



Top Stories

Greece still burning



→Death toll at 62 as firefighters work to gain control

→Two people arrested

Six more arrests made in search for killer of Rhys Jones

Six teenagers have been arrested for questioning in relation to the murder of Rhys Jones in the Croxteth area of Liverpool on Wednesday evening. It brings the total number of arrests to nine.

Featured story

72 hour Australia wide ban on horse movements

A 72 hour travel ban has been implemented after 16 horses were confirmed as having Equine Influenza.



Wikipedia Current Events

- 2007 Midwest flooding: Tornadoes hit parts of central and southeast Ohio as hundreds of thousands of people in the Midwest are without power.
- A series of explosions in Mogadishu, Somalia kills three

Wikipedia Current Events

people.

- The Islamist militant group Fatah al-Islam seeks to extract its wounded from the Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp.
- An Antonov plane carrying tin ore crashes in Kongolo in the Katanga province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Iraqi Shia, Sunni and Kurdish leaders sign a reconciliation deal.
- The equine influenza outbreak spreads in Australia threatening the Spring Carnival including the Melbourne Cup.
- Bird flu breaks out at a German farm.
- Ludwig Scotty's government wins a landslide victory in the Nauruan parliamentary election, 2007 with RenÉ Harris as the only member of the Opposition to win a seat.
- Seven more unexploded bombs are found in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India a day after the bombings.
- The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy blames Pakistan and Bangladeshi terrorists for the bombings.
- Twelve Taliban fighters die in fighting on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.
- A bridge is opened linking Tajikistan and Afghanistan.
- European Union countries send firefighters and equipment to help fight hundreds of fires which

Wikipedia Current Events

- have so far killed at least 56 people.
- The fires threaten Olympia, the site of the Ancient Olympic Games.

Malaysian newspaper suspended due to offensive Jesus picture

The Malaysian newspaper Makkal Osai has been placed under governmental suspension from publishing for a month, due to its publication on Tuesday, August 21st of a picture of Jesus Christ holding a cigarette and a can of beer.

Although the Tamil-language newspaper apologized on Thursday, August 23rd, saying that a graphic artist had erred in downloading the picture from the Internet, some in Malaysia's minority religions drew a comparison to the Jyllands-Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy that erupted in 2005 over a Danish paper's publication of cartoons that many Muslims felt insulted Islam and the prophet Muhammad.

The altered picture has been traced by a blogger called "Gateway Pundit" to an April 2007 post on a blog called "Religion Makes Me Laugh." The name of the post where the altered image appears is "Top Ten Reasons Why Beer Is Better Than Jesus."

It has been noted that this apparently unwitting use of a

satirical Internet graphic bears a similarity to a 2001 news story in which protesters supporting Osama bin Laden were found to have unknowingly used an altered image of bin Laden that included a picture of Bert, the Sesame Street muppet, by his side.

2007/08 Bundesliga: Bayern Munich vs. Hannover 96

Bayern Munich	3
Hannover 96	0

69,000 fans packed Allianz Arena and saw Bayern Munich maintained their perfect record on Saturday with a 3-0 victory against Hannover.

Once referee Thorsten Kinher whistled for the opening kickoff, both teams played attacking style. Hannover answered a couple of headers from Martin Demichelis with Hanno Balitsch's drive.

Bayern Munich took the lead in the 28th minute when Bastian Schweinsteiger fed Luca Toni a pass into the penalty box and scored against Hannover goalkeeper Robert Enke.

Bayern Munich sealed the victory with 2 goals from Mark van Bommel and Hamit Altintop in the 2nd half.

On Sunday, Wolfsburg is at home against Schalke and Eintracht Frankfurt is at home against Hansa Rostock .

New Zealand ATM gives out double the money

A Queenstown, New Zealand Automated teller machine (ATM) that was incorrectly stacked allowed customers to double their money. A contractor incorrectly stacked the NZ\$10 note slot with \$20 notes, and vice versa. The problem only affected small

withdrawals of \$20 or \$10.

Dozens of customers, mostly backpackers, exploited the Kiwibank ATM with several people making up to 40 transactions.

Due to the complexity of the issue, the bank does not plan to attempt to track down the customers who got extra money, but they do plan to reimburse those who lost money.

Efforts to salvage Indonesian naval vessel grounded off Queensland, Australia hampered by stormy weather

Efforts to salvage the Indonesian naval vessel Arung Samudera from where she ran aground on the Sunshine Coast Queensland, have been delayed due to poor weather conditions.

The 35-metre, tri-masted vessel was originally grounded on August 23 in stormy weather at Inskip Point, near Rainbow Beach. A salvage contractor has being brought in to rescue the stricken vessel, her hull is intact and it is believed the ship is in no imminent danger of breaking apart.

However, the tall ship did drag its anchors and break its rudder and centreboard during the beaching.

Australian Navy Commander Forbes Peters says that although salvage has been postponed until early next week, the vessel will be surveyed today by the salvage firm.

"To develop a plan for how they would salvage the vessel of the beach, that's going to involve a tugboat pulling the thing off the beach with a longline.

"The trouble with actually conducting the salvage will be the

sea state... Until the weather abates there really will not be able to do much in terms of salvage," he said.

The 18-man crew - six officers and 12 sailors - of the New Zealand-built vessel have managed to retrieve their belongings from the ship, and are now expected to be transported to temporary accommodation in local barracks in Bulimba, Brisbane.

It is still hoped the ship can be repaired in time for it to attend a summit next month in Sydney, but this to be unlikely. A decision on whether to take her to Brisbane or Gladstone for repairs is expected to be made on Monday.

Six more arrests made in search for killer of Rhys Jones

Six teenagers have been arrested for questioning in relation to the murder of Rhys Jones in the Croxteth area of Liverpool on Wednesday evening. The arrests of the four males, aged 15, 16 and two aged 19, and two females, aged 15 and 18, bring to seven the number of people currently held in custody, joining a 15-year-old male arrested yesterday, and to nine the total number of arrests so far. Five of the teenagers were arrested early this morning, while the other was arrested later in the day. The arrests were all made in the Croxteth and Norris Green areas of Liverpool, the two females together at the same location, the four males at separate locations.

Detective Superintendent David Kelly later said one of the 19-year-old males is being treated in hospital for minor injuries he suffered during the arrest, having fallen from a first-floor window trying to escape. Det Supt Kelly also said the police would like to talk to a dark-haired woman in

particular, saying: "The woman could potentially be a key witness. We know from our inquiries there was a woman pushing a pram minutes before Rhys was killed and we believe she will have passed within close proximity to the killer." He added that the killer emerged from a housing estate behind the Fir Tree pub and rode around on his bicycle at the back of the pub for a few minutes before firing three shots, one of which hit Rhys, who had been walking home alone after football practice, in the neck.

Police are still examining a bicycle found abandoned yesterday, but have yet to find the murder weapon, said to be a black, long-barrelled handgun.

Chief Superintendent Chris Armitt urged the local community to "examine their consciences" and take a stand against gang culture. He said: "We understand that people are concerned about giving information to the police, we understand that people are frightened, that's natural." He added that the police "have not had the level of information about those key issues that we would expect and that we want" and reassured members of the public that any witness who came forward would be protected, saying anybody with information must "stand up and be counted".

Unidentified plane reportedly shot down in Kodori gorge

A military plane flying over the Kodori Valley has been shot down, some residents of the Kodori Gorge told Georgia's Rustavi 2 television by telephone on Friday evening. After several shots were fired at the plane, it lost control and fell in a hard-to-reach area, they said. The incident, reportedly, occurred late on August 23, but

the news broke a day later.

Debris of the aircraft have not yet been found, as it crashed in a remote area of the gorge, reports said. Witnesses, however, told Rustavi 2 TV via phone that they saw a black smoke coming from the crash site.

The Georgian Interior Ministry has confirmed the incident, saying that fire was opened at a plane that intruded into the Georgian airspace over the Kodori Gorge. It said it was not clear whether it was a Russian or Abkhaz aircraft. Abkhaz forces were holding large scale military maneuvers, involving at least two army helicopters and two aircraft, near the Kodori Gorge at that period of time.

The Russian air force branded as "one more provocative piece of information" a Georgian media report that a Russian warplane was shot down on Friday over the Kodori Gorge in Georgia's breakaway Abkhazia region.

"It is one more provocative piece of information directed against us," air force spokesman Alexander Drobyshevsky told Interfax. "I state once again that no aircraft of the air force of the Russian Federation has violated the border with Georgia. All air force aircraft are currently on airfields, and the pilots are having a rest," he said. "If one analyzes all Georgian statements about air space invasions, all of them are launched at night, strange as it is," Drobyshevsky added. The Abkhaz side has also denied it.

Forest fires burn on in Greece; death toll nears 50

In southern Greece today, huge forest fires continue to burn on, destroying homes and causing severe damage to the region. Local

fire departments put the current death toll at at least 37, 9 of which were children.

Since Friday morning, around 170 fires have been burning, many of which are believed to be caused by arson. Authorities are calling the fires "criminal acts." Fire department spokesman Nikos Diamandis said most of the fires were started in entirely different areas, and were started after dark. Some fires reportedly broke out in "lush greenery."

Fire in Keratea, as it is seen from Markopoulo Mesogaia

27 deaths have been confirmed in Peloponnese, one of the hardest hit areas. Today, however, fires broke out near Athens.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis was to for an emergency meeting of the senior ministers in the country's capital, Athens. Karamanlis said, "This is a day of national mourning...I wish to express my deep grief over the lost lives...We are fighting against heavy odds, on many fronts and under particularly tough conditions."

Greece's government yesterday asked its European Union allies for help. About 30 countries are offering support, according to an EU statement.

Some helicopters and airplanes, which were to drop water on the fires, continued to be delayed by strong winds.

Explosions in Hyderabad, India Two explosions have been reported in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad, killing some 40 people. It was reported the two blasts rocked a park and a popular eat-out in Hyderabad on Saturday

evening within a gap of 15 minutes.

The injured, a total of 350, have been taken to nearby hospitals. Both the areas have been evacuated.

The first explosion took place at Lumbini Park near the state secretariat at around 2000 hours and another at Gokul Chat Bhandar 15 minutes later, they said. A laser show was going on at Lumbini Park when the blast occurred.

South African cricket team in Zimbabwe 2007 - 2nd ODI

South Africa have beaten Zimbabwe by eight wickets in the second One-Day International of the series at Harare Sports Club, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe lost the toss and were put in to bat first. Despite losing opener Vusi Sibanda cheaply, Brendan Taylor and Tatenda Taibu added 44 and 43 runs respectively, followed by a partnership of 84 runs from Stuart Williams (54) and Stuart Matsikenyeri (52) to record a competitive score. Zimbabwe's innings finished after fifty overs at 247-7. Of the South African bowlers, Dale Steyn took 3-65 and Morne Morkel took 2-39.

Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs shared an opening partnership of 174 runs as South Africa cruised towards the 248 run target. Smith, the South African captain, fell just short of a century when he was caught behind off the bowling of his Zimbabwean counterpart Prosper Utseya. Gibbs went on to score 110 runs from 100 balls and South Africa reached the target with just under eleven overs to spare.

South Africa have an unassailable

2-0 lead in the three match series, with the final match to be played tomorrow in Harare.

72 hour Australia wide ban on horse movements

The Honourable Peter McGauran, Federal Minister for Agriculture, has issued a 72 hour Australia wide travel ban on all Equine horse species. The ban followed confirmation that 16 horses from two separate Sydney locations have been infected with Equine Influenza. This follows earlier restrictions placed on horses in New South Wales (NSW).

Mr McGauran said "There will be a 72-hour ban on all race meetings for both thoroughbreds and harness..."

"In addition there will be an order for standstill for all horses under licensed persons. Also, an appeal to all those with ponies, recreational horses or work horses not to leave their properties..."

Equine flu was first detected in a stallion at Eastern Creek Quarantine station after arriving from the northern hemisphere. There are 80 horses currently in quarantine at either Eastern Creek in New South Wales or at the Spotswood quarantine station in Victoria. These horses are thoroughbreds brought into Australia for the spring breeding season. Horses currently in quarantine are expected to be held for another 30 days.

The movement ban caused the cancellation of race meeting across the country, resulting in losses of tens of millions of dollars.

Equine flu is highly contagious though it is not infectious to humans. Though skin, clothing and equipment can transmit the

disease. Additional restrictions have been place on people and equipment in NSW with exclusion zones around the quarantine stations. Breaches of these restriction could result in fines of up to A\$44,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 12 months.

The normally unrestricted travel of horses between Australia and New Zealand has been suspended and New Zealand authorities are checking all horses that have entered the country since the beginning of August.

Trains collide in Serbia, two dead

Two trains collided on the Serbian Belgrade – Novi Sad railway line yesterday evening, leaving two engine drivers, Živko Topalović and Milan Ivančević dead and five injured. Doctors at the Novi Sad clinic said that five were injured and that all five, said to be Serbian Railways workers, have suffered serious, but not life-threatening injuries in the crash.

Earlier in the evening, Stojan Suknović of the Novi Sad fire brigade, who took part in the rescue efforts, said the accident occurred after 6 p.m. yesterday evening, near Sremski Karlovci in Vojvodina.

"An engine and a freight train collided," he confirmed.

Emergency teams are working intensively on removing the wrecked engines from the line in order to provide suitable conditions for the resumption of traffic.

UK company "seriously considering" GPS tracking devices in school uniforms

The leading supplier of school uniforms in the United Kingdom,

Lancashire-based manufacturer Trutex, has announced it is "seriously considering" including GPS tracking devices in future ranges of its uniform products after conducting an online survey of both parents and children.

"As a direct result of the survey, we are now seriously considering incorporating a [tracking] device into future ranges" said Trutex marketing director Clare Rix.

The survey questioned 809 parents and 444 children aged 9 to 16. It showed that 44% of parents were worried about the safety of pre-teen children, and 59% wanted tracking devices installed in school apparel. 39% of children aged 9 to 12 were prepared to wear clothing with tracking devices in them, while teenagers were notably less enthusiastic and more wary of what Trutex has admitted they see as a "big brother" concept.

However, Trutex has claimed the tracking devices would bring about worthwhile benefits, including being a valuable resource for parents who wanted to keep a close eye on where their children were at all times.

"As well as being a safety net for parents, there could be real benefits for schools who could keep a closer track on the whereabouts of their pupils, potentially reducing truancy levels" says Rix.

Each year, Trutex supplies 1 million blouses, 1.1 million shirts, 250,000 pairs of trousers, 20,000 blazers, 60,000 skirts and 110,000 pieces of knitwear to the UK.

It is not the first company to manufacture school uniforms with a central focus on child safety; last

week Essex firm BladeRunner revealed it was selling stab-proof school blazers to parents concerned about violence against their children. The blazers were outfitted with Kevlar, a synthetic fibre used in body armour. It has already received orders internationally, including Australia.

If the Trutex tracking devices go ahead, it is unclear where in the uniform they will be located.

Quebec City mayor dies unexpectedly

Quebec City Mayor Andr e Boucher was pronounced dead on Friday at age 70. She was found unconscious at her home from what was reported to be heart failure, although the cause of death is expected to be confirmed by autopsy. Jacques Joli-Coeur was designated interim mayor.

Boucher became Quebec City's mayor in 2005. She previously served as mayor of the nearby community of Sainte-Foy.

Tributes were issued by Quebec Premier Jean Charest, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, national opposition leader St ephane Dion, NDP Leader Jack Layton, and politician and former Quebec City broadcaster Andr e Arthur, a frequent critic of Boucher.

Rumors say Cuban President Fidel Castro has died

Rumors began circulating today in Miami, Florida that Fidel Castro, the President of Cuba, may be dead. The rumor has been reported to have started on Wall Street in New York City.

PerezHilton.com was the first to "break" the news, saying that an official announcement on Castro's death would be coming at 2:00 p.m. (local time), but no

announcements were made and there has been no confirmations of his death.

Castro turned 81 on August 13 and shortly after, reports began to circulate that his health was on a downward track, but the Cuban government states that Castro is doing well.

"Fidel is doing very well" and is "disciplined in his recovery process," said Felipe Perez Roque, Cuba's Foreign Minister in a statement to the press.

Today in History

1071 – Byzantine-Seljuk wars: Seljuk Turks led by Alp Arslan captured Byzantine Emperor Romanos IV at the Battle of Manzikert.

1346 – Hundred Years' War: English forces established the military supremacy of the English longbow over the French combination of crossbow and armoured knights at the Battle of Cr cy.

1748 – The first Lutheran denomination in North America, the Pennsylvania Ministerium, was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1789 – French Revolution: The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, defining a set of individual and collective rights of the people, was approved by the National Constituent Assembly at Versailles.

1968 – The U.S. Democratic Party's National Convention began at the International Amphitheatre in Chicago, sparking four days of peaceful-to-violent clashes between anti-Vietnam War protesters and police.

August 26 is Heroes' Day in the Philippines and Ghost Festival in the Chinese calendar (2007).

Quote of the Day

Our sufferings have taught us that no nation is sufficient unto itself, and that our prosperity depends in the long run, not upon the failure of our neighbors but their successes.

~ John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir

Word of the Day

cachinnate; v

1. To laugh loudly, immoderately, or too often

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