



### Top Stories

#### Further arrests following terror attacks in London and Glasgow

Police have arrested two more men in connection with the failed terror attacks of the past few days on London and Glasgow bringing the total number of arrests to seven.



#### Leahy: Congress willing to 'go to court' over W.H. subpoena standoff

Chairman of the US Senate Judiciary Committee Patrick Leahy spoke to Meet the Press after the White House claimed executive privilege in refusing to comply with subpoenas issued in the investigation into the firings of US Attorneys.



### Featured story

#### Smoking ban in England comes into force

The ban on smoking in enclosed public places is in line with similar laws in other parts of the UK. Business groups have expressed concerns over its impact on pubs and an activist group has challenged the law in court.



### Wikipedia Current Events

- US President George W. Bush commutes Scooter Libby's prison sentence with a Grant of Executive Clemency for his role in the Plame Affair.
- The President of the United States George W. Bush holds talks with the President of Russia Vladimir Putin in Kennebunkport, Maine discussing missile defense and Iran.
- Carlyle Group offers somewhere between £4 billion and £5 billion for the purchase of heavily-indebted Virgin Media.
- Eight people have been killed by a 2007 car bomb explosion at a tourist site in Yemen.
- The United States accuses Iran of using Hezbollah to train Shia militants in Iraq. The Iranian Defence Minister had earlier called the US the "biggest sponsor of terrorism" in the world.
- Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Mooney, the military attaché at the United States Embassy is found dead in western Cyprus.
- Wesfarmers buys Coles Group for \$A22 billion in Australia's biggest corporate deal.
- British detectives continue the hunt for suspects in the 2007 Glasgow International Airport attack and the 2007 London car bombs plot. Two doctors are among the seven people currently in custody in the UK in connection with the attacks with another person held in an

### Wikipedia Current Events

- undisclosed location.
- Corporal Bill Henry "Willy" Apiata of the Special Air Service of New Zealand is awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery under fire in Afghanistan in 2004.
- The trial over the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink opens in Istanbul, Turkey.

#### 'Scooter' Libby jail sentence commuted by US President George Bush

The prison sentence of I. Lewis 'Scooter' Libby has been commuted by U.S. President George W. Bush. Libby is the former chief of staff for U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, and was at the center of the CIA leak scandal, where the identity of former CIA agent Valerie Plame was leaked to the media officials by White House officials.

Bush's intervention ensures that Libby will not serve jail time, however Libby must still pay a \$250,000 fine and undergo two years of probation. In a statement, Bush said, "I respect the jury's verdict. But I have concluded that the prison sentence given to Mr. Libby is excessive. Therefore, I am commuting the portion of Mr. Libby's sentence that required him to spend thirty months in prison."

He continued, "My decision to commute his prison sentence leaves in place a harsh punishment for Mr. Libby. The reputation he gained through his years of public

service and professional work in the legal community is forever damaged. His wife and young children have also suffered immensely. He will remain on probation. The significant fines imposed by the judge will remain in effect. The consequences of his felony conviction on his former life as a lawyer, public servant, and private citizen will be long-lasting."

A federal court convicted Libby of perjury and obstruction of justice on March 6, 2007, and sentenced him to 2 1/2 years in prison. Bush issued the order to commute Libby's prison term after a federal appeals court ruled that Libby could not delay his prison term while his case was on appeal.

Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution grants the President authority to fully or partially commute the sentences of those convicted in federal courts, however acceptance of a pardon also requires the party to admit guilt in the matter.

### **Michael Moore's controversial new documentary 'Sicko' opens strongly**

Michael Moore's controversial new documentary *SiCKO* opened to strong box office numbers in limited release over the weekend. The biting and sometimes humorous expose of America's health system earned weekend totals of US\$4.5 Million on 441 screens, the second highest opening weekend numbers for a documentary ever, after Moore's own *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

This follows last weekend's 'sneak preview' screenings of the film in 43 major markets. The latest documentary from Academy Award and Cannes Film Festival winning filmmaker Moore earned US\$10,200 per screen, second in

the weekend averages. Only *Ratatouille* beat *SiCKO*, earning nearly US\$12,000 per screen. After only one weekend's limited release, *SiCKO* is now the fifth most successful political documentary ever, behind *Fahrenheit 9/11*, Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Bowling for Columbine*, and *Roger and Me*. Four of the top five are now by documentarian Moore.

*SiCKO* first opened at the AMC Lincoln Square in New York City. Fox News reported that the first screening's take was "possibly a record for an exclusive showing." Moore attended one of the Lincoln Square screenings, his presence not known until he revealed himself during the standing ovation that the film garnered. The ensuing melee of enthusiastic fans resulted in a NYC fire marshal being called in to clear the theater, with Moore then participating in an informal question and answer session on the street.

Moore has appeared on numerous talk shows in support of the film, which The Weinstein Company will roll out to 200 more theaters this week.

### **Suicide attack at Yemen shrine leaves nine dead**

Seven Spanish tourists and two Yemeni citizens are dead after an al-Qaeda suicide attacker blew himself up at a crowded temple dedicated to the Queen of Sheba in the Ma'rib Governorate.

Less than two weeks ago a terrorist disguised as a Yemeni guard opened fire on foreign oil workers who had just landed on an airfield. The United States embassy in San'a subsequently issued a warning to travelers because of the airfield incident.

The suicide attack at the Queen of Sheba temple comes days after al-Qaeda sympathisers twice unsuccessfully attempted to attack civilian areas in the United Kingdom.

### **Further arrests following terror attacks in London and Glasgow**

Police have arrested three more men in connection with the failed terror attacks of the past few days on London and Glasgow bringing the total number of arrests to eight.

Sky News has revealed the identity of one of the practising doctors arrested yesterday as Dr Mohammed Asha, who trained in Jordan before coming to the UK to practise. Police are continuing house raids throughout the country, in Paisley, Merseyside and Staffordshire. One suspect, badly burned after the attack on Glasgow airport, is currently receiving treatment at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

The eighth suspect was arrested abroad this evening, but police are refusing to reveal details of the country in which the arrest took place. It has been revealed that five of those arrested are qualified doctors, practising in the UK, three of those in the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

The UK's terror threat warning level remains "critical", meaning that an attack could be imminent. Heavy security is in evidence at airports and public transport centres, with many airports asking passengers not to bring vehicles close to the terminal buildings. This evening, at around 1900 BST, Stansted Airport, Essex. was closed for a short time following the discovery of a suspicious bag. The owner of the bag was arrested while the airport closed its doors,

not allowing passengers into or out of it. The BBC reports that, by 2035, the airport had been fully re-opened. The owner of the bag remains under arrest, but not for terrorism related offences.

Strathclyde Police is continuing its appeal for any details of earlier movements of the green Jeep Cherokee with registration L808 RDT, which was driven into the terminal building at Glasgow International Airport.

The Metropolitan Police has now taken over the inquiry, with suspects held in Scotland to be moved to London.

### **Hugo Chavez meets Iran's Imam Khamenei**

Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez met Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. They pledged further cooperation of "independent nations."

The visit of Chavez to Tehran, Iran, followed earlier ones to Russia and Belarus. Iran's state-run television reported that Hugo Chavez stated to Khamenei that Iran was an apt model for other nations to emulate.

Chavez said that the two nations' ties in the petroleum, gasoline, and petrochemical sectors will be expanded.

In a reference to the recent political development in various parts of Latin America where anti-American leaders have attained political control, Chavez said, "U.S. imperialism is declining, and independent countries are viewing the future with hope and optimism."

Both Venezuela and Iran are members of OPEC.

Last month, Daniel Ortega, the

president of Nicaragua, came to Iran. In the following months, Evo Morales, the president of Bolivia, is expected in Tehran.

### **Princes William and Harry host the Concert for Diana**

Performances by Sir Elton John and the English National Ballet featured in the Concert for Diana, held in Wembley Stadium, London on Sunday to commemorate the late Princess Diana's life on what would have been her 46th birthday.

As a result of the terror attacks in the United Kingdom on the days prior to the event, heightened security precautions were in force, with a high police presence around the venue, and bag searches taking place. Despite the security fears, over 63,000 attended the concert. It was televised to 120 countries around the world, with a potential audience of 500 million.

The concert, broadcast by the BBC, featured acts from many groups and individuals including Sir Elton John, and the English National Ballet. It was hosted by Princes William and Harry and opened and closed by Sir Elton John, who is remembered for having played a unique rendition of *Candle in the Wind* at the Princess' funeral.

Performances were interspersed with tributes from various public figures including Tony Blair, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa. Films showing parts of Diana's life, with testimony from those who worked with her, were also aired, publicising the Princess' work around the world, which was to be supported by profits from the concert.

### **Eastern Utah wildfire blamed for three deaths**

A wildfire in in the Ashley National Forest has been blamed for three deaths and has led to the evacuation of about 500 residents of the communities of Whiterocks, Farm Creek, Paradise and Tridell in eastern Utah.

The fire broke out on Friday, June 29 at around 9:00 a.m. local time in Duchesne county, north of Neola by state route 121, and proceeded to spread westward into Uintah county.

To date, the cause of the wildfire is unknown. An early report by public safety officials claimed it was caused by a faulty power line or transformer. However, a later announcement by Moon Lake Electric Association CEO Grant Earl disputed this.

By Saturday morning, the fire had spread across approximately 46 square miles of land and been blamed for three fatalities: George Houston, his son Tracy Houston, and Roger Roberson, all from Farm Creek. Eleven year old Duane Houston, George's grandson, was able to escape the fire with only minor injuries.

The communities of Whiterocks, Farm Creek, Paradise and Tridell, consisting of approximately 500 local residents, were evacuated by Sunday, and at least five homes are known to have been destroyed. Those without family or friends to provide lodging have been relocated to the Ute Indian Tribe's auditorium in Fort Duchesne and Union High School in Roosevelt.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency became involved in the management of fire fighting efforts on Sunday, and a

specialized regional wildland fire team, the Rocky Mountain Type One Management Team, had begun to converge on the Uinta Basin to assist with the firefighting, along with about 100 members of the Utah National Guard.

Reports that same day claimed the fire was 5% contained, but that it had split into at least two separate smaller fires. Authorities declared their intention to prevent the fire from moving eastwards into Dry Creek Canyon and the town of Tridell.

### **America's Cup: seventh race postponed**

The seventh race in the challenge for the 32nd America's Cup has been postponed due to unfair and unstable race conditions. This race could have been the last and final race as Alinghi are currently on match point on four wins, while Team New Zealand are only on two wins in the best of nine competition.

At 12.30 a.m. (NZST) there was already speculation gathering that there could be a delay due to the wind being all over the place. The principal race officer also confirmed that there was a very real possibility that there would be a delay.

The delayed flag was flown at 12.55 a.m., five minutes before the yachting race was due to begin. This was due to unstable weather conditions, which could lead to an unfair race.

At 1.20 a.m., 20 minutes after the race was scheduled to start, there had still been no word from the race committee on a possible racing time. The wind speeds were around five knots near the starting line, but the wind direction still

wasn't stable and fair.

The wind speed was starting to get higher into more acceptable conditions with the wind at the start line around seven knots. But the wind direction was still unstable.

At 2.10 a.m., the principal race officer announced that there would be "no more racing today". Tomorrow is a guaranteed rest day, so the next possible day for racing will be early Wednesday morning (NZST).

During this America's Cup challenge and other previous ones, discussion has been raised that a new boat design is needed, as to make the race more interesting with faster boats and more takeovers throughout the race.

It was also Grant Dalton's, managing director of Team New Zealand, 50th birthday.

### **Glasgow International Airport reopened; arrests made and houses searched**

On 1st July 2007 Glasgow International Airport began to reopen after a car was driven into the airport by terrorists, with flights from Orlando and Ibiza arriving during the day. By the end of the day, the airport was reported to be operating largely as usual, but passengers continued to be advised to confirm their flights with operators before coming to the airport. Tight security precautions remain in force across UK airports today, although most flights are operating as normal.

Several houses have been searched in the area of Renfrewshire in Neuk Crescent, Houston, Scotland. Five arrests have been made following the incident in Glasgow: two in

Glasgow, Scotland, two on the M6 motorway in Cheshire, and one in Liverpool (England). The police are continuing house searches and inquiries throughout the country, including in Merseyside and Staffordshire, with one suspect identified to "still be at large".

Sky News reports that two of the arrested men are doctors, working in British hospitals.

A suspicious car has undergone a controlled explosion outside the Royal Alexandra Hospital, to which a suspect of the attack at the airport had been taken for treatment as a result of burns. A 200m cordon was set up around the hospital as a precautionary measure, with ambulances being turned away from the accident and emergency department. Police have stated that they believe that the suspicious vehicle was connected to the earlier attack at Glasgow International Airport, but that they do not believe it to have contained any explosives.

During a press conference Strathclyde police revealed that they believe the two men had been living in Renfrew for at least 6 weeks prior to the attacks of yesterday. The green cherokee jeep is "possibly" a second hand, rather than stolen, car with registration L808 RDT. Questions were raised during the conference concerning whether the USA had, as had been reported in certain circles, published a report predicting that there may be an attack on Glasgow Airport. This was not confirmed and considered as speculation. The police issued an appeal for any details about sightings of the vehicle prior to the event.

### Leahy: Congress willing to 'go to court' over W.H. subpoena standoff

Patrick Leahy (D-VT), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, remarked today that Congress was ready to go to court if the White House continues to refuse to comply with subpoenas for information regarding the firing of federal prosecutors.

"They've chosen confrontation rather than compromise or cooperation," said Leahy on the 'Meet the Press' news program. "The bottom line is in the U.S. attorney investigation, we have people manipulating law enforcement. Law enforcement can't be partisan."

The investigation questions whether the White House illegally exerted undue political influence in the firing of 8 federal prosecutors. The Democratic-led investigation could result in a Constitutional showdown over issues of Executive Privilege and Congressional Oversight.

The Senate has also subpoenaed the White House and Vice President Dick Cheney's office for documents related to the administration's 'Warrantless Wiretapping' within the United States. In this case, lawyers for Vice President Cheney first argued that the Vice President's role in the Senate meant that Cheney wasn't part of the Executive Branch. This legal claim generated substantial criticism and a failed attempt to get funding for Cheney's executive role cut off. White House lawyer David Addington and others in the administration have since backed away from this argument.

### Woman killed on amusement park ride in New York

A young woman was killed Friday

night after an accident occurred on a gyrating ride at the Playland amusement park in Rye, New York in the United States. The woman, Gabriela Garin, was a worker at the amusement park, and had worked there for the past seven years.

The accident occurred near the end of Garin's shift; as she was loading riders onto the ride. The ride's new operator, unaware of Garin's presence, started the ride while Garin was still on it. The new operator then noticed Garin, and shut the ride down in 20 seconds, but Garin had already been ejected from the ride and killed, according to a park spokesperson.

The ride is an attraction that spins people around in two-seat cars, inside a darkened tent to flashing lights and music.

This incident is not the first in this ride's history; in 2004, a 7-year-old from Connecticut managed to free herself from the ride's restraining bars, and climb onto the front edge of her seat. She fell soon after the ride started. A safety precaution was put in place after this incident, however, the spokesperson acknowledged that it was not followed when Garin was killed.

The company which owns the ride shut it down, along with two other rides it owns at the park.

This is the fourth fatality in the park's history. The park features more than 50 rides, a pool, and a beach. It attracts more than 1 million visitors annually.

### Today in History

987 – Hugh Capet was crowned King of France, becoming the first monarch of the Capetian dynasty, which ruled France continuously until the French Revolution in 1792.

1608 – Quebec City was founded by Samuel de Champlain.

1863 – Pickett's Charge, a disastrous Confederate infantry assault against Union Army positions, occurred during the final and bloodiest day of fighting in the Battle of Gettysburg, marking a turning point in the American Civil War.

1866 – Prussian forces defeated the Austrian army at the Battle of Koniggratz, the decisive battle in the Austro-Prussian War.

1938 – The LNER Mallard broke the world speed record for a steam railway locomotive, reaching a speed of 203 km/h (126 mph). July 03 is Independence Day in Belarus.

### Quote of the Day

There's no life that couldn't be immortal if only for a moment.

Death always arrives by that very moment too late.

In vain it tugs at the knob of the invisible door. As far as you've come can't be undone.

~ Wisława Szymborska ~

### Word of the Day

denounce; v

1. To criticize or speak out against.
2. To make a formal or public accusation against.
3. (archaic) To make known in a formal manner; to proclaim.

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