



WIKINEWS PRINT EDITION

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Much of UK placed on flood alert by Met Office

The United Kingdom's government weather agency, the Met Office, has put much of the UK on flood alert with severe weather warnings for the majority of England and Wales and much of Northern Ireland.



Sony recalls 440,000 laptops due to wiring faults

Technology company Sony has recalled 440,000 Vaio laptops due to a fault in the wiring which could result in overheating. The recall involves some laptops in the VAIO VGN-TZ100 series, VGN-TZ200 series, VGN-TZ300 series and VGN-TZ2000.

Google removes ownership claim from Chrome EULA

Following complaints by users, Google has removed the section of Google Chrome's end-user license agreement which claims that Google has the right to use any content submitted through its browser in virtually any way it wants. The agreement said that "by submitting, posting or displaying the content you give Google a perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free, and non-exclusive license to reproduce, adapt, modify, translate, publish, publicly perform, publicly display and distribute any Content which you submit, post or display on or

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through, the Services."

SPECIAL REPORT

Frank McEnulty continues White House run for New American, Reform parties, independently; talks to Wikinews

Throughout the 2008 United States Presidential election campaign, Wikinews reporters have been talking to candidates of all political stripes, looking for their vision of America and campaign stories. This series continues now with Frank McEnulty.



WIKINEWS
ELECTION 2008

Wikipedia Current Events

Komlan Mally resigns as prime minister of Togo, after less than a year in office.

- Darren Aronofsky's *The Wrestler* wins the Golden Lion for best film at the Venice Film Festival.
- Nuclear Suppliers Group clears Indo-US nuclear deal.
- At least 18 people are killed and 22 injured when dozens of homes in northern Cairo collapse after being hit by a massive rockslide.
- The 2008 Summer Paralympic Games begin in Beijing.
- Tropical Storm Hanna makes landfall in the United States on the border between North Carolina and South Carolina.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Hurricane Ike reaches Category 4 strength as it prepares to hit Turks and Caicos.
- The Electoral College of Pakistan elects Asif Ali Zardari of the Pakistan People's Party as the next President of Pakistan.
- A car bomb in Peshawar in northwest Pakistan kills at least thirty people.

Storms hit UK, five dead

Five people have now died from the storms that hit the United Kingdom today and yesterday.

One of the dead was a 27-year-old man from Stroud. He died when a while working in a construction site. A trench he was working in collapsed, with his death being caused by the five tonnes of soil that buried him. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

A motorcyclist was killed yesterday when crashing into a tree off the A66 due to the heavy gales.

A seventeen year old was killed after the vehicle she was traveling in was overturned. She was traveling with two others, who are currently still alive. Inspector Robert Price of Dyfed-Powys Police described the incident. "A 4x4 overturned and came to rest in a river. Three people have been airlifted to Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth, two of them suffering from hypothermia. One casualty tragically died following arrival at the hospital."

Two other people were also killed for different reasons.

The United Kingdom's government weather agency, the Met Office, yesterday put much of the UK on flood alert with severe weather warnings for the majority of England and Wales and much of Northern Ireland.

The office said that a total of ten regions have a greater than eighty percent chance of "severe or extreme weather." These regions were Southwest Scotland, Lothian and Borders, Northern Ireland, Wales, Northwest England, Northeast England, Yorkshire and Humber, the West Midlands, the East Midlands, Southwest England and London and Southeast England.

Japan's Prime Minister Fukuda announces resignation

Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda on Monday announced his intention to resign, one month after he reshuffled his cabinet. At a press conference held from 9:30 p.m. Fukuda stated that he decided to resign, thinking the government should implement policies with a new line-up. The cabinet will resign en masse and a new prime minister will be designated. Before that, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will elect a new President.

Since the July 2007 election (to replace half the members) in the upper house, the ruling bloc (LDP and New Komeito) has been minority, while being overwhelming majority in the lower house since the 2005 General Election. Fukuda took over Shinzo Abe as a LDP President, and became Japan's Prime Minister on September 26, 2007.

Surprise announcement

At the Monday conference Fukuda, age 72, noted that some matters important to people's life should be deliberated in the upcoming extraordinary Diet session, such as a supplementary budget and a draft to set up a new agency of consumer affairs. Fukuda criticized the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) for uncooperativeness in the annual Diet session (earlier this year) with tactics to delay deliberations. Fukuda said he thought the government must be well ready formed to attend the upcoming Diet session.

Fukuda's predecessor Shinzo Abe also suddenly showed resignation last year, revealing his health problems. Questioned about the similarity, Fukuda replied he had no particular health problem except his poorer eyesight, and emphasized he considered how the course of politics should be before he made this decision.

Fukuda's announcement came half a day after Ichiro Ozawa, the President of the main opposition DPJ, expressed his will to seek a third term.

Early resignation

After hosting Hokkaidō Tōyako Summit in July, Fukuda reshuffled his cabinet on August 2. At the Monday conference Fukuda was questioned about his view on this early resignation, and Fukuda replied it was natural he was asked why. Fukuda continued that at the time of the reshuffle he had eagerness at least for important matters, those on economy in particular, and he thought they were settled by the last weekend, somehow or other. Fukuda explained he changed his mind, taking into account various political situations of this one

month, with hope for the upcoming Diet session to be run smoothly.

Now it's clear Fukuda won't choose dissolution of the lower house. Japan's next lower house General Election should be held no later than September, 2009.

Fukuda's self-appraisal

Looking back on his 11 months, Fukuda said he undertook the job last September knowing there lay difficulties in his way, after the ruling bloc lost majority in the upper house as a result of the July 2007 election. Fukuda said he was very busy from the beginning to handle longstanding problems surfaced one after another, including the issue of mismatched or lost pension records and the scandals as to the Ministry of Defense. Fukuda noted that he, despite such troubles, maybe not outstandingly, put his hand to some reforms from the public perspective, such as generalization of the revenue earmarked for roadways affairs, draft-making for a new consumer agency, drastic review of social security systems.

Reactions

Below are reactions of Japanese politicians shown on the Monday night.

The ruling bloc -Akihiro Ōta, New Komeito Chief Representative, said he was surprised, mentioning that Fukuda informed him of resignation on the phone at 9:00 p.m. He disclosed Prime Minister on August 29 showed him forward-looking will like saying "let's visit shopping arcades together" when he referred to people's tight life. "So, it was really a sudden, honestly I was surprised."

The opposition

-Yukio Hatoyama, Secretary General of the Democratic Party of Japan, said it was extremely irresponsible for Fukuda to give up the administration one month after reshuffling the cabinet, even after setting the date of convocation of the Diet for the extraordinary session. He questioned why Fukuda didn't accept people's voice, "make the lower house dissolved, call a General Election."

-Kazuo Shii, Japanese Communist Party Chair, said "it's natural the next prime minister will make the lower house dissolved and call a General Election to face the jury of the people, but first we should thoroughly discuss fundamental problems of the national politics to make the issues clear." He described give-up by two prime ministers in succession as the proof that LDP-New Komeito regime came to an ultimate standstill.

-Mizuho Fukushima, the leader of Social Democratic Party, defined Fukuda's cabinet as a cabinet throwing away the people. She said "Prime Minister Fukuda throwing off the responsibilities, LDP plucking down a prime minister for an election, neither is thinking about the people a bit." She noted "LDP is switching the administration for an election" and showed her strong hope for a General Election.

-Hisaoaki Kamei, secretary general of the People's New Party, said it was irresponsible, to the people and the Diet, as a top leader, for Fukuda to resign though Fukuda showed the will to keep the administration by reshuffling the cabinet. He noted he couldn't but say LDP, repeating such a thing to cause confusion among the people, now lost qualification and ability as a party in power. He expressed his intention to seek a General Election.

NSW Premier Iemma quits, replaced by Rees

New South Wales Premier, Morris Iemma quit politics on Friday after a disagreement with the governing Australian Labor Party's dominant "Centre Unity" faction about his proposed cabinet reshuffle. The reshuffle was prompted by the resignation of Deputy Premier John Watkins and the sackings of Treasurer Michael Costa and Health Minister Reba Meagher.

The political fallout follows the botched attempt to privatise the state's electricity industry.

The right of the Labor party was presented with a list of colleagues who the Premier wanted in and out of his reshuffled cabinet. MPs were frustrated that Joe Tripodi was not on the our list. MPs rejected Iemma's list and demanded the chance to vote upon it. Mr Iemma then told the faction that unless they accepted his cabinet he would resign. Caucus called Iemma's bluff and said Iemma had lost support of the party.

The party then looked to the left-wing faction of the party and Nathan Rees was appointed unanimously and unopposed, Carmel Tebbutt was appointed as the state's deputy premier.

It is the first time in 117 years that a Premier has lost support of his own party and the first time in NSW Labor history that the party has been led by a member from the left.

Speaking to the media, Mr Iemma said he could not lead a cabinet that was not of his own choosing.

"I took what I believed to be a package of renewal, reform and refreshment, for the party, the Cabinet. That was not accepted, so

I tendered my resignation.

"I wasn't going to serve as the head of a Cabinet that was being foisted on me and I wanted change and that was not going to be possible, so I tendered my resignation."

Following his appointment, Nathan Rees told reporters that he had been elected as Premier of NSW. "Morris Iemma resigned as premier today, I nominated for the vacancy and I was elected unanimously by the full Labor caucus," Rees said.

"We start work today for the people of New South Wales, we start work this afternoon to deliver services to the people of New South Wales".

Rees and Tebbutt were sworn in by Governor Marie Bashir on Friday afternoon.

'Invitational Games for the Deaf, Taipei 2008' starts, new slogan for 2009 Summer Deaflympics unveiled

"Invitational Games for the Deaf, Taipei 2008", a large sporting event which takes place as part of the build up to the 2009 Summer Deaflympics, was launched today in Taipei, Taiwan.

The invitation games features several sports including table tennis, soccer, judo, karate, and taekwondo. The events took place at the Taipei Arena, the Taipei Nangang Sports Center, the National Taipei University of Education, Taipei Municipal University of Education, and Yinfeng Riverside Park. Approximately 300 participants from 13 countries (including the host, Chinese Taipei) took part in this event.

Before the main competition, the Taipei City Government yesterday unveiled a new slogan - "Power in me!" and started the one-year countdown for the 2009 Summer Deaflympics.

The opening day mainly featured group competitions for table tennis. During the day, Japan and South Korea won in the Women's Team Round Robin. Chinese Taipei, the host team, beat South Korea and Hong Kong in Men's Team Round Robin.

In the evening during two table tennis finals, Japan beat Korea in a 3-1 set in Women's Team Round Robin, the Chinese Taipei continued to win with Chih-hsuan Weng, a gold medalist in the 2005 World Deaf Table Tennis Championship, making a major impact in defeating Japan with a 3-1 set in Men's Team Round Robin. Finally, the Chinese Taipei and Japan won gold medals respectively in Men's and Women's table tennis event.

Interim report blames ice for British Airways 777 crash in London

The United Kingdom's Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) has released an interim report into the crash of British Airways Flight 38. The Boeing 777-ER crashed early this year as it tried to land at London's Heathrow Airport.

The report states that the AAIB believes the crash occurred when ice crystals formed within the fuel system. However, it should be noted that the report only serves as an update into the progress of the investigation and that the final report is yet to be published and may yet reach a different conclusion into the cause of the accident.

The flight from Beijing, China had been normal until final approach at Heathrow, at which point the aircraft was coming in for landing with the autopilot and autothrottle engaged. However, engine power became greatly reduced when the autothrottle requested more thrust, and the aircraft made a forced landing 1,000 feet from the runway. The aircraft suffered substantial damage as it slid across the grass to the runway threshold, where it came to rest, and was written off. There was only one serious injury and eight minor ones to the 136 passengers and 16 crew.

As the jet passed over Siberia it encountered significantly reduced temperatures. The AAIB has determined that the fuel was at a temperature below 0°C for an unusually long duration. This is believed to have caused water in the fuel - which met all relevant international standards - to have frozen into crystals. These were able to form undetected as the aircraft cruised with a low fuel requirement, and it was only when extra fuel was pumped in from the tanks for the landing that the crystals became a problem.

The report says that the current explanation being offered for the accident is an "apparently hitherto unknown phenomenon" and warns that other combinations of aircraft models and engines may also be vulnerable. The 777 involved was powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 800s, like 222 of the 736 777s currently operating. Data from 141,000 other flights of such aircraft has not yielded any other set of circumstances similar to the one in the crash flight.

In light of these results, a worldwide alert has been issued to

the 11 airlines that between them operate all the aircraft identical to the lost jet. Boeing have instructed airlines to vary altitude regularly when fuel is below 10°C and to run the engines at max power for ten seconds before attempting a landing if the fuel has been at such temperatures for over three hours. The extra power is intended to clear out any buildup of water. To prevent buildup of water during ground operation at freezing temperatures all fuel pumps should be run at full power for one minute.

Air New Zealand have already confirmed they will introduce the new measures, and United States authorities are expected to make them mandatory within days. The affected aircraft are operated by US carriers American Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

Rachel Rice wins Big Brother UK's 2008 series

Rachel Rice has won the 2008 series of Big Brother. The trainee teacher won the ninth series with 51.3% of the final vote. She defeated blind radio producer Mikey Hughes despite him being the bookies favourite. Others eliminated on the night included Sara Folino, Rex Newmark and Darnell Swallow.

As well as training to be a teacher Rice is also an actress and model. She has appeared in the television adaptations of novels *The Prince and the Pauper* and *The History of Mr Polly* as well as the film *Night Train to Venice*. She came second in the 2003 contest of Miss Wales. She was between by Imogen Thomas who appeared in the 2006 series of Big Brother.

This years series brought on controversy and media watchdog Ofcom and Channel 4 had

collectively received over 433 complaints about housemate Alexandra De-Gale. She was later removed for for intimidating housemates. Dance teacher Dennis McHugh was removed after he spat in the face of housemate Mohamed Mohamed.

This series has been the lowest rated series of all with an average viewing of 3.2 million people. This is an average of 300,000 less than last year. The series started out strong with around 5.4 million viewers but soon started to decline. The show has been reinstated for another series next year.

Bristol Organic Food Festival 2008 lauched, 100 thousand expected to attend

The Bristol Organic Food Festival, which is Europe's largest festival for organic food, launched today in Bristol. Wikinews reported from the event.

The event was opened at 11:00 local time (10:00 UTC) by Patrick Holden, director of the Soil Association, who said that the festival was " the benchmark for what I hope will be the future development of festivals all over the country."

The event includes a large farmers market, music, and a variety of different features run by 212 organic food and drink related organisations from the region.

Other events that took place today within the festival incuded a BBC run stall promoting organic food, and several stalls which encouraged young children to eat organic food, including a 'cookery bus,' which showed children how to cook different foods.

The festival takes place as sales of

organic food in the UK are starting to fall. Research has found that organic food sales have fallen by 8.1% over the last year.

The event was launched despite the heavy rain which has occurred throughout the day in Bristol.

"People have got less money, their ordinary food shopping has gone through the roof; they're cutting out luxuries. And I'm afraid organic is a luxury," said economic analyst Ben Yearsley. This downturn in the organic food market has meant that some companies, such as WholeFoods Market are planning to close some of their stores. WholeFoods Market are one of the organisations that displayed at the festival.

Today in History

- 1191 – Third Crusade: Forces under Richard I of England defeated Ayyubid troops under Saladin at the Battle of Arsuf in present-day Israel.
- 1901 – With Peking occupied by foreign troops from the Eight-Nation Alliance, Qing China was forced to sign the Boxer Protocol, an unequal treaty ending the Boxer Rebellion.
- 1940 – World War II: The German Luftwaffe changed their strategy in the Battle of Britain and began bombing London and other British cities and towns for over 50 consecutive nights.
- 1986 – Desmond Tutu became the first black person to lead the Anglican Church in South Africa.
- 1998 – Stanford University students Larry Page and Sergey Brin founded Google in Menlo Park, California, USA.
- September 07 is Father's Day in Australia and New Zealand (2008); National Grandparents' Day in the United States (2008); Independence Day in Brazil

Quote of the Day

The more bombers, the less room for doves of peace. ~ Nikita Khrushchev

Word of the Day

cavort v

1. To move about carelessly or boisterously.

About Wikinews

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