



Top Stories

Agriculture Department investigating possible case of Mad Cow Disease in U.S.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is investigating a possible case of Mad Cow disease when a routine test performed on an animal, came back positive. Further tests are being done and results will not be available for at least 4-7 days.

Former Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosevic found dead in his cell

The Serbian Socialist party and UN officials confirm that Slobodan Milosevic, 64, has died in his cell at the U.N. war crimes tribunal's detention center in Den Hague.

Featured story

Buffalo, N.Y. hotel proposal delayed further

The Common Council voted on Tuesday to send the proposed hotel development "to committee for further discussion." Although the city's Planning Board will meet for discussion about the proposal on the morning of March 14, they are not expected to make any decisions.

Wikipedia Current Events

• Ram Bahadur Bomjon, the teenage boy believed by his followers to be the reincarnation of Gautama Buddha, disappears from the tree he had called home (in Nepal) for nearly ten months.

Wikipedia Current Events

•The former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milošević has been found dead in his prison cell in The Hague, Netherlands.

Former Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosevic found dead in his cell

Former Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milošević, 65, has died in the U.N. war crimes tribunal detention center in The Hague, Netherlands. The Serbian Socialist party and UN officials confirmed his death, and Tribunal President Fausto Pocar has ordered an inquiry, which will be done by the Dutch police and the Dutch coroner. A toxicological examination and a full autopsy have also been ordered on Milošević.

A statement said that Milošević "was found lifeless on his bed in his cell at the United Nations detention unit. The guard immediately alerted the detention unit officer in command and the medical officer. The latter confirmed that Slobodan Milošević was dead."

French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said that Milošević died of natural causes. He had been suffering from chronic heart problems and high blood pressure.

He was the president of Republic of Serbia from 1989 to 1997, and the president of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1997 to 2000. Milošević had been extradited to

Den Hague in 2001, and his trial started on February 12, 2002. He pleaded not guilty to all charges. His trial had been delayed on numerous occasions due to his health problems, and in 2002 judges ordered a psychiatric review to determine the amount of strain the trial was putting on him.

Milošević was on trial and charged with more than 60 counts of genocide and crimes against humanity for the role he played in the Balkan wars, which includes the massacre of 8,000 Muslims at Srebrenica in 1995 and emanating from the Bosnian conflict. He refused to be given a lawyer and was defending on his own (graduated law in 1964). He faced life in prison.

12000 Commonwealth Games tickets remain unsold

With three days until the start of the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia, organisers still have some 12,000 tickets yet unsold after mailing out some 150,000 invitations to buy tickets to the Games' opening ceremony. At least 40 invitations were sent to the families of 40 deceased people. Organisers have since apologised for this mistake.

Melbourne 2006 chief executive John Harnden says: "Opening ceremony sales are going well... We've sold about 4000 tickets over the last seven days, [and] those rates of sales are continuing... Overall, the rate of sales for tickets are fantastic ... it's an enormous number – bigger than any other

Commonwealth Games ever sold." Tickets to the opening ceremony cost \$590AUD.

The XVIII Commonwealth Games will be held from March 15th through the 26th. The Opening Ceremony will be held Wednesday night. It will be opened officially by Queen Elizabeth II.

Agriculture Department investigating possible case of Mad Cow Disease in U.S.

The United States Department of Agriculture is currently investigating a possible case of Mad Cow Disease, which was first reported by the Associated Press. USDA official John Clifford said that a routine test indicated the possible presence of the disease.

The Agriculture Department says that the first test was inconclusive and that further tests are being conducted in the department's laboratory in Ames, Iowa; however, those test results for Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) will not be available for at least 4-7 days.

"This inconclusive result does not mean we have found a new case of BSE. Inconclusive results are a normal component of most screening tests, which are designed to be extremely sensitive," said Clifford. "We remain very confident in the safety of U.S. beef."

Clifford also stated that no parts of the cow have entered the human food or animal feed chain.

At least 150 human deaths worldwide have been linked to the consumption of cattle contaminated with the disease, most in the United Kingdom. One case of the disease was reported in a human in the U.S., but the

Centers for Disease Control believe that the individual got it while traveling in the U.K.

The U.S. has had a total of two previously confirmed cases of the disease. The most recent occurred in June when, for the first time, a calf born in the U.S. tested positive for the disease. The first case was in December 2003 when the disease was found in a cow born in Canada located at a Washington State farm.

On March 3, the EU confirmed Sweden's first case of Mad Cow disease. Canada reported its fourth case of Mad Cow disease in January.

Today in History

- 515 BCE - Construction of the Temple in Jerusalem was completed.
- 1930 - Mahatma Gandhi began the Dandi March, a 24-day, 320-km walk to defy the British tax on salt in colonial India.
- 1938 - Anschluss Österreichs: Austria was occupied by the Wehrmacht, and subsequently became Ostmark, a province within the German Reich.
- 1940 - The Moscow Peace Treaty was signed, ending the Winter War between Finland and the Soviet Union.
- 2003 - Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Đinđić was assassinated in Belgrade.
- March 12 is Independence Day in Mauritius (1968), Arbor Day in Taiwan.

Quote of the Day

"Good writers define reality; bad ones merely restate it. A good writer turns fact into truth; a bad writer will, more often than not, accomplish the opposite." ~ Edward Albee

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