



### Top Stories

#### **Kofi Annan: Iraq situation much worse than civil war**

The UN Secretary General expressed sadness at being unable to prevent the Iraq war and described the present situation there as "much worse than civil war", a characterization disputed by the Iraqi National Security Adviser.

#### **BSE Sensex hits all-time high of 14,000**

The BSE Sensex touched yet another milestone today by crossing the historic 14,000 mark.

### Featured story

#### **Chess champion loses to computer**

The World chess champion Vladimir Kramnik lost his final game in a match against the computer program Deep Fritz on Tuesday. Kramnik gave up after a hard-fought Man vs. Machine series 4-2.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- Yuri Chaika, the Prosecutor General of Russia, has stated that Russia will not extradite any suspects in the radioactive poisoning death of Alexander Litvinenko.
- The United States Senate Committee on Armed Services unanimously approves the nomination of Robert Gates to be the next United States Secretary of Defense.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- A majority of a 15-judge panel in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rules that Kamehameha Schools can favour Native Hawaiians in admissions.
- An outbreak of E. coli bacteria has sickened more than a dozen people on Long Island, including several who ate at Taco Bell. Officials have asked eight Taco Bell restaurants be closed.
- The Prime Minister of Fiji Laisenia Qarase warned that Fiji faces the imminent threat of a coup as troops reportedly surround his complex. Later, Fiji's military commander Frank Bainimarama confirmed that the military was in control of the country while the Foreign Minister of Australia Alexander Downer warned that Fiji would face international sanctions.
- Early election results indicate that Marc Ravalomanana will be re-elected in a landslide as the President of Madagascar.
- The French Government launches state-owned and controlled France 24, a 24-hour television news show.
- U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan appoints former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano as the new United Nations-envoy to negotiations between the Government of Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army, an Islamic terrorist organization.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- The World Chess Champion Vladimir Kramnik loses a final game and a match with a computer program, Fritz-10. The final score is 2-4.

#### **Ex- Senator John Edwards takes major step in running for U.S. president**

Former North Carolina Senator and Democratic Vice-Presidential Candidate John Edwards took a major step in declaring candidacy for the 2008 U.S. Presidential election by naming former congressman David Bonior his campaign manager. David Bonior has close ties with labor organizations, something Edwards can relate to because he represented many labor unions when he was a lawyer.

Bonior represented Detroit's northern suburbs for 26 years in the House, rising to be the No. 2 Democrat before stepping down in 2002 for an unsuccessful campaign for Michigan governor.

Since leaving Congress, Bonior has been a professor of labor studies at Detroit's Wayne State University and chairman of American Rights at Work, which promotes employees' rights to unionize.

Bonior is currently the chair of American Rights at Work.

#### **Chess champion loses to computer**

The World chess champion Vladimir Kramnik lost his final

game in a match against the computer program Deep Fritz on Tuesday. Kramnik gave up after a hard-fought Man vs. Machine series 4-2.

Kramnik, seeking a final win to level the match, played an unbalanced opening with Black. He built up a good position and equalized. But he then went astray, losing a pawn from which he never recovered.

The Russian takes home USD\$500,000 — half of what he would have received if he had won against Deep Fritz, US\$1 million. The match began on November 25 and was played in the National Art Gallery in Bonn, Germany.

This is the second time a world chess champion has lost to a computer. In 1997, Garry Kasparov lost a six-game match to IBM's chess computer Deep Blue.

Deep Fritz is a commercially available chess program that runs on a powerful PC.

### **Prime Minister Blair flies to Washington**

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair flies tomorrow to meet President Bush. High on the agenda will be the situation in Iraq. The No. 10 press office said yesterday that it was a happy coincidence that the report of the Iraq Study Group would be published during his visit, but that he was not likely to meet James Baker or Lee Hamilton, the joint authors of the report.

Among the issues to be discussed will be relations with Iran and Syria. Blair had set out his position in a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council August 1, 2006, saying "we need to make clear to Syria and Iran that there is a choice: come in to the

international community and play by the same rules as the rest of us; or be confronted"

However a speech by Blair on World Affairs at the London Lord Mayor's Banquet, on November 13, 2006, gave rise to such conflicting reports about his position on Iran, that the White House felt it necessary to issue a "Setting the record straight" press release the next day. It said that whereas the London-based New York Times and Washington Post reported that Blair had "Offered No Dramatic New Policy Proposals"; the Washington-based reporting by the same papers had claimed that "... Blair shifted his position". The White House press office concluded that Blair's position was not new and that it was similar to the President's policy. Both leaders had expressed willingness to open talks with Iran provided it complied with UN resolutions and verifiably suspended uranium enrichment.

### **BSE Sensex hits all-time high of 14,000**

The Bombay Stock Exchange Sensex touched yet another milestone today by crossing the historic 14,000 mark.

At 9:58 a.m. (local time), BSE-30 share index touched a new high of 14,028.47 points, which was 154 points higher than closing (13,874.33) of the last day.

Market closed at 13,937.65 which was also all-time closing high and 63.32 points higher than previous closing.

Sensex touched the new milestone just after 35 days which comprised of only 26 trading sessions.

NSE index (Nifty) was 14.75 points higher (0.37%) at 4015.75 with an

intra-session high of 4,033.20.

Major supporters in the market gain were Reliance Industries, BHEL, Reliance Energy, ACC, Grasim Industries, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Auto, Maruti Udyog, Tata Motors, Hero Honda, Reliance Communications, Tata Steel, Larsen and Toubro, TCS, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Ranbaxy Lab.

### **Australia wins dramatic second Ashes Test**

Australia has clinched a dramatic win in the second 2006-07 Ashes Test match in Adelaide. In a massive swing of dominance and control, England forfeited a massive advantage on the fifth and final day after controlling the Test for the first four.

England won the toss and batted first on the Adelaide Oval wicket. After losing a couple of early wickets, they recovered to amass 6-551 dec. spanning the opening two days. Paul Collingwood scored a patient 206, whilst teammate Kevin Pietersen built an innings of 158 in a much more brief fashion.

In response, Australia began their first innings poorly, losing Matthew Hayden before the close of play on day 2. On the morning of day 3, Justin Langer and Damien Martyn also fell cheaply. However, a captain's effort by Ricky Ponting (142) and support by Michael Clarke (124), as well as cameos by Adam Gilchrist and Shane Warne, helped the Aussies to just shy of England's massive total. Matthew Hoggard was the shining light for the visitors, taking 7-109.

England resumed the fifth day at 1-59, and the match looked headed for a draw. However, with some magic from Shane Warne, Australia managed to roll England

for just 129 in the last over before tea, setting up a thrilling final session run chase. Warne took 4-49, and was backed up well by Glenn McGrath, who took 2-15.

Requiring 168 to win off 35 overs, Australia came out firing, scoring quickly before losing both Hayden and Justin Langer early. Ricky Ponting was joined by Michael Hussey, who was promoted to number four, and built a steady partnership before Ponting was dismissed for 49. Damien Martyn then fell cheaply, and Hussey was joined by Michael Clarke to complete the chase. The pair batted through to the total was reached, with Hussey scoring 61 not out. Australia reached the target with 19 balls to spare, at 6:45pm local time.

No team had lost after declaring on as high a total batting first as England did in more than 125 years of Tests. As a Nine Network commentator described it, "Australia has just won the most extraordinary Test match; however, it was [a Test] that England should never have lost". Prior to the start of play, bookmakers had a draw paying \$1.02.

Australia now go into the third test at the WACA ground in Perth, Western Australia knowing one more win will reclaim the Ashes urn which they lost for the first time in over a decade in England during 2005.

### **Clinton meetings fuel speculation over presidential bid**

United States Junior Senator Hillary Clinton has been holding discussions about and interviewing potential campaign staff for a White House bid in 2008. Clinton met with Governor-elect Eliot

Spitzer Sunday about support if she chooses to run. Howard Wolfson, a senior Clinton adviser said:

"She said before the election that after the election she would be considering a presidential run. Part of that process is seeking the advice and counsel of her colleagues in New York."

One New York Democrat, who asked to not be named, said he was recently called by a senior Clinton team member. While it was not said that Clinton had chose to run for president, "it was pretty clear."

New York Senior Senator Charles Schumer, Clinton's Democratic colleague, told Associated Press (AP) he would be meeting with Clinton in the next week.

"She wants to sit down and talk next week, which we're going to do. It could be about legislation. I have no idea what it's about, and until we sit down and talk that's all I'm going to say about it. I think she'd make a very good president but let's wait and see. Everyone's sort of jumping the gun."

Last week, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack announced he would seek the Democratic nomination. Indiana Democrat Sen. Evan Bayh announced Sunday he is considering running for the White House.

Clinton tops every national poll of likely Democratic candidates and had tried to keep private many of her overtures to supporters and new staff. The deliberations have started to become more public in the last week as the field of likely contenders has begun to expand.

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, has

attracted tremendous publicity around a possible run without committing himself. He has jumped to second place behind Clinton in many polls.

Obama's emergence as a potential contender has led some observers to suspect Clinton has stepped up her timetable for making a decision about a run. Her aides dismiss that notion, saying she is observing the timetable she has long planned.

Other likely candidates include 2004 nominee Sen. John Kerry; his vice presidential running mate, former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards; New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who is Hispanic; and Sens. Joseph Biden of Delaware and Chris Dodd of Connecticut.

### **New Zealand runs low on 20 cent coins**

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand wrote to retail banks warning them that there will be a shortage on 20 cent coins (NZ\$0.20) leading up to Christmas. They have now announced that they have distributed 4.75 million new twenty cent coins in the past week alone "...close to the number issued in a typical year."

Ten million new coins are expected to arrive in the next few days.

The Reserve Bank is wondering where all the new coins went, just five weeks after the new design was first introduced. Brian Lang, currency manager for the Reserve Bank, said: "The pattern of demand for new coins has been markedly different to that for the old coins." He suggests that people are keeping them in jars, like the old design coins.

Some stores are already unable to give out twenty cent coins as they

don't have any according to the Newmarket Business Association.

Mr Lang said: "To put this into perspective, by 30 November, the Bank had issued almost as many 20c coins (49.6m) as 10c coins (53.0m). In the past issue of 20 cent coins would normally have been about half the amount of 10 cent coins."

The head of Newmarket Business Association, Cameron Brewer, said: "...the Reserve Bank told us that they'd done a lot of work and that everything was going to be just fine. We'll here we are just five weeks into the new coins and only days away from the Christmas rush, and the country's running out of its own currency."

Mr Lang said: "The Bank has sufficient supplies of 10c and 50c coins for several years' normal issues."

"...tens of millions of the old 20 cent pieces sit idle because they are no longer legal tender," Mr Brewer said referring to the old 'silver' coins that were used before the introduction of new coins.

The Reserve Bank still doesn't know why the pattern of demand of twenty cent coins has changed.

"... such a staggering miscalculation by the Reserve Bank should never have happened," Mr Brewer said.

**Today in History**

- 1768 - The first edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica was published.
- 1917 - Halifax Explosion: A ship in Halifax Harbour carrying trinitrotoluene (TNT) and picric acid caught fire after a collision with another ship and exploded, devastating Halifax, Canada.
- 1922 - The Irish Free State came into existence, one year after the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty.
- 1957 - Project Vanguard: An attempt to launch the first American satellite failed with an explosion on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral.
- 1989 - Marc Lépine killed 14 women in the École Polytechnique Massacre in Montreal.
- December 06 is Independence Day in Finland (1917), Constitution Day in Spain.

**Quote of the Day**

We have to remember that what we observe is not nature herself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning.  
~ Werner Heisenberg

**Word of the Day**

- lugubrious; adj
- 1. Gloomy, mournful or dismal, especially to an exaggerated degree.

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