



Top Stories

ISS crew bypass faulty switch to power-up computers



NASA said on Friday that four out of six processors on two main computers on the International Space Station have been restarted, after all six processors lost power earlier in the week.

US prosecutor Mike Nifong to be disbarred for ethics violations



North Carolina attorney general Mike Nifong had his law license revoked Saturday by the North Carolina state bar due to ethics violations during the 2006 Duke University lacrosse case.

Featured story

Cockpit voice recorder retrieved from wreck of Kenya Airways Flight 507



A search team in Cameroon has found the cockpit voice recorder from the May 5 wreckage of Kenya Airways Flight 507.

Wikipedia Current Events

• Mike Nifong is disbarred in North Carolina for his role in the prosecution of the 2006 Duke University lacrosse case.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Police in Zimbabwe confiscate opposition leader Arthur Mutambara's passport as he tries to leave Johannesburg, South Africa for London, United Kingdom.
- The Chinese Ministry of Labour and Social Security undertakes an investigation into claims that up to 1,000 minors worked as slave labour in central China.
- US soldiers find the ID cards of two captured US soldiers. Iraqi insurgents previously released a video containing images of the IDs.

First Somali president Aden Abdulle Osman Daar dies

Aden Abdullah Osman Daar, the first President of Somalia died last week from natural causes in a Nairobi hospital. He was 99.

Born in 1908 in Beledweyne, Hiiraan region in the Italian Somaliland, Osman was elected as the first President of Somalia in 1960 and served till 1967, when he was he was defeated by Abdirashid Ali Shermarke.

He spent his later years in Janale in southern Somalia and in May 2007 it was erroneously reported that he died in a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. It was later clarified, however, that he was on life support, in critical condition, but had not yet died.

The Transitional Federal Government declared 21 days of

mourning and said that he would receive a state funeral. It also voted to rename Mogadishu International Airport after him.

Osman is survived by eight children.

US prosecutor Mike Nifong to be disbarred for ethics violations

North Carolina, United States attorney general Mike Nifong had his law license revoked Saturday, after a week of hearings by the North Carolina state bar. The hearing came after the state bar charged Nifong with ethics violations, and for breaking several rules of professional conduct, during the alleged 2006 Duke University lacrosse case. Additionally, Nifong was charged with making inappropriate statements to the media, and ignoring evidence in favor of the defendants.

Nifong said Friday he would resign, regardless of the outcome of the hearing. He would also not appeal any punishment imposed by the state bar, according to his attorney. Nifong charged three players, Dave Evans, Reade Seligmann and Collin Finnerty, with rape. North Carolina attorney general Roy Cooper later concluded that the three players were innocent.

Nifong was said to have made "multiple, egregious mistakes" as he pursued the charges, but not intentionally, according to his attorney .

Nifong said he regretted some of what he said, such as that he wouldn't allow Durham to become known for "a bunch of lacrosse players from Duke raping a black girl."

Attorneys for the players said they would seek charges for criminal contempt against Nifong.

"This matter has been a fiasco. There's no doubt about it," said state bar committee chairman F. Lane Williamson.

Cockpit voice recorder retrieved from wreck of Kenya Airways Flight 507

A search team has found the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) from the wreckage of Kenya Airways Flight 507. The plane, a Boeing 737-800, crashed in Cameroon on May 5, killing all 114 on board.

The aircraft's flight data recorder, which records details of what happened to the plane, had previously been located and analysed in Canada. Kenyan authorities had specifically requested that it had been analysed there instead of Europe or the United States, saying that this was preferable due to ongoing strained relations between Boeing and Airbus, and due to the bilingual nature of Canada helping to ease communication between Kenya and Cameroon. Preliminary analysis had found no evidence of mechanical failure. Kenya Airways CEO Titus Naikuni said as part of a statement that Cameroonian authorities were preparing to send the voice recorder to Canada also.

So far, the investigation has determined that after reaching an altitude of 3,000 feet shortly after take-off, the plane nose-dived sharply at 45 degrees for thus far undetermined reasons. The CVR

analysis is expected to help the investigation to progress as it will allow investigators to analyse the final conversations of the pilots both between themselves and with air traffic control. Authorities have warned that the investigation and final report may take over a year.

On Tuesday, Kenya Airways agreed on interim compensation payments of over 1.9 million shillings to the families of the crash victims.

Malaysian fans riot at delayed opening of Indian film

Angry fans of popular Indian film actor Rajinikanth rioted in 10 cinemas in Malaysia after the release of the actor's latest movie was delayed by technical problems.

The release of *Sivaji: The Boss* was supposed to occur simultaneously across southern India and Tamil-speaking parts of Malaysia on Thursday. But not enough prints of the film were available, so cinemas in Malaysia had to resort to trying to screen digital versions of the movie on equipment they were unfamiliar with, which led to the delays and glitches. Fans found the situation unacceptable.

According to a report in today's *New Straits Times*, the worst-hit in the mayhem was the Sri Intan Theatre in Klang, in Selangor state. Patrons had started lining up at 4 p.m. local time (0800 GMT), and waited five hours for the show to start.

Due to technical problems, it started late at 10:30 p.m., with tickets for both the 9 p.m. and midnight shows fully booked. Then, halfway through the film, at around 11:30 p.m., the screening was halted due to "technical problems", according to the cinema manager, and could not be

fixed.

The management announced that the show had to be cancelled and offered to refund the ticket money, but then the crowd became unhinged. Glass displays, lights and speakers were smashed. The screen and curtains were torn. Chairs were ripped apart, and wood panelling damaged. According to another local daily, *The Star*, angry fans even briefly set fire to the building, but it was quickly extinguished by cinema staff.

The Sri Intan has suspended screenings while repairs are made. Damage is been estimated at 70,000 Malaysian ringgit (about US\$20,000).

In Ipoh, about 125 miles (200 kilometres) north of Kuala Lumpur, police were summoned to control unruly crowds at the Sri Kinta cinema. A cinema manager was beaten by irate fans, and he was taken to the hospital with head injuries that required stitches.

Police were also called in at a cinema Penang, where patrons banged on ticket counters, demanding refunds and that the movie be shown. The first showing finally got under way after a three-hour delay.

Fistfights broke out at a cinema in Rawang, where fans threw bottles and smashed glass cases.

In Kuala Lumpur, the venerable Coliseum Theatre also had an unruly crowd.

"People grew impatient and started pushing, resulting in a broken glass panel at the counter. We only got the movie at 4:30 p.m. and started selling the tickets at 4:45 p.m.," theater owner Chua Seong

Siew was quoted as saying in the New Straits Times.

The movie distributor said the delay was due to not enough prints of the film being sent from AVM, the Chennai-based production company.

"Rain and delay in getting the digital password from India for security reasons to beat piracy were the primary reasons for the delay and cancellations. Because of the rain, our delivery was affected and as a result, there was a delay in the screening of the movie," S. Vel Paari, head of distributor Pyramid Saimira Theatre Chain, was quoted as saying by The Star.

Paari said he had ordered 53 copies of the film, but only got 42.

"The remaining 11 prints had to be downloaded through the Internet," he explained to The Star.

The film, *Sivaji: The Boss*, is a 185-minute cavalcade of action, romance and song-and-dance numbers, starring Rajinikanth, one of the most popular stars of Tamil cinema, which is also known as "Kollywood", the second-largest of the Indian film industry after the Hindi-language "Bollywood". Budgeted at US\$15 million, which is huge by Indian-industry standards, the film is said to be the most expensive yet made in India.

The film's flamboyant 57-year-old star, Rajinikanth, has a cult-like following in Tamil-speaking southern India, and tickets to the film have been sold out for weeks.

In Malaysia, about 10 percent of the population of 26 million are ethnic Indians, most of them Tamil.

US astronaut Sunita Williams breaks record

United States astronaut Sunita Williams, currently on board the International Space Station, has today broken the record for the the longest unbroken space flight by a woman. At 5:47 a.m. UTC Williams passed the previous record of 188 days and four hours set by Shannon Lucid in 1996.

This is not the only record Williams has broken. Earlier this year she set a record of 29 hours and 17 minutes for time spent by a woman on space walks.

In April 2007, Williams received much attention when she took part in the Boston Marathon on a treadmill whilst in orbit.

ISS crew bypass faulty switch to power-up computers

NASA said yesterday that four lanes (processing channels) out of six on the two navigational and support computers that had crashed earlier in the week on the International Space Station (ISS) were now operational and may be put back online today.

The two computers, the Russian Central Computer and Terminal Computer, each have three lanes of processing capability, although only one lane is required for operation. All three lanes on each computer had failed, but the ISS crew were able to restore two lanes on each computer.

Two processors, one from each of the computers, could not be restored and will be replaced.

"I think we're in good shape. We feel like the computers are stable and back to normal. We still have a lot of options to go through to recover these machines. We've got a talented group of people to look

at attitude control," said ISS Program Manager Mike Suffredini during a press conference on Friday.

Suffredini also said that the power levels to the computers were "just fine. We are in a very good position from a life-support perspective."

A power switch was bypassed by Russian astronauts Oleg Kotov and Fyodor Yurchikhin using a cable, which allowed at least four of the computers to re-boot. The computers are expected to be tested in the morning, after they have run overnight.

The navigation computers provide backup attitude control and orbital altitude adjustments. For now, the station's control moment gyroscopes are handling attitude control, with the shuttle's propulsion system providing backup.

It is not known what initially caused the computers to fail, but Russian engineers say that it could have been a problem with power supply.

"We have plenty of resources, so we have plenty of time to sort this out," said Suffredini on Thursday.

Today in History

1462 - Vlad III the Impaler of Wallachia attacked an Ottoman Empire camp at night in an attempt to assassinate Mehmed II.

1775 - American Revolutionary War: British forces took Bunker Hill outside of Boston.

1789 - French Revolution: The Third Estate of France declared itself the National Assembly.

1953 - In Berlin, the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and the Volkspolizei violently suppressed an uprising against the East

German government.
 1972 - Watergate scandal: Five men were arrested for stealing from the offices of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate complex.
 June 17 is Father's Day in several countries (2007); Icelandic National Day.

Quote of the Day

It's no use, says he. Force, hatred, history, all that. That's not life for men and women, insult and hatred. And everybody knows that it's the very opposite of that that is really life.

~ James Joyce in Ulysses

Word of the Day

nitpick; v

1. To pick nits (lice eggs) from someone's hair.
2. To correct minutiae or find fault in unimportant details.

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