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Mugabe: A vote for MDC would be a wasted vote



Robert Mugabe (Zanu-PF), the President of Zimbabwe, has said in a speech that any votes for his opposition, the Movement for Democratic Change would be a wasted vote. He said that "You can vote for them [the MDC] but that will be a wasted vote. You will be cheating yourself as there is no way we can allow them to rule this country."

Credit: Mangwanani

United States military death toll in Iraq reaches 4,000



The death of four soldiers Sunday from a roadside improvised explosive device has raised the number of American deaths in Iraq to 4,000. The milestone was reached just days after the fifth anniversary of the start of the war.

Credit: Nils Fretwurst (CC-BY 3)

Banned film 'The Profit' appears on Web



Copies of The Profit, a 2001 film blocked from distribution in the United States due to a court injunction by the Church of Scientology, appeared on the Internet Friday on peer-to-peer file-sharing websites and on the video

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sharing site YouTube.

Cheney meets with Israeli and Palestinian leaders



United States Vice President Dick Cheney met with the leaders as part of a tour of the Middle East which is part of a plan to get a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinian by the end of Bush's term in January 2009.

Wikipedia Current Events

Relatives of victims of the Virginia Tech massacre report that the Government of Virginia will offer victims compensation of \$100,000 to forestall law suits.

•The Bhutan Peace and Prosperity Party wins Bhutan's first democratic general election, making Lyonpo Jigme Thinley the new Prime Minister elect.

•The US Department of Justice approves the merger of Sirius and XM Satellite Radio.

•The FBI identifies the bodies of two United States citizens working as contractors in Iraq kidnapped more than a year ago.

•Marleen Veldhuis of the Netherlands and Federica Pellegrini of Italy break world records at the final day of the European Swimming Championships in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

Wikipedia Current Events

•Comoran army helicopters drop leaflets on the island of Anjouan warning the population of the imminent landing of its troops backed by African Union contingents.

•Yusuf Raza Gillani of the Pakistan People's Party is elected Prime Minister of Pakistan by the National Assembly and vows to free Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry and other judges from house arrest.

•Kwame Kilpatrick, the mayor of Detroit, Michigan and his former chief of staff, Christine Beatty, are indicted on twelve counts, including perjury, obstruction of justice and official misconduct in connection with an investigation into alleged retaliatory firings of city personnel.

•Former President of the Philippines Corazon Aquino, the leader of the 1986 People Power Revolution, is diagnosed with colon cancer.

•The Olympic Flame of the 2008 Summer Olympics is lit in Olympia, despite disruption by three protesters from Reporters Without Borders, among whom was Robert Ménard.

Al-Qaeda's second in command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, calls for 'strikes against Jewish and American interests'

Al-Qaeda's second in command, Ayman al-Zawahiri has released a new audiotape calling for Muslims to attack Israeli and American

targets in revenge for Israel's recent offensive in the Gaza Strip.

The tape was posted on the internet and on it, jai urges strikes against Jewish and Americans interests, along with all those who participate in aggression against Muslims.

"Muslims, today is your day.and also al qaeda strike the us embassy. Strike the interests of the Jews and connor, the Americans, and all those who participated in the attack on Muslims. Monitor the targets, collect money, prepare the equipment, plan with precision, and then—while relying on God—assault, seeking martyrdom and paradise," said Zawahiri.

He also added that any attacks on these interests should not be confined to Palestine, Israel or the Middle East.

"Today there is no room for he who says that we should only fight the Jews in Palestine. Let us strike their interests everywhere, just like they gathered against us from everywhere," added Zawahiri.

U.S. intelligence is currently reviewing the tape, but so far the authenticity cannot be independently confirmed.

In a separate recording released last week, al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden called on Palestinians to reject negotiations and use "iron and fire" against Israel. A voice described as bin Laden's also urged Muslims to support the insurgency in Iraq as a way to liberate Palestine.

George and Laura Bush introduce 2008 White House egg roll

The President of the United States,

George W. Bush and his wife, Laura Bush have introduced the 2008 White House egg roll. Mrs. Bush introduced the attendees to the event by saying "welcome, everybody, to the White House Easter Egg Roll, the 2008 Easter Egg Roll. This event is one of the happiest traditions on the White House lawn. It's always fun to see the South Lawn filled with children. Thank you for coming. And I'd especially like to thank our entertainers, our readers, our volunteers, and our special guests."

M. Bush dedicated the event to cleaning oceans. "We [the Bush family] want to remind you that we're dedicating today's Easter Egg Roll to our clean oceans. And there's a booth here where you can find out how you can contribute to make sure that we're environmentally sound stewards of our oceans. Ocean conservation is a important aspect of good public service, and it's certainly something that Laura has on her mind, as she comes up to address you," he said.

7,500 eggs are being provided for 2008 egg roll, with the White House estimating before the event that 22,00 people will attend this year.

China: 'the Dalai Lama is scheming to take the Beijing Olympics hostage'

The government of China has claimed that the Dalai Lama is cooperating with Islamic extremists as part of a plot to bring the country into crises before the Olympic Games, which are due to be held in Beijing this Summer. The official newspaper of the government of China claimed that "the Dalai Lama is scheming to take the Beijing Olympics hostage to force the Chinese government

to make concessions to Tibet independence."

This move comes after Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, vowed to step down from his position if things "get out of control" in Tibet, where violent demonstrations against China have killed anywhere from 13 to 100 people.

The protests, which began in Lhasa, have since spread to neighboring provinces. In Aba, Sichuan, one witness reported 17 deaths. "Earlier today, the whole town was teeming with police and soldiers," he said. "All the shops have been closed. There are no arrests that I know of ... People are anticipating that something big is going to happen." Elsewhere in Sichuan, thousands of Tibetans turned out in the streets of Seda, according to the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy.

The international community has repeatedly urged China to use restraint in dealing with protesters, and to start talks with the Dalai Lama. United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Monday, "We have really urged the Chinese over several years to find a way to talk with the Dalai Lama, who is a figure of authority, who is not a separatist, and to find a way to engage him and bring his moral weight to a more sustainable and better solution of the Tibet issue."

Mugabe: A vote for MDC is a wasted vote

Robert Mugabe, the President of Zimbabwe and leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), has said in a speech that any votes for his opposition, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) would be a wasted vote. He stated, "You

can vote for them [MDC] but that will be a wasted vote. You will be cheating yourself as there is no way we can allow them to rule this country." He continued by saying that "We [ZANU-PF] have a job to do and that is to protect our heritage. The MDC will not rule this country. It will never, ever happen."

In the speech Mr. Mugabe also claimed that the situation with healthcare in the country is good. He said that "I have bought scanning machines which can see right into the liver in one's body, in detail, what we go to South Africa for. They will be distributed to all major hospitals and, in future, there would be no need to go to South Africa for medical attention."

Mr. Mugabe also claimed that the issue of the maize shortage would be resolved soon. He said that "the railway lines from Zambia and South Africa pass through here. I cannot understand that. But since a lot of maize is still outside the country and being delivered, we will correct that."

United States military death toll in Iraq reaches 4,000

The death of four soldiers Sunday from a roadside improvised explosive device has raised the total of American soldiers to die in Iraq to 4,000. 3,263 have been killed in combat and other hostile action, while 737 have been killed in non-hostile incidents, such as traffic accidents and suicides.

The four soldiers were traveling in their vehicle in southern Baghdad around 10 a.m. local time, when the vehicle was hit by an explosion from the IED. A fifth soldier was wounded. Following standard procedure, the identities of those killed have been withheld pending

notification of relatives.

The milestone was reached just days after the fifth anniversary of the start of the war on March 19, 2003 when the United States and the United Kingdom invaded Iraq "to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), to end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and to free the Iraqi people." However, no weapons of mass destruction have been located yet.

A military spokesman, Navy Lt. Patrick Evans, gave condolences to the family and noted each death is "equally tragic." Evans also added, "There have been some significant gains. However, this enemy is resilient and will not give up, nor will we. There's still a lot of work to be done."

The U.S. military says that in 2007, 901 soldiers and personnel were killed, which made that year the deadliest year for U.S. troops since the beginning of the war.

This occurred on the same day when Mowaffak al-Rubaie, the current Iraqi National Security Advisor said that "This war is well worth fighting," on CNN's Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer.

"This war is well worth fighting."
—Mowaffak al-Rubaie, Iraqi National Security Advisor

"This is global terrorism hitting everywhere and they have chosen Iraq to be a battlefield. And we have to take them on. If we don't prevail, if we don't succeed in this war, then we are doomed forever," al-Rubaie stated. He further added, "I understand and sympathize with the mothers, with the widows, with the children who have lost their beloved ones in this country. But honestly, it is well

worth fighting and well worth investing the money and the treasure and the sweat and the tears in Iraq."

Also on the same day, various separate attacks by Iraqi insurgents caused in total 40 deaths of Iraqi civilians. In Baghdad, mortars or rockets were fired into the high-security "Green Zone." Meanwhile, a suicide bomber killed six people in Shula, one Baghdad's Shia neighborhoods. Also, gunmen in seven cars open fired in a mixed neighborhood of Baghdad killing seven people.

Meanwhile, 13 Iraqi soldiers were killed at an army base by a suicide truck bomber and another four were killed by a roadside bomb in Tuz Khurmato.

The death toll of Iraqi civilians is estimated to be around 80,000 to 150,000 or more. However, the true death toll is unknown as the United States military does not keep records of civilian deaths.

Today in History

1306 – Robert the Bruce was crowned King of Scotland at Scone Palace in Perth.

1634 – Lord Baltimore, his younger brother Leonard Calvert, and a group of Catholic settlers founded the English colony of Maryland.

1655 – Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens discovered Titan, the largest natural satellite of the planet Saturn.

1802 – France and the United Kingdom signed the Treaty of Amiens, temporarily ending the hostilities between the two during the French Revolutionary Wars.

1807 – The Slave Trade Act became law, abolishing the slave trade in the British Empire.

1918 – The Belarusian People's

Republic was established during World War I, when Belarus was occupied by the German Empire according to the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

March 25 is Mawlid in Shi'a Islam (2008); Feast of the Annunciation in Western Christianity, Struggle for Human Rights Day in Slovakia, Independence Day in Greece.

Quote of the Day

Political rights do not exist because they have been legally set down on a piece of paper, but only when they have become the ingrown habit of a people, and when any attempt to impair them will meet with the violent resistance of the populace. Where this is not the case, there is no help in any parliamentary Opposition or any Platonic appeals to the constitution. One compels respect from others when he knows how to defend his dignity as a human being. ~ Rudolf Rocker

Word of the Day

rostrum n

1. A dais, pulpit, or similar platform for a speaker, conductor or other performer.
2. The projecting prow of a rowed warship, such as a trireme.

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+44-871-218-6397
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