



Top Stories

Clinton to suspend campaign



Credit: Marc Nozell (CC-BY 2.0)

The Clinton campaign has announced that Hillary Clinton will suspend her campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination on Saturday.

Tsvangirai campaign rallies banned in Zimbabwe

Police in Zimbabwe have stopped opposition leader Morgan



Tsvangirai (MDC) en route to a campaign rally and escorted to a police station in Esigodini. The government announced bans on rallies in support of Tsvangirai and on international aid groups.

UN summit results in pledge to mitigate food crisis

A three-day United Nations (UN) summit, bringing together leaders from 181 countries, has wrapped up with a pledge by all attending countries to address the global food shortage crisis. Key actions cited include doubling the world's food production by 2030, providing resources for farmers in poor countries and increasing humanitarian aid in times of crisis.



NHL: Detroit wins the 2008 Stanley Cup

The Detroit Red Wings won their 11th Stanley Cup in National Hockey League (NHL) history on Wednesday. The Red Wings won the sixth game of the ice hockey championship finals by a 3-2 score against the Pittsburgh Penguins at Mellon Arena in Pittsburgh. The Conn Smythe Trophy, an individual player award, was presented to Henrik Zetterberg.

Wikipedia Current Events

After five years of searching, the Caribbean Monk Seal is declared officially extinct.

- Japan and North Korea resume bilateral talks, last held in September 2007.
- Colombia and Ecuador restore relations following the Andean diplomatic crisis in March.
- A Venezuelan National Guard sergeant and 3 more people are captured in the Colombian Department of Vichada with 40,000 AK-47 rounds for the rebel group FARC.
- The Diet of Japan recognizes the Ainu as an indigenous people for the first time.
- The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc-Our Ukraine Bloc coalition loses its majority in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada after two deputies quit.
- The America's Climate Security Act of 2007, a greenhouse gas emissions reduction bill, stalls in the U.S. Senate after a 48-36

Wikipedia Current Events

vote fails to invoke cloture on a Republican filibuster. Presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama were among six senators absent from the vote who expressed support for the bill.

- A rush-hour explosion targeting a bus in Colombo, Sri Lanka kills at least 21 people and injures 80.
- The price of a barrel of crude oil rises a single-day record of nearly US\$11, settling at a new record of US\$138.54.
- Joseph Muscat becomes the leader of the Malta Labour Party, to become the opposition leader of Malta, to take the place of Charles Mangion, after the resignation of Alfred Sant.

US B-2 bomber crash in Guam caused by moisture on sensors

The final report into the crash of a B-2 Spirit bomber belonging to the United States Air Force (USAF) in Guam has determined that the crash was caused by moisture on sensors which caused the jet to receive inaccurate data. It was the first loss of a B-2, which costs US\$1.4 billion.

The aircraft, belonging to USAF's 509th Air Wing and carrying the name Spirit of Kansas, was attempting takeoff from Andersen Air Force Base on February 23 this year when the crash occurred. Moisture in three of the 24 air pressure sensors caused the sensors, all on the port side, to feed back inaccurate data to the

flight computer.

The aircraft crew believed the bomber had reached the takeoff speed of 140 knots when in reality it was traveling ten knots slower and rotated for takeoff. The malfunction also meant that the sensors showed the plane to be in a nose down position, causing it to command a high level of pitch, around 30 degrees. This, combined with the low takeoff speed, caused the aircraft to stall and veer to the left.

Major Ryan Link and Captain Justin Grieve, who were piloting, ejected as the left wingtip struck the ground. They were injured, with Grieve suffering compression fractures to his spine, but survived. The wreckage came to rest to the runway's left.

The report also noted that more effective communications could have prevented the crash. The vulnerability of the sensors to moisture was first detected by aircrews and maintenance staff in 2006, at which time it was discovered that turning on the 500 degree pitot heat prior to sensor calibration would evaporate the water and cause a return to normal readings. However, this was never formally noted and so the pilots of the aircraft were unaware of the potential problem or its solution.

They were also unaware that, at an earlier time at the same base, another B-2's takeoff roll was aborted at 70 knots due to abnormal indications. After inspection by maintenance personnel, it was determined that moisture in the sensor system was to blame. After turning on the pitot heat the aircraft took off without incident.

Japan's Supreme Court invalidates distinctions on nationality

The Supreme Court of Japan ruled on Wednesday that a condition imposed by an Act for acquiring Japanese nationality is unconstitutional, and confirmed the nationality of the plaintiffs. Each of the ten plaintiffs is a child who was born to a Filipino mother and later acknowledged by a Japanese father. They filed claims for Japanese nationality between 2003 and 2005, but the government turned down because the parents were not legally married in each case.

According to Japan's Act on nationality, a non-Japanese child (under 20) who was after its birth legitimated by marriage and acknowledgment can acquire Japanese nationality by filing notification, with some requirements which the plaintiffs had already fulfilled.

The Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that the condition 'legitimated by marriage' results in unreasonable distinctions to violate Article 14 of the Constitution of Japan, which guarantees equality under the law. The Supreme Court left effective the rest of this provision and accepted the plaintiffs' claims for Japanese nationality. The judgment pointed out recent changes in people's notions in Japan as to family life or parent-child relationship, and also referred to two conventions which Japan has ratified.

There are estimated to be tens of thousands of children in similar situations in Japan and a considerable number overseas.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura on Wednesday made a

comment about the judgment at a press conference. Machimura said, "This judgment, saying violation of Constitution, weighs so much. As a government, we should take it gravely, and we want to examine its content in detail and consider how to react." He added, "I have an impression, just hearing of it, that it's a reasonable judgment. Equality under the law is an important point of view."

The ten plaintiffs filed their appeals through lawyers after Tokyo High Court dismissed their claims in February, 2007.

The judgment is to say:

- (a) while it's within the scope of the Legislation of the Diet how conditions are set for acquiring / losing Japanese nationality (Article 10), a distinction without rational reasons brought by such a condition may be unconstitutional (Article 14: Paragraph 1).
- (b) being legitimated by the parents' marriage or not is a thing the child can not change by its will or endeavor.
- (c) the purpose of legislation of this provision is rational, because that is considered to demand the child's tight connection with Japan's society.
- (d) after this provision was added in 1984, both notions and actual situations of people in Japan have been becoming of variety, as to family life or parent-child relationship.
- (e) the child's tight connection with Japan's society can not be measured instantly by whether the parents have got legally married.
- (f) many foreign countries have lifted a legitimacy condition through revision of the law; two conventions (#) that Japan has ratified include provision meaning that a child is not to face any discrimination as to its birth. # International Covenant on Civil

and Political Rights, and Convention on the Rights of the Child.

(g) this provision results in distinctions not only as to legitimacy but also as to two other factors: any non-Japanese child without legitimacy acknowledged before its birth by a Japanese father, and any child without legitimacy born to a Japanese mother, can acquire Japanese nationality provided by this Act. These distinctions have no rational relation with the purpose of legislation.

(h) another provision in this Act states a child in this situation may be naturalized with fewer conditions, but it doesn't justify the relation between the purpose and the distinctions, because naturalization is within discretion of the Minister of Justice.

One judge in the majority, who supported the conclusion, shared a view with the five dissenting: the distinction as to legitimacy is caused by non-existence of due legislation. This judge concluded that the Judiciary can remedy the lack, because it doesn't betray the will of the Legislation of the Diet as to this Act.

Two dissenting judges of the five concluded that these distinctions are unconstitutional, but correction of it depends, in principle, on legislative measures by the Diet.

The other opinion of three dissenting judges is contrary to the major opinion. They argued, for example, the distinction as to legitimacy is not unconstitutional and is within the range of choice of legislative measures. even if it's unconstitutional, the plaintiffs' appeals are to be dismissed, following the viewpoint in the other dissenting opinion.

it's dubious whether or how people in Japan have been making changes as in (d).

it's rational to offer Japanese nationality in two other situations as in (g).

easy naturalization as in (h) to offer Japanese nationality is rational both as a measure and in practice.

foreign countries' movement as in (f) is not to be instantly reflected in judgment on constitutionality; they are different from Japan, with a large number of international marriages and expansion of regional unification like EU.

Dow plunges as oil prices break records

The Dow Jones industrials lost more than 400 points on the day today after news of record high oil prices and an increase in unemployment.

Friday's nearly US\$11 per barrel increase in the July contract for crude oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) is the largest single-day increase in oil price history. The July contract hit \$139.12, breaking the previous record. The July contract settled at \$138.54, also a new record. The previous record for the July contract was \$135.09 and was set on May 22. Trading in the July contract terminates on June 20.

Stephen Schork, an oil industry analyst and editor of the "Schork Report," said, "The bulls are running rampant and the bears have panicked...It's pure hysteria, absolute panic."

Morgan Stanley oil analyst, Ole Slorer, released a report this morning saying that he expected a "short-term spike in oil prices," as high as \$150 a barrel by mid-July.

Adding to the concerns of oil

traders was a statement by Deputy Prime Minister Shaul Mofaz told Yediot Ahronot, the most widely circulated paper in Israel that "If Iran continues its program to develop nuclear weapons, we will attack it." Mofaz is considered a candidate as the next Prime Minister.

The average price for regular unleaded gasoline has already passed the \$4 a gallon mark in 12 states, as well as in Washington, D.C., according to AAA.

Meanwhile, the Labor Department reported Friday that the unemployment rate rose to 5.5% last month. This was an increase from the 5% rate in April, and was the biggest monthly jump in more than two decades. Wall Street had only predicted an uptick to 5.1% for the month.

According to the Labor Department, 49,000 jobs were lost in May, adding to four straight month of job losses.

The Dow was not the only stock that fell today, the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 43.37, or 3.09 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 75.38, or 2.96 percent.

Also today, the American dollar declined against other major currencies, including the Euro.

UN summit results in pledge to mitigate food crisis

A three-day United Nations (UN) summit, bringing together leaders from 181 countries, has wrapped up with a pledge by all attending countries to address the global food shortage crisis. Key actions cited include doubling the world's food production by 2030, providing resources for farmers in poor countries and increasing

humanitarian aid in times of crisis.

Protests and violent riots have resulted in parts of the world in recent months due to increasing unaffordability, and sometimes unavailability, of food. It is estimated that 862 million people, or just over one eighth of the world's population, are malnourished.

According to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, up to US\$20 billion will be required annually to avert crises in the most hard-hit areas. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has put the figure closer to US\$30 billion. Pledges made just at the summit amounted to more than US\$5 billion, according to the UN.

Despite the largely positively-received outcome of the summit, held in Rome, Italy, there were some who felt that the proceedings could have gone better. Several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) pointed to the fact that they were not invited to partake in the discussions. Food and hunger policy adviser Magda Kropiwnicka of ActionAid commented on the strength of the final pledge: "There were no quantifiable financial commitments. Apart from the existing UN Food and Agriculture Organisation funds, no money has been given to address the key problem of boosting capacity."

While most delegates agreed that biofuels have been one of the causes of the food crisis, no actions were agreed upon to address this hot topic. Biofuels have been increasingly in demand in recent years, meaning that many crops that would have previously been used for food are now being used as fuel.

The impact that biofuels has goes further than simply increasing the demand of food crops. As fuel prices increase, so do the costs of fertilisers, farm vehicle use and the transport of foods. All of this adds up to a large increase in the cost of food.

Some UN officials say that biofuel use has caused up to 30% of the global food price inflation of late. The United States estimates that figure to be closer to just 3%. The Globe and Mail newspaper indicates that some estimates go as high as 60%. The only consensus that could be reached on biofuels is that they provide both "challenges and opportunities", and need to be looked into further for a conclusive analysis on their impact on food production.

Other factors increasing food prices are increased consumption of meat and dairy products in developing nations like China and India. Argentina noted that subsidies granted to farmers from the US, the European Union and other Western countries have also been a major player in the increase.

Greek police investigates actor's murder

Police officers in Athens, Greece continue their investigation in order to find the murderer of the popular actor Nikos Sergianopoulos, who was found dead in his apartment on June 4, 2008. Athens coroner Philippos Koutsaftis stated that Sergianopoulos, 56, had been stabbed 21 times in the neck, lungs and chest, and the door had been violated. Reports from Greek television news made it known that the knife, with which the actor was stabbed, was found in the kitchen with blood on it.

Contrary to first assumptions, police now believe that it was not a premeditated murder and that the murderer was not a close friend of Sergianopoulos. Among the findings in the apartment were a fingerprint on the door inside the flat, drug substances (probably cocaine) and 40 more fingerprints which will be analyzed in special laboratories.

The actor had been arrested for drug possession in the Kolonos area of Athens in December 2007.

The body of Sergianopoulos has been moved to his hometown in Drama, northern Greece, where his funeral took place earlier today in the presence of co-actors and hundreds of locals.

Tsvangirai campaign rallies banned in Zimbabwe

Police in Zimbabwe have stopped opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai (MDC) en route to a campaign rally. His convoy was then escorted to a police station in Esigodini.

"Tsvangirai and other MDC leaders were detained again in Umzingwane. They are being taken to Esigodini police station," said MDC spokesperson Nelson Chamisa.

Wayne Bvudzijena, a spokesman for the police, said that he was not aware of this incident, but added that roadblocks are used by the police to conduct weapons searches. "Tsvangirai and his convoy are not immune to search," he said. "They can be searched at any roadblock they pass."

Afterwards, the government banned political rallies in support of Tsvangirai, effectively ending his campaigning. Officials said the

decision was made to protect the safety of Tsvangirai and MDC party leaders.

George Sibotshiwe, a spokesperson for Tsvangirai, called the ban "a clear indication that the regime will do everything necessary to remain in power," and said its justification was "nonsense."

Earlier today, Tsvangirai was prevented from attending a rally at a mine near Zimbabwe's second-largest city, Bulawayo, when police blocked the road.

"One of our leading vehicles was stopped, then the rest of us were stopped as well. We tried to get an explanation from the police and they said we should have told them in advance that Mr Tsvangirai was going to visit," said Lovemore Moyo, MDC chairman, to AFP. "They then turned us back and we had to use a smaller road to get back to the main road. We are now proceeding."

"We were unable to speak at the mine as we heard at the gate, there were ZANU-PF activists blocking the entrance. We only managed to speak to our local councillors," Moyo said.

Also today, the government announced a ban on all foreign aid groups operating in the country. Some groups, including CARE International had already been banned earlier this week.

"I hereby instruct all PVOs/NGOs to suspend all field operations until further notice," said social welfare minister Nicholas Goche in a statement.

James Elder, a spokesperson for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), called it "completely

unacceptable and hugely concerning. Hundreds of thousands of children are in need of immediate assistance. With the onset of the winter in Zimbabwe, the timing is critical for children who are among the most vulnerable and most in need of support."

US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer called on President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa to pressure Mugabe "not to starve the population and to allow international organizations to function."

"It's unbelievable that the government will actually kick out the organizations which are providing services to the people," Frazer said.

Rupert Colville, spokesperson for the United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights told Voice of America that halting food aid is unconscionable in the opinion of Louise Arbour.

"To deprive people of food because of an election is a complete perversion of democracy. How can you possibly deprive people with food and then ask for a democratic vote?" Colville said.

Speaking at the United Nations Headquarters, the Zimbabwean ambassador Boniface Chidyauskiku said that the government was not using food as a tool in the election.

"There is no use of food as a political weapon. It is the other way around. It is the relief agencies, followed by the U.S. government, that have been using food as a political weapon," Chidyauskiku said to the Associated Press. "They have gone out into the countryside and they have been telling Zimbabweans

that if you don't vote for the opposition, if you don't change your vote, there's no food for you."

Yesterday, United States and United Kingdom diplomats were stopped in their vehicles in an incident the US called "outrageous" and said that they were threatened with being burned alive in their cars.

"Basically, the police told them they were not going anywhere unless they got out of the car," said deputy information minister Bright Matonga. "The police told them they should respect the laws of the country unless they have something to hide."

Two days ago, Tsvangirai was detained for several hours before being released without charges.

Wikinews interviews Gene Amondson, Prohibition Party presidential nominee

While nearly all coverage of the 2008 Presidential election has focused on the Democratic and Republican candidates, the race for the White House also includes independents and third-party candidates. These prospects represent a variety of views that may not be acknowledged by the major party platforms.

Wikinews has reached out to these candidates throughout the campaign. We now interview the Prohibition Party Presidential nominee Gene Amondson, a preacher, artist and prohibition activist.

Wikinews: Why do you want to be President?

Gene Amondson: With one out of nine blacks between twenty and thirty-four in prison, Prohibition will come again for the fourth

time.

WN: Have you ever run for political office before? (President, senate, congress, city councilor, school trustee... etc.) Have you ever been a member of a political party, other than the one you're currently in?

GA: I grew up Republican; my brother was [a] state Senator.

WN: What skills or ideas do you bring from this position, or previous positions, that will benefit the Oval Office?

GA: I run because no one else will help America with its number one problem here is the church, that had one Sunday set aside each year to get kids to take a pledge – never to drink (that was 60 years ago).

WN: Campaigning for the American presidency is one of the most expensive exercises in the world. How do you deal with the cost and fundraising?

GA: If we could cut off the money that goes to Dobson, the Salvation Army, Union Gospel Vision, World Vision, Graham, America could save our children from drunk parents. Ohio has a quarter of a million children abused each year by a drunk parent.

[Even] with MADD Mothers and millions of dollars, drunk driving has not gone down in ten years.

WN: What are you/were you looking for in a running mate?

GA: I have a running mate, but would like Newt Gingrich.

WN: Can you win the 2008 Presidential election?

GA: Third party people do not win but we say wise things.

WN: If you can't make it into the Oval Office, whom would you prefer seeing taking the presidency?

GA: We need McCain to get good Supreme Court judges, not the Democrats. Jewish people must be wise like, Mayor Ed Koch. I have to vote Republican, or kiss Israel goodbye. Of the three front runners, only McCain will help Israel.

WN: What should the American people keep in mind, when heading to the polls this November?

GA: Liberal Democrats win because they promise everything, like: America can give you everything; you do not even have to work; let anyone come across our borders; eat, drink and be merry.

WN: Anything else you want to add?

GA: We are America's third oldest party, [we have been around for] 137 years. Your kids need you sober. You booze you lose. Like crime and drugs: keep selling alcohol. America's greatest years were the fourteen years of prohibition: our prisons and mental institutions [were] emptied. If you had a dog that bit every third person what would you do?

You would shoot that dog. Alcohol has no taste....I[f] I don't like you sober, I won't like [you] with a few beers. Responsible drinking – responsible smoking – dumb and dumber.

We need your help [contact me] at <http://www.geneamondson.com> [or call] 206-463-6333.

UEFA Euro 2008: Błaszczykowski injury damages Poland's Euro 2008 hopes

The Polish national team's right winger Jakub Błaszczykowski was ruled out of the Euro 2008 soccer championships late on June 5, less than three days before Poland is to take on Germany in its tournament

opener. Błaszczykowski, who in his club career plays for Borussia Dortmund, renewed a hamstring strain he suffered in mid-season.

His withdrawal leaves Poland's coach Leo Beenhakker with a serious selection headache to solve. So far he has not said how he would patch the resulting hole in his right wing.

Five scuba divers missing near Indonesia

Five European scuba divers remain missing after being swept away by a huge wave off the coast of Indonesia. The divers are from the UK, France and Sweden. They have been missing for over 24 hours.

The divers were last seen in Komodo National Park, in an area known for being quite dangerous. The national park is very popular within the diving community.

The rescue attempt has had no success, partly due to the lack of fuel that is available for the search aircraft. The navy has also joined the search.

Bus crashes in Indiana, United States

A bus has crashed in Crown Point, Indiana. Investigators believe that the driver may have been asleep at the wheel. The bus turned over on its side today at around 10:00 a.m. local time, injuring 29 of the 42 passengers.

Teenager stabs father during fight

Police have reported that an Iowa teenager recently stabbed his father during a fight. The father was allegedly stabbed three times in the chest area. Police arrested the teen, who has now been charged with attempted murder.

Climate bill blocked by US Senate

The US Senate today blocked a bill which required the US to reduce its level of carbon emissions. This failure in the Senate is partly due to the fact that many politicians believed that passing the bill would result in higher energy prices. Despite the failure in the Senate, both US presidential candidates, Barack Obama and John McCain, supported the bill.

Today in History

- 1099 – Members of the First Crusade reached Jerusalem and began a five-week siege of the city against the Fatimids.
- 1494 – Spain and Portugal signed the Treaty of Tordesillas, dividing the newly discovered lands of the Americas and Africa between the two countries.
- 1776 – Virginia statesman Richard Henry Lee presented the Lee Resolution to the Second Continental Congress, declaring the Thirteen Colonies to be independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain.
- 1948 – Rather than sign the Ninth-of-May Constitution making his nation a Communist state, Edvard Beneš chose to resign as President of Czechoslovakia.
- 1981 – The Israeli Air Force attacked and disabled the Osirak nuclear reactor, assuming it was producing plutonium to further an Iraqi nuclear weapons program.

Quote of the Day

A young man who is unable to commit a folly is already an old man. ~ Paul Gauguin

Word of the Day

bingo interj

- Used by players of bingo to claim a win.
- (informal) Used when finding what one has been looking for or trying to

recall.

- (informal) Similarly, used to declare "You've just made my point!" or "My point exactly!".

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