



Top Stories

Reports say Turkish troops enter northern Iraq

Citing unnamed Turkish officials, reports say that hundreds to thousands of Turkish troops have crossed the border to Northern Iraq in pursuit of members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Scooter Libby gets 30 months in Plame case

Lewis "Scooter" Libby was sentenced by a District Court judge in Washington, D.C. to 30 months in prison and a US\$250,000 fine.

Featured story

Team New Zealand wins fourth Louis Vuitton Cup yachting race

Team New Zealand won the fourth race on Tuesday against Luna Rossa Challenge in the bid to win the Louis Vuitton Cup.

Wikipedia Current Events

- HIV drug Viracept is being recalled in the UK after it was discovered that it has been contaminated with a substance that could cause cancer.
- Armed forces from Turkey invade Iraq, chasing Kurdish guerillas. (CNN)
- Five people have been acquitted of the 1982 murder of 'God's Banker', Italian financier Roberto Calvi.
- During a weekly audience with Pope Benedict XVI, a man leaps over metal barriers, attempting

Wikipedia Current Events

to jump into the popemobile. He was promptly wrestled to the ground, without the Pope even noticing, and is now in the custody of Vatican police.

- Leaders of the G8 assemble in Rostock, Germany for 33rd annual G8 summit to discuss primarily issues of climate change and international aid, but also U.S.-Russia tensions over anti missile system in Europe.
- Dozens of people are trapped in a collapsed hall in Leshan in the southwestern province of Sichuan in China.

Bob Barker retires as host of "The Price is Right"

Bob Barker, The out-going host of American TV game show The Price Is Right taped his final show.

"I will regret not being at the show, I know, probably for the rest of my life because I've enjoyed it so much," said host Bob Barker, 83, who has been host of the show for 35 years.

The audience, who is also a pool of possible contestants, gave a round of applause and a standing ovation. Confetti was also sprayed about to support celebrate his time with the show.

"Help control the pet population. Have your pets spayed or neutered" was his final words. Barker has said those words at the end of every show since it began to air on September 4, 1972.

The finale will air on 15 June. A new host has yet to be determined. The show and its staff have won six Daytime Emmy Awards.

Canadian Tory MP left alone for voting against budget legislation

The Conservatives, who were elected as a minority government, have lost yet another MP. Tuesday night they expelled Tory MP Bill Casey for not supporting budget legislation.

"In some ways, it was very difficult, in other ways, I just don't think I have any choice," Casey told reporters after citing the bill, which proposes to monitor the offshore oil and gas revenues that provinces receive, wouldn't benefit the province of Nova Scotia as it would lose equalization payments and it broke the Atlantic Accord with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Nova Scotia NDP MP Alexa McDonough noted politicians from "any political stripe" have the right to "vote against the budget that sticks it to Atlantic Canada".

The bill was supported by all the Conservatives including separatist party Bloc Québécois, which usually sides with the Tories, while the Liberals and the left-leaning NDP voted against.

Earlier in the week, there was speculation in the media that Casey would vote against yesterday's bill. He said he asked

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to amend the bill but Flaherty refused.

Casey, who is currently MP for Cumberland—Colchester—Musquodoboit Valley, will sit as an Independent in the Canadian House of Commons. Current Independent MPs are: André Arthur, Louise Thibault, who was elected as an Independent, and Joe Comuzzi.

There have been a number of incidents in Canadian politics related to this one. On 21 March, Liberal MP Joe Comuzzi was expelled from the caucus after supporting the Conservative budget for funding of a cancer research centre in his riding of Thunder Bay—Superior North. "It's for a single issue that's of absolute critical importance to all the people in Thunder Bay and northwestern Ontario, and that's the cancer research centre," Comuzzi said.

Reports say Turkish troops enter northern Iraq

Citing unnamed Turkish officials, reports say that hundreds to thousands of Turkish troops have crossed the border to Northern Iraq in pursuit of members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

"This afternoon 10 Turkish helicopters landed in a village in Mazouri, which is ... 3 km (2 miles) inside the Iraqi border. They landed with around 150 Turkish special forces," said deputy minister for Peshmerga Affairs in Kurdistan, Jabar Yawir who also stated that "after two hours they left and there were no confrontations with the PKK."

DEBKAFfile quotes unnamed Turkish officials as saying that the Turkish force is made up of 50,000-90,000 troops along with a fleet of

armored vehicles and air support. DEBKAFfile also says that the force is just the "first wave" of what is said to be an invasion.

Foreign minister Abdullah Gül has denied the reports. "There is no such thing, no entry to another country. If such a thing happens, then we would announce it," Gül said. "We are in a war with terror, we will do whatever is necessary to fight terrorism."

The United States military in Iraq has also denied the reports that any Turkish troops entered Iraq.

"We have seen no indication of Turkish troops crossing the border," said Colonel Steve Boylan, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Iraq.

Iraqi officials also deny the reports, but say that any troops crossing the border into Iraq will not be tolerated.

"We are aware of this Turkish troop buildup on the border and the Iraqi government position has been that we will not accept or tolerate any military incursion into Iraqi territories," said Hoshiyar Zebari, the Foreign Minister for Iraq.

Over 30,000 people have been killed during the PKK's campaign for independence since 1984.

In April of this year, General Yaşar Büyükanıt, the Chief of the Turkish General Staff, asked the government to authorize an incursion to quell the rebellion. In 1997, Turkey sent about 50,000 troops into the region on just such a mission.

Man attempts to jump into Popemobile

A 27-year-old German man has attempted to jump into Pope

Benedict's open top Fiat Campagnola during today's general audience in St Peters Square.

The man was quickly apprehended by security guards and police after jumping over the metal barriers separating the vehicle from the crowd of 35,000 and landing behind the Jeep. All through the event the Pope seemed oblivious to the matter and continued with the event as normal.

The man was later questioned by Vatican police before being taken to a psychiatric department for assessment.

Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi told BBC the man was "mentally unstable", carrying on to say, "His aim was not an attempt on the Pope's life, but to attract attention to himself." He said the man was questioned by Vatican police and taken to the psychiatric ward of a nearby hospital.

This recent breach of security follows the shooting of Benedict's predecessor, John Paul II, who was shot as he drove around the square by Turkish gunman Ali Agca in 1981.

Team New Zealand wins fourth Louis Vuitton Cup yachting race

Team New Zealand won the fourth race on Tuesday against Luna Rossa Challenge in the bid to win the Louis Vuitton Cup.

Team NZ, racing with the boat NZL-92, won the race 52 seconds ahead of Luna Rossa, racing with boat ITA94.

Team NZ have won all the races so far at Valencia, so if they can win another race against the Italian team, Team NZ will be able to

challenge Alinghi for America's Cup. Luna Rossa will need to win the next five races to challenge for the Cup.

Torben Grael, strategist for Luna Rossa, said that ITA94 does not handle very well in the light winds. Both Grael and mainsail trimmer Jonathan McKee, congratulates Team New Zealand for sailing well. McKee said it was no surprise that they were sailing well.

Ray Davies, strategist for Team New Zealand, also described the conditions as "fickle", and says that anything can happen.

The wind was estimated to be at around 6-10 knots. The other previous races have all been under 14 knots, lower for the most recent races.

At mark one, NZL92 was leading by 19 seconds, despite ITA94 having a lead of four boat lengths at the start of the match. Grael said, "We thought the right side was good and we tacked on what we thought was a safe position."

Traveller and wind spotter, Adam Beashel says that NZL92 is not faster than ITA94, but they are, at least, even. "We're happy with an even boat race with anybody at the moment." But does say that if they can match an opponents speed, they will be hard to beat.

The only changes that Team New Zealand have made to NZL92 was a few new sails, but state that's about it. It has been reported that Luna Rossa will be technically altering their boat.

Pen-Ek Ratanaruang's latest film makes Thailand premiere

Following a world premiere during the Director's Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival, the latest

film by Thai auteur Pen-Ek Ratanaruang made its Thailand premiere on Tuesday night in a screening for the press and celebrities.

Before the screening of the new film, Ploy, the director and his stars took the rostrum for a question-and-answer session, during which Pen-Ek pulled out a digital camera and took photos of the presenter, the press and the actors.

Ploy is a drama film, about a middle-aged Thai-American couple, portrayed by popular Thai soap opera actress Lalita Panyopas and Pornwut Sarasin, a first-time actor whose day job is working as vice president of Thai Namthip, the distributor of Coca Cola in Thailand. The couple have returned to Thailand for the first time in many years to attend the funeral of a relative.

They arrive at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport at 5 a.m. after a long-haul flight from the U.S., and check in to a hotel. The wife, Dang, just wants to sleep, but the husband, Wit, wants some cigarettes, so he goes to the hotel bar to buy some. There, he strikes up a conversation with a 19-year-old girl named Ploy (17-year-old first-time actress Apinya Sakuljaroensuk), who's waiting at the hotel for her mother.

Wit then invites the girl to his and Dang's room, so she can take a shower and relax. This poor judgment by Wit ignites feelings of jealousy and anger in Dang, and causes the couple to review their marriage of seven years.

Lao-Australian leading man Ananda Everingham is in a supporting role as the hotel bartender. As a counterpoint to

Wit's and Dang's bickering, the bartender engages in an erotic tryst with a hotel maid (model-actress Porntip Papanai) in a nearby room.

The press screening was held at SF World Cinemas at CentralWorld shopping mall in Bangkok. Given the presence of Coca-Cola's Pornwut in the cast, it was perhaps not a coincidence that cans of Coke Zero, a new soft drink that is just being introduced in Thailand, were being doled out for free.

According to early reviews at Cannes, Ploy contains a high level of nudity and eroticism, which is uncommon for a Thai film, because Thailand has no film-ratings system and instead adheres to a strict censorship code that excises nakedness and sex scenes.

Ahead of its Thailand premiere, Aphiradee Iamphungphorn, co-producer for Five Star Production, said she knew the film would have to be re-edited for Thailand, but "hopefully not more than we can bear." To get past the censors, Pen-ek created a special Thailand edit of the film, in which the sex scenes are toned down.

Ploy is the director's sixth feature film since he made his debut in 1997 with Fun Bar Karaoke, which premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival. Since then, his films are regularly featured on the festival circuit, and are submitted by Thailand's film industry for consideration by the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film.

Pen-Ek's latest film is a return to screenwriting, after his previous two films, Last Life in the Universe and Invisible Waves, were scripted or co-scripted by Thai writer Prabda Yoon. It also marks a

reunion with leading actress Lalita, who starred in his second feature, 1999's black comedy, *Ruang Talok 69*, as well as Porntip, who co-starred in Pen-Ek's 2001 musical-comedy-drama *Monrak Transistor*.

Ploy opens in Thailand cinemas on Thursday.

Ex-wife of Nelson Mandela denied entry into Canada

The High Commission of Canada in South Africa is not granting ex-wife of Nelson Mandela, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, a visa to enter Canada.

Her daughter, Zindzi Mandela, and two security guards were granted a visa.

There is no word as to why Canadian officials refused, but sources speculate that her conviction for being involved in the death of a 14-year-old activist, and other incidents, could be factors.

Madikizela-Mandela is a figure of debate because her supporters in the struggle against apartheid were violent. In 1991, she was convicted for kidnapping. In 2003, she was convicted of fraud.

Immigration lawyer, Guidy Mamann, told CBC Radio: "Generally, if you have a criminal record, you're not wanted in this country, either for permanent residence or to visit as a tourist."

Madikizela-Mandela, 73, was scheduled to speak at a fundraising gala and dinner in Toronto, on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. ET. It was named "A Night in Soweto", and was presented by arts organization MusicaNoir. According to CanadaNewsWire, African-American actor LeVar Burton flew from Los Angeles,

California to Toronto to fill in for Madikizela-Mandela.

An opera named "The Passion of Winnie", about the life of Madikizela-Mandela, is to be presented at Toronto's Luminato Festival at 8:00 p.m ET on Friday. It is not known if Madikizela-Mandela will be granted a visa to attend the event.

Luminato's official website stated that it is "an event not to be missed", Madikizela-Mandela is a "fascinating and strong personality", and she demonstrates "rarely displayed true and charismatic leadership". Tickets for the event are CAN\$200.

Malaysian prime minister to get married

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be married to Jeanne Abdullah in a private ceremony on Saturday. Premier Abdullah, 61, has been a widower since October 2005, when his wife of 40 years, Endon Mahmood, died of breast cancer.

Jeanne, 53, is a hotel management professional who has served as a supervisor at Seri Perdana, the prime minister's official residence in Putrajaya.

Trains delayed by sabotage in south Thailand

Train service in south Thailand is suspended until Friday, while State Railway of Thailand officials inspect tracks after sabotage was discovered on Wednesday in Yala.

Two days earlier, a passenger train bound for Pattani derailed after tracks were removed by suspected Muslim insurgents. Twenty people were hurt in the wreck.

Also on Wednesday, a Muslim man was fatally shot in Narathiwat, and

a school was burned in Yala.

Malaysia reports new bird-flu outbreak

One year after declaring itself free of the virus, a new outbreak of the deadly H5N1 strain of avian flu was reported on Wednesday in Malaysia, among poultry in Sungei Buluh, a village in Selangor state.

"We will cull birds within a one kilometer radius from the index cases," Kamarudin Mohammed Isa of the Department of Veterinary Services, was quoted as saying by Agence France-Presse. Authorities expected kill about 2,000 chickens.

Malaysia's last outbreak of bird flu was in early 2006. No human cases were reported, and the nation declared itself bird-flu free last June. In March this year, Malaysia imposed a crackdown on poultry smuggling, after bird flu was reported in neighboring countries.

Two Indonesian planes make emergency landings

Two planes from two Indonesian airlines had to make emergency landings on Wednesday.

In one incident, a Garuda Indonesia Boeing 737-400 was forced to make an emergency landing after a leaking rubber seal on a cargo door resulted in a drop in cabin pressure. The flight was bound for Batam from Jakarta, but had to land in Palembang, South Sumatra.

Another 737, flown by Batavia Air, returned to Semarang, 30 minutes into its flight to Jakarta, because of engine trouble.

No injuries were reported in either incident.

Today in History

1099 - Members of the First Crusade reached Jerusalem and began a five-week siege of the city.

1494 - Spain and Portugal signed the Treaty of Tordesillas, dividing the newly discovered lands of the Americas and Africa between the two countries.

1905 - The Norwegian parliament dissolved the Union between Sweden and Norway.

1940 - King Haakon VII of Norway, Crown Prince Olav, and the Norwegian government left Tromsø for exile in London, following the World War II German invasion.

1948 - Rather than sign a Constitution making his nation a Communist state, Edvard Beneš chose to resign as President of Czechoslovakia.

1981 - The Israeli Air Force attacked and disabled Iraq's Osiraq nuclear reactor.

June 07 is Corpus Christi in Catholicism (2007).

Quote of the Day

Opinions cannot survive if one has no chance to fight for them.
~ Thomas Mann

Word of the Day

epicede; n

1. An elegy; an ode to the deceased.

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