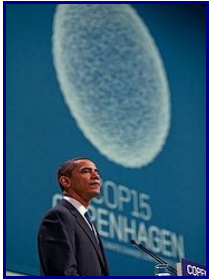




Lead Stories



Copenhagen climate conference ends with "meaningful agreement"

President of the United States Barack Obama has announced that wealthy and developing nations have reached what, he called a "meaningful agreement" at the UN Climate Change Conference. The announcement came in the final hours of two weeks of tough negotiations, but fell far short of what some had hoped for.



Man jailed for killing wife with remote control

A man from London, England has been sentenced to three years in prison after killing his wife by hitting her in the head with a television remote control.

Lead Stories



US East Coast prepares for blizzard

Although the Winter Solstice is not for another couple of days, a major blizzard, potentially the most severe in years, is currently affecting the US East Coast



Iraqi insurgents intercepted drone feeds using widely available software

United States defense officials acknowledged that Iraqi insurgents successfully intercepted live video feeds from U.S. MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles with widely available software.



Actress Jennifer Jones dies at age 90

Jennifer Jones, leading lady in

Lead Stories

two dozen Hollywood pictures and an Academy Award winner for her first major film, 1943's *The Song of Bernadette*, died Thursday at her home in Malibu, California

Current News

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Agreement came late in the evening and after a day of intense negotiations.

President Obama announced what he called a meaningful and unprecedented breakthrough. "For the first time in history all major economies have come together to accept their responsibility to take action to confront the threat of climate change," he said.

Current News

Negotiations stalled amid differences over mitigation efforts by cutting greenhouse gas emissions; verification; and funding.

That formed the core of discussions, said Mr. Obama. "Throughout the day we worked with many countries to establish a new consensus around these three points, a consensus that will serve as a foundation for global action to confront the threat of climate change for years to come," he said.

Obama sat down with the leaders of developing countries at a multilateral meeting with Chinese Premier [Wen Jiabao](#), Brazilian President [Lula da Silva](#), Indian Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#), and South African President [Jacob Zuma](#).

The agreement requires countries to list actions they will take to cut gas emissions by specific amounts and allows for verification.

Obama noted in his speech, "And that's where we agreed to list our national actions and commitments, to provide information on the implementation of these actions through national communications,

Current News

with international consultations and analysis under clearly defined guidelines." Obama also added that the leaders "agreed to set a mitigation target to limit warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius, and importantly, to take action to meet this objective consistent with science."

Lumumba Stanislaus Di-Aping, a Sudanese diplomat who acted on behalf of the [Group of 77](#) of developing nations blasted the agreement and the 2 degree mark stating to reporters, "The developed countries have decided that damage to developing countries is acceptable." On the 2-degree mark he stated the mark would "result in massive devastation to Africa and small island states." Mr. Di-Aping and various representatives of the most most vulnerable countries wanted a target of 1.5 degrees.

“Going forward we're going to have to build on the momentum that we've established here in Copenhagen to ensure that international action to significantly reduce emissions is sustained and sufficient over time. We've come a long way but we have much further to go.”

Current News

—US President Barack Obama
British Prime Minister [Gordon Brown](#) called it a good first step, but said a binding treaty must follow. German Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) also called it a first step and urged more action.

President Obama acknowledged that as well, saying this progress had not come easily, and alone is not enough. "Going forward we're going to have to build on the momentum that we've established here in Copenhagen to ensure that international action to significantly reduce emissions is sustained and sufficient over time. We've come a long way but we have much further to go," he said.

The agreement is a far cry from what environmentalists and developing nations had called for. They wanted a legally binding treaty with much more specific commitments.

Some environmental groups criticized the agreement. Kim Carstensen of the [World Wildlife Fund](#) spoke of a non-deal that is not fair and does not meet the demands of the developing world. "It's been cooked up by a number of big countries in a closed room, without any transparency,

Current News

without any civil society engagement in this building (the conference), without much engagement of the vulnerable countries," she said.

Climate talks are to continue. [Germany](#) is to call a meeting on the issue in the coming months and a climate change summit is also expected to be held in [Mexico](#) within the coming year.

Academy Award-winning actress Jennifer Jones dies at age 9

[Jennifer Jones](#), leading lady in two dozen Hollywood pictures and an Academy Award winner for her first major film, 1943's *[The Song of Bernadette](#)*, died Thursday at her home in [Malibu, California](#). She was 90.

Born Phyllis Lee Isley in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 2, 1919, her pursuit of fame as an actress took her to New York City at the age of 19, leaving for Hollywood one year later. She changed her name to Jennifer Jones while testing for a part in a [David O. Selznick](#) movie; in 1949, Selznick, who produced *[Gone with the Wind](#)*, would become her second and perhaps highest-profile

Current News

husband.

Jones broke into dramatic film roles in 1943 as the lead in *[The Song of Bernadette](#)*, a movie about a nun who saw visions of the Virgin Mary in Lourdes, France in 1858. She won an Academy Award for Best Actress for the role, and became a star well in-demand, earning Academy Award nominations the next three years in a row for the films *[Since You Went Away](#)*, *[Love Letters](#)* and *[Duel in the Sun](#)*.

Jones was a popular movie actress well into the 1950s. She starred as a Eurasian doctor, Han Suyin, in the 1955 film *[Love is a Many-Splendored Thing](#)*, earning her a fifth and final Academy Award nomination. After a well-received turn in a film adaptation of [Ernest Hemingway's](#) *[A Farewell to Arms](#)* in 1957, she started to take on fewer and fewer movie roles. She would make her final on-camera appearance in the 1974 disaster movie *[The Towering Inferno](#)*.

Jones was married three times and was survived by one of her three children, Robert Walker, Jr., from her first marriage to Robert Walker. She married for a third and final time in 1971 to

Current News

industrialist Norton Simon, six years after the death of her second husband David O. Selznick. The couple's collection of South Asian art, acquired while living in India, is now showcased in the [Norton Simon Museum](#) in [Pasadena, California](#). Jones was an active force behind the operations of the museum, serving as chairman from Simon's death in 1993 to 2003, and as trustee emeritus until her own death

Iraqi insurgents intercepted drone feeds using widely available software

[United States](#) defense officials acknowledged that [Iraqi](#) insurgents successfully intercepted live video feeds from U.S. [MQ-1 Predator](#) unmanned aerial vehicles with widely available software. The story broke on Thursday in the *[Wall Street Journal](#)* with a defense official, anonymously, informing them it is an old problem, which has already been fixed.

The *Journal* says U.S. military personnel in [Iraq](#) discovered the problem late last year when they seized a [Shi'ite](#) militant's laptop containing drone video feeds.

Current News

Senior defense and intelligence officials say insurgents were able to take advantage of an unprotected communications link in the systems of the remotely-piloted aircraft. The insurgents used software that is available online and costs about \$26.

While U.S. defense officials say the issue has been fixed, the *Journal* quoted senior intelligence officials as saying it was not yet clear if the problem had been completely resolved.

“It was developed to intercept music, photos, video, programs and other content that other users download from the Internet -- no military data or other commercial data, only free legal content.”

—Andrew Solonikov, SkyGrabber developer

U.S. officials say there is no evidence that militants had been able to take control of the drones. But the intercepted video feeds could show where the planes are operating.

The *Journal* also reported that U.S. drone feeds have also been intercepted in [Afghanistan](#).

Officials say the U.S. government

Current News

has known about a flaw in the drone communication system since the [NATO intervention in Bosnia](#) in the 1990s. At the time, the military assumed local adversaries would not know how to exploit it.

The report says fighters in Iraq used software programs such as one called "[SkyGrabber](#)" from the Russian company SkySoftware, which is designed to intercept data transmitted by satellite Internet.

The *Journal* quoted one of the program's developers, Andrew Solonikov, as saying it was designed to download legal content — such as music and video — and that it was never intended to intercept military data. Solonikov said in a email to the paper, "It was developed to intercept music, photos, video, programs and other content that other users download from the Internet — no military data or other commercial data, only free legal content.

London court jails man for killing wife with remote control

A man from [London, England](#) has been sentenced to three years in

Current News

prison after killing his wife by hitting her in the head with a television remote control. The trial was held in the [Old Bailey](#), a famous court in London.

“All he did was throw the remote control in her direction.”

—Jonathan Goldberg QC

The court heard how 46-year-old electrical engineer Paul Harvey was arguing with 48-year-old [American](#) wife Gloria Laguna on topics relating to the man's step-daughter's education and his former wife. At the time, both husband and wife had consumed alcohol and [cocaine](#). When Paul threw the remote control, which weighed 160 grams, at Gloria, neither were aware of the fact that Gloria suffered from an extremely rare health condition which meant that an artery in her neck was weak. The remote control hit the area, causing Gloria to have a large brain haemorrhage. Paul attempted to give his wife the kiss of life, however he was unsuccessful and she later died from her injuries. Paul pleaded guilty to manslaughter in March of this year.

Johnathan Goldberg [QC](#), who was

Current News

defending Paul Harvey, said: "All he did was throw the remote control in her direction. By a fluke chance, maybe the same as, in a different context, winning the lottery, it landed on the exact spot where she had a weakness. He loved this woman very much. She was obviously a very fine woman who gave up her work for him. He is deeply ashamed and remorseful at the death of his wife at his hand."

Prosecuting was Richard Whittam QC. He said: "It would only have required a trivial incident to cause her death."

When sentencing Mr. Harvey, Judge Giles Forrester spoke to him. "You killed your wife, who was rightly been described by your counsel as a fine woman," he said. "You have this streak of anger and violence within your character that does surface from time to time."

Major Earthquake Shakes Taiwan

Today, a 6.8-magnitude earthquake shakes Taiwan at about 21.02 local time or 13.02 UTC. The earthquake's epicenter was about 25km southeastern part of Hualien county under the

Current News

depth of 45.9km inside Pacific Ocean. The quake shakes buildings for about 20 seconds. Some damages are reported, including gas leaks, fire and people trapped in the elevator. Local TV news reported that some of the Hualien residences were injured by fallen rocks. Windows were blown out in Hualien and hotel guests were rushing to the street. The high-speed railway connecting Taipei to Kaoshiung has been suspended as a safety precaution. There are also some disruption in the telephone and internet line, with many of the US based server becomes unreachable, while some of the others need a long time to open. Taiwan Central Weather Bureau gives level 7 category, which is the highest and most destructive, for the earthquake around Hualien area and level 4 around the country's capital Taipei.

Sir Terry Wogan leaves BBC Radio 2 breakfast show

Sir [Terry Wogan](#) has presented his final BBC Radio 2 weekday breakfast show after hosting [Wake Up To Wogan](#) on the station for sixteen years. Wogan originally presented The Terry Wogan Show

Current News

on the radio station between 1972 and 1984, in which his supporters were "Twits" — the Terry Wogan is Tops Society. Since Wake Up To Wogan commenced in 1993, the listeners were referred to as TOGs — Terry's Old Geezers/Gals. Now, after presenting the weekday breakfast show regularly for 16 years, Terry Wogan has left.

He first announced his departure from the show in September of this year. After playing "That'll Do" by the [Black Dyke Mills Band](#), Wogan made his final speech at 0926 [GMT](#). He proclaimed these words: "This is it, then. This is the day I have been dreading — the inevitable morning when you and I come to the parting of the ways, the last Wake Up To Wogan.

"It wasn't always thus. For the first 12 years it was the plain old Terry Wogan Show and you were all Twits, the Terry Wogan is Tops Society. When I returned to the bosom of our family, it became Wake Up To Wogan and you all became TOGs, Terry's Old Geezers and Gals. It's always been a source of enormous pride to me that you have come together in my name, that you are proud to call yourself my

Current News

listeners, that you think of me as a friend, someone that you are close enough to laugh with, to poke fun at and occasionally, when the world seemed just a little too cruel, to shed a tear with. And the years together with you have not only been a pleasure but a privilege. You have allowed me to share your lives with you. When you tell me how important I have been in your lives it's very moving. You have been every bit as important in mine. We have been though at least a couple of generations together, for many of you — your children, like mine, now have children of their own. And your support for [Children In Need](#) has been consistent and magnificent. You've baked the bakes, you've held the quizzes, you've sold the calendars, you've packed the CDs and the DVDs. You've answered the phones — always there when we've called on you, unheralded and unsung. And if anybody embodies the generous, warm spirit of this country it's you, my listeners.

“I am going to miss the laughter and the fun of our mornings together.”

—Sir [Terry Wogan](#)

Current News

"I am not going to pretend that this is not a sad day — you can probably hear it in my voice. I am going to miss the laughter and the fun of our mornings together. I know you are going to welcome Chris Evans with the same generosity of spirit that you have always shown me. So, I am going to miss you, until we are together again in February, have a happy Christmas. Thank you, thank you for being my friend."

After this speech, he played "The Party's Over" by the late [Anthony Newley](#). Wogan will be replaced by [Chris Evans](#), who currently hosts [Chris Evans Drivetime](#) every weekday evening, in January 2010.

Students raise record amounts of money during Christmas fundraiser at Benet Academy, Illinois

Students at [Benet Academy](#) in [Lisle, Illinois, United States](#) raised record amounts of money this year during their Christmas Drive fundraiser.

The annual two-week event is aimed at promoting the [Christmas](#) spirit in helping the poor and needy. Coordination of the fundraiser is a joint effort by

Current News

the faculty and three students organizations—Student Government, [National Honor Society](#) (NHS), and Outreach. Donations from previous years have allowed Outreach to provide food and Christmas gifts to dozens of families during the holiday season. NHS in the past has provided blankets, winter gear, and toys to local families as well.

A semi-formal dance held on Dec. 5 kicked off the Christmas Drive this year. Two weeks of in-school fundraising efforts ensued, including several no-uniform days and [Benet's](#) traditional Penny

Wars. In that four-day activity, the four grade levels competed against each other to see who can collect the most pennies. Nickels, dimes, and quarters were allowed but had negative value in the class total. The seniors won this contest, allowing them to have a no-uniform day on Dec. 11. Other activities such as bake sales and a beard-growing contest raised money as well.

During an all-school assembly on Friday, the last day of the drive, Student Government President Kyle Marinko announced that preliminary calculations put the amount of donations at

Current News

US\$53,392.82, a record for the school. Last year's drive collected approximately US\$42,000. A final total has not been officially announced, since Student Government officials continue to count additional donations that have been received

Wikipedia Featured Article

Mary of Teck (1867–1953) was **Queen of the United Kingdom** and the **British Dominions** and **Empress of India** as the **consort** of King-Emperor **George V**. At the age of 24 she was betrothed to **Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale**, the heir to the British throne, but six weeks after the engagement was announced he unexpectedly died of **pneumonia**. The following year she became engaged to the new heir, **Albert Victor's** brother, **George**. As his queen consort from 1910, she supported her husband through **World War I**, his ill health, and major political changes arising from the **aftermath of the war** and the rise of **socialism** and **nationalism**. After **George's** death in 1936, her eldest son **Edward** became King-Emperor, but to her dismay he **abdicated** the same year in order to marry twice-divorced **American socialite** Mrs. **Wallis Simpson**. She supported her second son, **Albert**, who succeeded to the throne as **George VI**, until his death in 1952. She died the following year, at the beginning of the reign of her granddaughter, **Elizabeth II**. Queen **Mary** was known for setting the tone of the British Royal Family, as a model of regal formality and propriety, especially during state occasions

Quote of the Day

"Business!" cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

~ **Charles Dickens** ~
in
A Christmas Carol

Word of the Day

contiguous adj
Connected; touching; abutting.
Adjacent; neighbouring.
Connecting without a break.

Commons Picture of the Day

Graphomya eustolia fly of family muscidae. The fly was app 8mm long. Pictured in the **Uluguru Mountains, Tanzania**

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