cornwall.

- Survivors of the 2007 Peru earthquake flee the worst hit areas as looting intensifies.
- Voters in the Maldives go to the polls in a constitutional referendum to decide between a presidential or parliamentary system of government.
- Voters in Kazakhstan go to the polls for the Kazakhstani legislative election, 2007.
- Scientists announce that Pavlof Volcano in Alaska is set to have a huge eruption that could disrupt air traffic.

- A suicide bomber kills at least 15 people in the southern Kandahar province.

2007/08 German Bundesliga: Bayern Munich has early stranglehold on championship after one-sided game

Bayern Munich won a lop-sided game against Werder Bremen 4-0 to remain at the top of the table on Saturday.

Ribery's moment of skill launched another counter-attack ended by Altintop in the 79th minute, before substitute Andreas Ottl finished a great Bayern performance with a drive after 87th minute.

Bayern Munich made 1 change to the side from the victory over Rostock, Christian Lell replacing Marcell Jansen who is out nursing an injury. Philipp Lahm switched flanks to free up the right-back berth for Lell.

Materazzi reveals slur he uttered at 2006 FIFA World Cup

Italy and Inter Milan defender Marco Materazzi revealed the slur he said to Zinedine Zidane at last year's FIFA World Cup in Germany, which led to Zidane's headbutting of Materazzi and subsequent red card for Zidane.

Materazzi said in an interview with the TV Sorrisi e Canzoni magazine that the insult was: "I prefer the whore that is your sister." The Interview is set to be released on Monday.

Materazzi had mentioned previously that the insult involved Zidane's sister, but had never given the exact words until now.

Hurricane Dean forecasted to become "catastrophic" Category 5 storm

The National Hurricane Center in Miami is calling Hurricane Dean "extremely dangerous," saying that the storm is gaining strength and will likely become a Category 5 storm. The storm's winds are currently clocked at 150 mph, classifying it as a Category 4 hurricane. A Category 5 hurricane means the storm packs winds of over 155 mph and has the potential to cause "catastrophic" damage.

Dean is currently moving through the eastern Caribbean, and is heading towards the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The storm is expected to hit Jamaica on Sunday, and then gain even more power as it strikes Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on Monday.

Dean could hit the mainland of the United States on Wednesday. Therefore, officials in Texas and Louisiana are currently making major preparations.

Rick Perry, the Governor of Texas, said the hurricane is an "imminent threat," saying the state is preparing for its arrival. Task forces have been put on alert, and supply trucks and other resources are in position.

Governor Kathleen Blanco of Louisiana declared a state of emergency yesterday so local governments can move forward with emergency plans if necessary. However, forecasters say there is little chance of Dean moving toward Louisiana. Instead, the storm is expected to threaten Mexico or Texas.

A hurricane watch has been issued for Haiti from the Haiti/Dominican Republic border to Port-au-Prince.

Jaimaca has opened all shelters and Cuba has declared a "state of alert" in preparation for the storm.

A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the U.S. and Spanish Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

At 5 a.m. EDT, the center of Hurricane Dean was about 240 miles south-southwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and 660 miles east-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and was moving west at 14 mph. However, the storm is expected to pick up speed today.

Hurricane Dean could force NASA to cut short Endeavour's flight. Mission management team chairman Leroy Cain said, "We'd really like to protect an option to be able to end the mission on Tuesday."

The Associated Press reports several deaths and significant damage on the islands of St. Lucia, Dominica and Martinique.

Finland claims second world record for karaoke

Finland now holds the world record for the longest non-stop round of karaoke singing. The country already holds the record for the largest number of karaoke singers at any given time.

The previous record was 145 hours, as held by China. However, in a karaoke bar in Kouvola, a small town on Finland's southern coast, the record was surpassed on Wednesday, with the ultimate goal being 240 hours non-stop.

Finns travelled long distances to participate at the event, which was broadcast live on the internet.

The record goes alongside Finland's other record for karaoke, that of the largest number singing

at any given time. This is held by 80,000 fans of the Finnish hard rock band Lordi, who had met in Helsinki for the band to give a brief free concert to celebrate their victory at that year's Eurovision. The show culminated with all 80,000 joining in with the band on the winning song, Hard Rock Hallelujah.

Plane flying from Cyprus to Istanbul, Turkey hijacked

A Bombardier CRJ-900 operated by Atlastjet Airlines and traveling from Lefkosa (Nicosia), Cyprus to Istanbul, has been hijacked by two men claiming to be al-Qaeda terrorists with bombs.

According to reports, the plane landed at an airport in Antalya, Turkey. At least 136 passengers and 6 crew members were on the plane, but most reportedly escaped. The hijackers were releasing women from the front of the plane, when most of the passengers and crew escaped through the back. Two crewmembers and four passengers remain on the plane, Tuncay Doganer, president of Atlasjet, said. Doganer said that the hijackers spoke Arabic among themselves, and the AP is reporting that they are university students from Iran.

The hijackers requested the plane land in Tehran, Iran or Syria. Pilots landed the plane for refueling, but reports say that the pilots were among those who have been released or escaped.

Small plane makes crash landing in Massachusetts, USA

A small plane crash landed in heavy fog on the southeastern part of Nantucket Island near Low Beach Road in Massachusetts between 8:30 and 8:45 p.m. EDT (UTC-4).

FAA spokesperson Holly Baker said that the pilot who was flying with his wife made a hard landing at Siasconset.

Police cordoned off the area and about a dozen emergency vehicles responded to the incident. Numerous residents reported a loud noise which they mistakenly believed to be an explosion.

The plane involved in the crash had been fitted with a parachute, which is designed to reduce the speed of an emergency landing and limit crash damage. The plane's parachute had been deployed before the crash, according to Lieutenant Jerry Adams of the Nantucket police department.

Both the pilot and his wife were taken to the hospital for observation. Serious injuries were not reported.

A boat sinks in Egypt, dozens missing

Dozens of people could be missing after a boat sank off the Nile river south of the Egyptian town of Beni Suef on Friday night, local police reported.

Wikipedia Current Events

- A female German aid worker is taken captive at gunpoint in Kabul.
- Hurricane Dean has already claimed three lives in the Lesser Antilles and is due to pass south of Haiti and the Dominican Republic en route to Jamaica where emergency shelters have been opened.
- Hurricane Dean is expected to intensify to a Category 5 hurricane.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Cuba's National Civil Defense declares a state of alert for the following provinces: Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, Holguin, Las Tunas and Camaguey.
- NASA shortens a spacewalk during the current Space Shuttle Endeavour mission so that the crew can prepare for a Tuesday landing to avoid Hurricane Dean.
- President George W. Bush preapproves an emergency declaration for Texas if Hurricane Dean hits the state.
- An Atlas Jet plane en-route from Nicosia in Cyprus to Istanbul in Turkey is hijacked. Some passengers were freed while the plane refueled in Antalya in southern Turkey. All 142 people escape unhurt while the hijackers surrender.
- Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf says he will contend in the upcoming presidential election "because the country needs him."
- Rescuers race to reach over 180 coal miners trapped in two flooded mines in Shandong province in China.
- At least one person is dead and thousands evacuated as Typhoon Sepat hits Taiwan.

Today in History

- 1942 – World War II: Allied forces unsuccessfully raided the German-occupied port of Dieppe, France in the Dieppe Raid, suffering over 3,000 casualties.
- 1953 – The government of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq was overthrown in a coup d'état and was replaced by Fazlollah Zahedi.
- 1960 – Russian space dogs Belka and Strelka began to orbit the Earth aboard the Korabl-Sputnik-2

spacecraft.

1991 – Mikhail Gorbachev was announced as "ill and had been relieved of his state post as President" in a failed Soviet coup attempt.

2003 – A car bomb destroyed the United Nations headquarters at Baghdad's Canal Hotel, killing Brazilian diplomat Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 21 others.

August 19 is Qi Xi in the Chinese lunar calendar (2007); Afghan Independence Day; National Aviation Day in the United States.

Quote of the Day

What we say is the truth is what everybody accepts ... Psychiatry: it's the latest religion. We decide what's right and wrong. We decide who's crazy or not. I'm in trouble here. I'm losing my faith.
 ~ Madeleine Stowe as "Dr. Kathryn Raily" in Twelve Monkeys

Word of the Day

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