



### Top Stories

#### **Bush signs law to build fence at US-Mexico border**

The US President signs a law to build a 700 mile long fence meant to tackle illegal immigration along the Mexican border, days before the mid-term Congressional elections despite strong opposition from Mexico.

#### **California wildfire kills four firefighters seriously injures one**

At least 4 United States Forest Service firefighters have been killed and 1 seriously injured, with burns on nearly 95% of his body, when they were overcome by fire while attempting to put out a blaze inside a home near Palm Springs, California.

### Featured story

#### **Wikinews interviews South Koreans about relations with North Korea**

An informal poll by a Wikinews reporter found that very few of those South Koreans polled changed their mind about reunification with North Korea and the perceived threat posed by the North, following the nuclear weapons test by North Korea on October 9.

### Wikipedia Current Events

•Shares in the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China go on sale at the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in the world's biggest Initial Public Offering

### Wikipedia Current Events

•Australia's senior Muslim cleric Sheikh Taj El-Din Hilaly is barred from preaching for three months after his controversial speech comparing women who did not wear the hijab to "uncovered meat".

•The St. Louis Cardinals win the 2006 World Series, beating the Detroit Tigers 4 games to 1. This is the Cardinals' first title since 1982. David Eckstein is named the World Series MVP, winning his second ring.

•A judge orders the arrest of former President of Chile Augusto Pinochet for torture, murder and kidnapping in the early years of his regime, from 1973 to 1990.

•Thousands of young Muslim men demonstrate in the Somali capital of Mogadishu in support of a call for a holy war against Ethiopia.

•Washington D.C.-area sniper Lee Boyd Malvo admitted that he and partner John Allen Muhammad were responsible for the 2002 murder of a 60-year-old man on a Tucson golf course, police claim.

•The Iranian Students' News Agency reports that Iran has injected gas into a second network of centrifuges and has obtained the output, a possible step in developing nuclear materials.

•Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of the U.S. state of California, declares a state of emergency, and a reward of USD

### Wikipedia Current Events

\$500,000 is offered for the capture of the arsonist responsible for the wildfires started in the Twin Pines area of the state.

•Johannesburg International Airport is renamed to OR Tambo International Airport.

•A controlled explosion is carried out by an Army Bomb Disposal squad on Dublin's O'Connell Street after a security alert on an Aircoach bus, although no explosive material was found. Traffic in the city has been severely affected.

•The Ford Taurus rolls off the assembly line for the last time. The Ford plant in Atlanta, USA, closes and 2,000 employees are all laid off.

#### **California wildfire kills four firefighters seriously injures one**

A wildfire has been reported near Palm Springs, California.

At least 4 United States Forest Service firefighters have been killed and 1 seriously injured, with burns on nearly 95% of his body, when they were overcome by fire while attempting to put out a blaze inside a home. The fire has burned nearly 10,000 acres and has destroyed 5 houses including 5 other buildings.

"We had a lot of fire activity overnight. Normally the fire dies down and the winds let up but that didn't happen last night. It burned

like it was daytime," said California Department of Forestry spokesman, Bill Peters.

"[The] chances of survival are low when you have that bad of an injury," said Arrowhead Regional Medical Centre surgeon, Doctor Dev Gnanadev who also added that the firefighter has suffered "severe respiratory damage."

Witnesses have reported that 2 males were seen leaving the area of the fire at 1:00 a.m. on Thursday morning.

Authorities have determined that the blaze was due to arson and are offering a \$300,000 [USD] reward for information leading to an arrest, but no information on how or why the fire was set has been released. Authorities say that murder could be among the arson charges who whoever is responsible.

"This is an arson fire. This is a deliberately set arson fire," said California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention, John Hawkins.

Nearly 1,000 people have been evacuated from the area.

### **Canadian Foreign affairs minister accused to have called Liberal MP a "dog"**

Foreign affairs minister Peter MacKay was accused last week of calling Liberal MP Belinda Stronach a "dog" in the House of Commons.

Stronach, a feminist, said the comment was offending to all woman.

NDP leader Jack Layton said on Saturday that MacKay should apologise or resign.

MacKay said that he did not call

her a dog. "I made no such gesture. I made no derogatory or discriminatory remark toward any member of the House," MacKay said yesterday in the House of Commons.

Despite MacKay's comment, the Liberals are still asking for an apology.

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### **Rapper 'Snoop Dogg' arrested at California airport**

Rap artist Snoop Dogg was arrested for possession of an illegal drug and possession of a firearm, according to police on Thursday.

The rapper's real name is Calvin Broadus. He was arrested at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday at Bob Hope Airport located in Burbank, California. Broadus paid the \$35,000 bail and is expected back in Los Angeles County Superior Court on December 12, 2006.

Airport police officers stopped the artist for parking in the airport passenger loading and unloading zone. Upon conducting a search of the vehicle, the police found a gun and a quantity of marijuana inside.

Broadus' attorney, Donald Etra, stated "There was no basis for this arrest. We believe that once this is cleared up, all charges will be dismissed". Authorities in California have not yet pressed charges.

In September, Broadus attempted to carry a folding police baton onto an aircraft and was arrested at John Wayne Airport located in Orange County, California. Earlier this year, he was also cautioned for fighting in Heathrow Airport in London, England.

### **Dilbert creator Scott Adams talks again**

Scott Adams, creator of the popular U.S comic strip Dilbert, posted Tuesday in his blog that he spontaneously recovered from Spasmodic Dysphonia, a voice disorder that rendered him incapable of speech.

His blog post, titled Good News Day, describes various efforts he had undergone to self-treat the disorder and "re-map" his brain connections to normal speech. According to Adams, the condition was described to him by a specialist who diagnosed it as incurable.

Hundreds of well wishers have commented with support on his blog page after what Adams said was an 18-month-long battle with the affliction.

"My theory was that the part of my brain responsible for normal

speech was still intact, but for some reason had become disconnected from the neural pathways to my vocal cords," Adams wrote.

In what Adams wrote was the "weirdest part of this phenomenon", is a person's ability with the disorder to sing, or to speak in public, or in other contexts of vocal interaction, but not in normal conversation.

For him, the breakthrough to recovery came with the rhyming found in poetry. By reciting "Jack be nimble, Jack be quick. Jack jumped over the candlestick." he was able to find the reinforcement to talk again.

### **Buffalo Sabres beat New York Islanders to tie NHL record for best start to a season**

In the NHL the Buffalo Sabres beat the New York Islanders 3-0 in a shutout on Thursday night to tie the NHL record for the best start to a season. The current record holders are the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"I mean, it's very exciting. I think we're all proud of what we've accomplished so far. But at the end of the day, it's not what we're aiming for down the road," said Daniel Briere, the co-captain for the Sabres.

"We want to be having these kinds of streaks in the playoffs. What we're doing now is carrying momentum. I think it will serve us well in the future, but right now we just need the points," said Ryan Miller, one of the Sabres goalies.

Currently Buffalo is 10-0-0 and is currently the top team in the NHL. They will play the Atlanta Thrashers, who trail the Sabres by

only 3 points in the NHL overall, on Saturday October 28. Beginning at the end of last season, the Sabres have won 15 games in a row.

### **Greek blog aggregation service administrator jailed, service censored**

Antonis Tsipropoulos (Αντώνης Τσιπρόπουλος), the administrator of the Greek blog aggregating service [blogme.gr](http://blogme.gr), got sued, arrested and jailed, because one of the linked RSS feeds on his site had satirical content. Although the service was unrelated in any way other than linking to the allegedly offending blog, the [blogme.gr](http://blogme.gr) server was shut down and its hard drives were confiscated.

Mr Tsipropoulos posted an explanation for the service's downtime, describing his arrest but naming neither the satirical blog nor the plaintiff. Tsipropoulos later removed the explanation at his lawyers' advice because it might appear to be contemptive to the authorities, because it stated that an aggregating service has nothing to do with the various feeds' content. Although Tsipropoulos gave no clues to the identity of the plaintiff, the only satirical blog known to appear in [blogme.gr](http://blogme.gr) lampooned televangelist and national mysticist Dimosthenis Liakopoulos. It is suspected that Liakopoulos is the plaintiff. More will be known in the upcoming trial.

### **Expert calls for less vaccination and more research**

Following fears earlier this month that, in Britain, flu vaccine would not be available for all those due to be vaccinated this autumn, a contributor to the British Medical Journal now wants resources diverted from vaccination towards research to establish the efficacy

of vaccination.

There have been warnings that production problems have delayed delivery of sufficient vaccine to complete the programme on time. The Department of Health had said there should be enough doses in the long-term but some patients would have to wait. This is the third year in which this problem has arisen.

Now writing in the British Medical Journal, Tom Jefferson, a coordinator at Cochrane Vaccines Field, Rome, calls for resources to be diverted from vaccinating people to research into the value of vaccination. Criticising the present policy, calling it "availability creep", Mr. Jefferson says that "it uses up resources that could be invested in a proper evaluation of influenza vaccines or on other health interventions of proven effectiveness".

Another paper, of which T. Jefferson is a co-author, accepts that vaccinating the elderly in institutions reduces the complications of influenza and vaccinating healthy persons under 60 reduces cases of influenza.

### **Delhi University to honour actor Amitabh Bachchan, four others on 4 November**

The Delhi University will award an honouris causa degree to its superstar alumnus Amitabh Bachchan on the 4 of November for his contribution to the Indian film industry. Notable cartoonist (and creator of the iconic Common Man character) R. K Laxman, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister C N R Rao and Chief Minister of Delhi Sheila Dixit will also be presented with honorary degrees at the ceremony.

The University will also honour historian Romila Thapar, industrialist Ratan Tata (who recently negotiated the largest overseas takeover by an Indian company) and writer Mahashweta Devi at a separate convocation.

Mr. Bachchan, who has acted in blockbusters such as *Sholay* and *Don*, was conferred an honorary doctorate by the De Montford University of Leicester in July. The French Government has also decided to present him with its highest civilian award- the Legion d'Honneur at an award ceremony which will be held at a later date.

### **Manmohan Singh threatened on e-mail**

The Kerala police have received an email threatening Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his trip to the state. Singh is scheduled to visit Kerala on November 1 to mark the Golden Jubilee of the state's formation.

Three persons have been taken into custody by the Kerala police after an e-mail was received by the Prime Minister's Office from a cyber cafe in Kochi. This includes two boys who were using the cyber cafe between 9 and 9.30 on Friday morning and the woman owner of the cafe.

Top police sources said the message was sent to Director General of Police Raman Srivastava and the Home Secretary Sri Prakash Jaiswal. Taking serious note of the e-mail, Kerala police is interrogating the accused persons whether they had played a prank.

After this happening, the authorities are on the high alert. This threat can have serious connotations considering the arrest of 2 Al-badr militants from

down south.

Sources said, according to a senior official of Prime minister's office, "As of now there is no change in the prime minister's trip but his security is being constantly under review and a decision could be taken keeping in the mind threat perception".

### **New Zealand school children put fight videos on YouTube**

Approximately seven videos showing school children beating their peers have been put on the Google-owned video service, YouTube.

The videos are recorded using cellphone cameras from students at Auckland Grammar School, Tauranga Boys' College and Saint Kentigern College and other unidentified schools, according to New Zealand newspaper, *The Press*.

Auckland Grammar has three videos of bullying and Tauranga Boys College and St Kentigern College both have one video each.

According to *The Press* one video filmed in Auckland Grammar shows two students, surrounded by a large circle of boys, knock another boy unconscious. The boy appears to have convulsions. The clip was put on YouTube by I0pex a month ago and was titled "Some guy getting KNOcked the fuck out." It had a rating of four and a half stars out of a possible five.

The video was not accessible on YouTube by 27 October, 2006 at 7.36 a.m. UTC, a notice displayed said, "This video has been removed due to terms of use violation." *The Press* said an unidentified clip shows two girls fighting, which was also removed for the same reason.

YouTube guidelines state: "Real violence is not allowed. If your video shows someone getting hurt, attacked or humiliated, don't post it."

According to NewsRoom the video showing the bullying from Tauranga Boys' College shows three students, one student holding another while being punched on the ground in the face. When a teacher breaks up the fight, the comments for the video criticise the teacher for doing so.

One other video shows one Asian student bullying another Asian, according to *The Press*.

Annabel Taylor, Family Help Trust chairwoman, said: "The clips represented the worst aspects of bullying. It is premeditated, organised, intentional, choreographed even, and that's what distinguishes it from common schoolyard bullying."

Tauranga Boys' College deputy principal, Robert Naumann, said: "While appropriate disciplinary action was taken against the boys involved in the incident, and none of those filmed had given their permission for the footage to be posted on the web, the film has remained within the public domain despite attempts by college staff to have it removed," he said, "Youtube has continued to support its placement". The video was not accessible on 27 October, 2006 at 7.36 a.m. UTC. Graham Young, principal of Tauranga Boys' College, said: "A video posted on the Internet showing two of his students fighting is inappropriate and bizarre, but not unusual. Unfortunately technology allows teenagers to put all sorts of material about each other on

websites."

Martin Crocker, Netsafe director, said that while posting the videos did not break any law, the actions filmed in the videos did. "The terrible thing is that the aim of online notoriety is driving people to do quite extreme things," Crocker said.

Dave Turnbull, principal of Cashmere High School, said that he is unaware of anything like that has happened in Christchurch. "The reality is it could have been any school."

According to Paul Shamy from Stopping Violence Services Christchurch, "[I am] not surprised that the violence was in well-to-do schools such as Auckland Grammar as violence is spread throughout society."

### **Coup Leader finds little proof of Thaksin's alleged corruption**

In an interview earlier today, the leader of the recent political coup in Thailand, General Sonthi Boonyaratglin, said that he could not find solid evidence to support corruption charges against ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

"It will be difficult to implicate him," said General Boonyaratglin. He added that he is "not sure how far the Office of the Auditor General can investigate suspected corruption cases involving him. They might get to nowhere at all...We cannot impound the money he made with accountable legal evidence, but can only look for some possible hidden (evidence) with questionable background..."

General Sonthi also justified the bloodless coup of September 19 by saying that the rampant

corruption in Thailand was undermining democracy there.

After the coup, General Sonthi quickly reinstated the country's corruption watchdog to work alongside his own team of investigators to find evidence of corruption in Mr. Thaksin's leadership.

In addition to corruption, General Sonthi also cited the Thaksin administration's perceived lack of respect for the king as another reason to have staged the coup. He said that "Soldiers are obliged to protect the national security, safeguard the nation, and uphold loyalty to the monarchy. The military cannot tolerate any leaders who lack or have limited loyalty to the king..."

Insulting the 78-year-old monarch, who has spent 60 years on the throne, is considered a very serious crime in Thailand.

The general has admitted that the military could lose public support if no evidence is found to support the accusations.

Mr. Shinawatra is currently living in exile in London.

### **Today in History**

312 - Roman Emperor Constantine the Great defeated Maxentius in the Battle of Milvian Bridge, ending the Tetrarchy. According to legends, he credited his victory to the god of the Christians.

1886 - In New York Harbor, U.S. President Grover Cleveland dedicated the Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, to commemorate the centennial of the United States Declaration of Independence.

1918 - Czechoslovakia gained its independence from Austria-Hungary.

1922 - The Fascist Blackshirts

marched on Rome to take over the Italian government.

1940 - Italy invaded Greece from Albania, as part of the Balkans Campaign in World War II. October 28 is Okhi Day in Greece (1940)

### **Quote of the Day**

The human mind is inspired enough when it comes to inventing horrors; it is when it tries to invent a Heaven that it shows itself cloddish.

~ Evelyn Waugh

### **Word of the Day**

anguine; adj

1. Pertaining to snakes or serpents; snakelike.

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