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Former Chadian leader receives death sentence

Hissen Habre, the former President of Chad, has received a death sentence for plotting to overthrow the Chadian government. He is currently in exile and is living in Senegal.



Beijing 2008: Michael Phelps wins eighth gold

The American Michael Phelps has set a new record for the most gold medals won in one Olympic games by winning his eighth gold medal of the 2008 Olympic games, beating the previous world record of seven that was set by Mark Spitz in the 1972 Olympic Games, which took place in Munich, Germany.



Russia follows Georgia in signing peace plan

Russian president Dmitry Medvedev followed the president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili and signed the ceasefire agreement on Saturday. The peace plan document was originally drafted by Nicolas Sarkozy, the President of France.



Dorival Caymmi, Brazilian singer and songwriter, dies aged 94

Dorival Caymmi, a popular Brazilian singer and songwriter,

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has died today at the age of 94 at his Rio de Janeiro home. His death was caused by kidney cancer and multiple organ failures.

Wikipedia Current Events

2008 Atlantic hurricane season: Tropical Storm Fay kills at least 4 people in Haiti and the Dominican Republic before heading for the Florida Keys where tourists are being evacuated.

- The Afghan National Army kills 28 Taliban insurgents as the militants attempt an ambush of a convoy in Zabul province.
- Iran announces it has launched a satellite launch-capable Safir rocket.
- Russian troops continue to withdraw from the Georgian city of Gori, where the major Georgian army base was dissembled by Russian troops soon after the conflict end. Two Russian APCs still remain at a checkpoint near the city, Reuters reports.
- The BBC's Richard Galpin, who has spent the past two days travelling from the Black Sea port of Poti to Tbilisi, says Georgian forces seem to be surrendering control of the highway to the Russians.
- Russia has denied claims its forces have begun withdrawing from breakaway republic of South Ossetia, that was attacked by Georgian army on August, 8.

Wikinews previews the 2008 Australian rules football International Cup

Melbourne – The International Cup is Australian rules footballs world cup. The 2008 event is being held in Melbourne to celebrate 150 years of Australian rules football.

Currently the nation winning the International Cup is considered a distant second to Australia, who does not compete at the cup. This is because the difference in skill level between Australia and the next best country is quite considerate. The Australian Football League still names an All-Australian team anyway.

Group A

New Zealand compete after playing against a touring Maffra side, who play in the West Gippsland Latrobe Football League. The match played in Auckland on August 2nd. The final result for this match was a win for the Maffra side 13 goals 13 behinds 91 to 3 goals 1 behind 19.

2005 Japanese captain Michito Sakaki was the first non-Irish internationally based player to play at AFL level.

New Zealand have been grouped with Samoa, Japan and cup debutant India.

Group B

2002 and 2005 runners up Papua New Guinea are set to play a trial game in Coolongatta before heading off to the cup. "Unless Mal Michael's allowed to play, we've

got no height" says coach Andrew Cadzow. Michaels plays for the Brisbane lions in the AFL.

The Pease Team, a combined Israeli-Palstinian team, is a cup debutant. It is being sponsored by The Pratt Foundation.

"It's going to be a very interesting team," said foundation chief executive Sam Lipski. "Trying to get Palestinian, Arab and Israeli kids together to play football, it's quite an achievement."

Great Britain come off the AFL Great Britain Northern Grand Final between Newcastle Centurians and Middlesborough Hawks. The match being won by the Centurions 11 goals 15 behinds 81 to 4 goals 13 behinds 37.

Plans are also in the works for a National Championship between The Centurions and southern Champions, the Southampton Titans.

PNG, The Peace Team and Great Britain have been grouped with Narau.

Group C

2005 third place getters the United States are generally considered the bench mark of this group. However the Danes enter the competition off the back of the national grand final.

With the Olympics in Beijing this year, the Beijing Bombers will play a demonstration match in the Chinese capital during the games. The Bombers will supply players to the Chinese national team for the Cup.

China, the USA and Denmark are joined in the group by South Africa.

Group D

"We have Finland up first on August 27th and we are now totally focused on that game, but at the end of the day, you have to beat them all and we believe we are capable of doing just that," Canadas General Manager Martin Walter has commented in a recent interview.

The Canadians bring a mix of experience and youth to their third International Cup. They are being financially supported by Foraco Drilling, Quantec Geoscience and Laramide Resources Inc; three of Canada's multi-national mining companies.

"This has put the team into a strong financial position, and that allows us to bring the best football talent that the Ontario Australian Rules Football League and other Canadian leagues have to offer," Walter says.

Canada are joined by inaugural champions Ireland, Sweden and Finland.

Five killed in mid-air collision over Warwickshire, England

Five people have been killed when two light aircraft collided near to Coventry Airport in Warwickshire, England. One of the aircraft, a Cessna 402 carrying four people, crashed near Brandon Woods whilst the other, a smaller single engine aircraft with only the pilot on board crashed a mile away near to Coombe Abbey, Brinklow.

The crash occurred shortly after 11:30 BST this morning as both aircraft were returning to land at the airport.

The Cessna aircraft is owned by the RVL Group and was based at Coventry. All of those on-board were employed by the company

and were carrying out survey work for a private agency.

Colin Dennis, managing director of RVL Group, said, "Of the four people on board the aircraft, there were two males and two females. Three of them were highly-experienced full commercial pilots. Two people were operating the flight, and the third pilot was assisting in the back with survey work, with a highly skilled survey engineer."

"It's a very difficult time because we are a very small company, a family kind of company. It's an absolute tragedy that they should have been killed while doing this routine work."

Spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, Murray MacGregor, said that the ambulance crews met "quite a scene of devastation". "Sadly there was nothing that could be done other than the grim task of confirming the deaths of the five people", he said.

Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, and the Air Accident Investigation Branch have launched a joint investigation. The police have appealed for witnesses to contact them.

Beijing 2008: Michael Phelps wins eighth gold

American swimmer Michael Phelps, 23, has set a new record for the most gold medals won in one Olympic games by winning his eighth gold medal of the 2008 Olympic games, beating the previous world record of seven that was set by Mark Spitz in the 1972 Olympic Games, which took place in Munich, Germany.

Phelps' eighth medal was won in

the final of the men's 4 x 100m medley relay. In addition to Phelps, Aaron Piersol, Brendan Hansen, and Jason Lezak were in the winning Olympic team, which had a time of 3:29.34, which was a new world record. In seven of his eight races, Phelps set or contributed to a new world record time. He set an Olympic record time in the remaining race.

"With so many people saying it couldn't be done, all it takes is an imagination," said Phelps after realizing he had set the new medals record. "There are so many emotions going through my head and so much excitement. I kind of just want to see my mom."

"Without the help of my teammates this isn't possible," he continued. "I was able to be a part of three relays and we were able to put up a solid team effort and we came together as one unit. For the three Olympics I've been a part of, this is by far the closest men's team that we've ever had. I didn't know everybody coming into this Olympics, but I feel going out I know every single person very well. The team that we had is the difference."

Grant Hackett, an Australian swimmer, praised Phelps for achieving his goal. "Michael Phelps - you can't put it in words what he has done here, his level of achievement is phenomenal and I don't think it will ever be seen again."

Wikipedia Current Events
China, having won 8 gold medals in one day, overtakes their record (32 gold medals) at Athens and leads the medal table with 35 gold medals.
•Jamaica dominated the Athletics

Wikipedia Current Events
Women's 100 metres event with Shelly-Ann Fraser taking the gold and Sherone Simpson and Kerron Stewart taking the silver. Officially, no bronze medal was awarded as Simpson and Stewart finished with an equal time of 10.98 seconds in the second place.
•Swedish wrestler Ara Abrahamian is stripped of his bronze medal in the Men's 84kg Greco-Roman category after throwing the medal to the mat and leaving the medal ceremony in protest at the officiating of his semifinal match.
•Constantina Diță-Tomescu of Romania wins the Women's Marathon with a time of 2:26:44. At 38, she is the oldest woman to win the Olympic Marathon.
•American swimmer Michael Phelps wins gold as the butterfly leg of the winning Men's 4 x 100 metre medley relay team. With the relay victory, Phelps earns his eighth gold medal (5 individual, 3 relay), setting a record for most golds at an Olympic games, beating Mark Spitz's previous record of 7 set in 1972.
•The Australian Women's 4 x 100 metre relay team of Emily Seebohm, Leisel Jones, Jessicah Schipper and Libby Trickett wins the gold medal in world record time.

Today in History
1572 – French Wars of Religion: Marguerite de Valois was married to Huguenot King Henry of Navarre, in a supposed attempt to reconcile Protestants and Catholics.
1590 – John White, the governor of the Colony of Roanoke, returned from a supply trip to England and found his settlement deserted.

1868 – Astronomer Pierre Janssen discovered helium while analyzing the chromosphere of the sun during a total solar eclipse in Guntur, India.
1966 – Vietnam War: A company of the Royal Australian Regiment fought a much larger North Vietnamese unit at the Battle of Long Tan, defeating them the next day.
1989 – Leading Colombian presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galán was assassinated during a public demonstration in the town of Soacha, Cundinamarca.
August 18 is Long Tan Day in Australia

Quote of the Day
Oh, my Lolita, I have only words to play with! ~ Vladimir Nabokov in Lolita
Word of the Day
licit adj
1. Not forbidden by formal or informal rules.
2. (law) Explicitly sanctioned or authorized by law.

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