



### Top Stories

#### Israeli soldiers landing in Baalbek

Israeli forces landed Wednesday near Baalbek in northeast Lebanon.

#### Fidel Castro temporarily hands power to his brother Raul

President Fidel Castro of Cuba has handed power, including over the military forces, to his brother and Vice President, Raul Castro ahead of scheduled intestinal surgery

### Featured story

#### Scientists crack age-old egg problem

Scientists in the UK have developed a new way to ensure boiled eggs are perfectly cooked thanks to a brand new hi-tech logo being printed on shells.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- Tropical Storm Chris forms east of the Lesser Antilles, prompting the issuance of tropical storm warnings for ten islands as well as tropical storm watches for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
- There is major outcry in Iran following death in torture of democracy activist Akbar Mohammadi in Evin Prison. Mohammadi was condemned to death for his role in the 1999 student protests at Tehran University. He had been on a hunger strike for more than a

### Wikipedia Current Events

week, protesting the refusal by the Islamic Regime to allow him to seek proper medical treatment for life threatening injuries suffered as a result of torture. Reportedly he was beaten severely by prison guards the night of his death.

- The Battle of Ayta al-Sha`b rages, with multiple Israeli casualties.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross have so far extracted 28 bodies from the rubble, 19 of whom are children, in the wake of Sunday's airstrike on Qana. Earlier reports by the Lebanese police reported double the current confirmed death toll, claiming at least 56 fatalities, including 37 children.

• Israel's Security Council approves expansion of ground offensive in Lebanon and rejects a cease-fire until an international peacekeeping force is in place.

• A political scandal involving the Parliamentary Secretary for the Japanese Trade Ministry, Satsuki Katayama, and Yamaha Motor Company, accused of illegally exporting a helicopter into China by the trade ministry, deepens.

#### Israeli bombardment spills 35,000 tons of heavy fuel oil

Resulting from the Israeli bombings of the Jiyeh power station, located on the coast 30 kilometers south of Beirut, Lebanon, approximately 35,000 tons of heavy fuel oil have spilled

into the Mediterranean Sea. The Lebanese Ministry of Environment expects additional tonnage to flow into the sea as a result of the damage. For comparison, the Exxon Valdez oil spill released nearly 40,000 tons.

According to Berj Hatjian from the Lebanon Ministry of Environment, "What we have here is equivalent to a tanker sinking, and 20,000 to 30,000 tonnes reaching the shoreline." Furthermore, several storage tanks caught fire due to the blast of the bombardment and continued to burn uncontrollably for 10 days after. Wind and water currents have spread the oil slick across 70-80 kilometers of Lebanon coastline.

The bombings occurred on the 13th and 15th of July, 2006.

#### Tropical Storm Chris Strenghtens

Tropical Storm Chris has formed in the Atlantic Ocean. Located at 18.3N, 61.6 W, or about 75 kilometers (45 miles) North-Northeast of Barbuda, and moving West-northwest at 20 Km/h (13mph). Chris has wind speeds of 95 Km/h (60mph), with tropical storm force winds extending 35 Km (25 m) from the center of circulation. Chris' most recent minimum barmetric pressure, measured by aircraft, was 1003mb (29.62 in). Chris is expected to produce total rainfall amounts of 3 to 5 inches over the northern Leeward Islands, the US Virgin Islands, and eastern portions of Puerto Rico, with possible

maximum amounts of 8 inches through Wednesday.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for the islands of Antigua, Barbuda, Anguilla, St. Kitts, Nevis, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Barthelemy, St. Martin, St. Maarten, Puerto Rico, and the US and British Virgin Islands. A Tropical Storm Warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected within the warning area within the next 12 to 24 hours.

### **2006 record heat wave moves across U.S. eastern seaboard**

The massive surge of hot air that has plagued the West and Midwest during last week has now moved over the eastern seaboard of the United States. Residents are bracing themselves for what could be record breaking temperatures.

Many cities are already struggling due to power outages from mid-July's Heat Wave, particularly some in the Queens and Staten Island in New York City. Consolidated Edison, the power supplier for the New York City area, has reported that many customers are still without power. They urge customers to lighten the load on power usage to help avoid further service interruption.

Baltimore, Washington D.C. and Philadelphia are all expecting highs to reach above 100°F. The National Weather Service has posted Excessive Heat Warnings for many of the cities in the eastern seaboard that do not normally experience this type of dangerously hot weather.

On Tuesday August 1, 2006 according to The Weather Channel, New York City will have a high temperature of 98°F in Central Park, however other areas in the New York City area are expected

to rise above 100°F. Philadelphia will reach 100°F, Washington D.C. will have a high of 101°F and Baltimore and Richmond may see temperatures rise above the 100 mark. To exacerbate the situation, heat indices are expected to reach well over the 110s for much of the east coast due to high humidity levels.

An Air Stagnation Advisory has also been issued for much of the urban areas on the eastern seaboard and "BosWash", as rain is expected to be very minimal through Thursday. Many residents say this heat is unheard of as temperatures are expected to be higher than that of Florida and some parts of Texas, where it is typically hotter. The oppressive and dangerously high temperatures will remain this way well into Thursday afternoon, according to meteorologists, when a cool front is expected to move in and provide much needed relief.

### **Scientists crack age-old egg problem**

Scientists in the UK have developed a new way to ensure boiled eggs are perfectly cooked thanks to a brand new hi-tech logo being printed on shells.

After cooking starts, people will be able to see if their egg is soft, medium or hard-boiled with the help of a thermochromic print which appears in black ink on the egg's shell.

The eggs will be sold to consumers in the UK within the next few months. A spokeswoman for Lion Quality, the assurance scheme which came up with the idea, said: "We had a lot of inquiries from people which sparked an interest in the industry. We said OK, this is a big issue - people can't even boil an egg."

Gilly Beaumont, from B&H Colour Change, the company which created the logos, said: "We are still perfecting the technology, but we are very excited at the prospect of sorting a problem that has wound people up at breakfast time for decades."

The most successful way to cook an egg has baffled some of the greatest chefs in the past. In 1998, Delia Smith dedicated a whole episode of her How To Cook programme on the best way to boil an egg. And last year, a survey carried out by the magazine Waitrose Food Limited showed five top chefs all had different techniques.

### **North and South Korean border guards exchange fire**

North Korean and South Korean border guards exchanged fire yesterday across the border, the first such incident in about a year.

The exchange occurred on July 31, 2006 at sundown, when North Korean soldiers fired two shots at a South Korean guard post in the eastern Korean de-militarised zone, according to Major Kim Tae-hoon of the Joint Chiefs of Staff office.

South Korean soldiers quickly fired 6 rounds back at the North Koreans. No casualties or injuries have been reported.

North Korea (DPRK) and South Korea are technically at war since the Korean War as no peace treaty has been signed between them. The United Nations Military Armistice Commission, which supervises the armistice that stopped major hostilities during the Korean War, will investigate the event and ask the North Koreans for an explanation.

## New Zealand suicide rate decreases

A new report released by the New Zealand Ministry of Health titled "Suicide Trends" shows that the suicide rate in New Zealand has decreased 15% since its peak in the late 1990's, but the attempted suicide rate is increasing.

There were 12 deaths per 100,000 people between 1983-'85. 16.7 deaths per 100,000 people between 1996-'98. And 14.2 deaths per 100,000 people between 2001-'03. But there were 73.1 attempted suicides per 100,000 people between 1995-'97 compared to 82.5 in 2002-'04.

Jim Anderton, Associate Health Minister, said "It provides some comfort to see the long-term trend still appears to be heading in the right direction, with a continued decline or levelling off of self-inflicted deaths but there is no room for complacency."

The suicide report also shows that:

- The 25- to 34-year-old age group has the highest suicide rate.
- Between 2000-'03 Maori has the highest suicide rate
- Men were less likely than woman to go to hospital for attempted suicide because more men died from suicide.

The New Zealand Government has put NZ\$10.3 million towards direct suicide prevention. New Zealand News agencies are banned by law from reporting suicide deaths.

## Heat gets worse in Canada

Extreme heat alerts have been issued in Hamilton and in Toronto.

Temperatures are expected to go into the mid 30s C (80-90s F) with the humidex expected to reach

into the high 40s C (117-120 F).

Smoggy air is expected to move into the Toronto-area on Tuesday from the Windsor to London corridor, where a smog alert was also in place on Monday.

The heat has been compounded by severe storms over the weekend in southwestern Ontario and the Peterborough area.

Almost 31,000 residences were without power for a couple of hours in Peterborough County after a storm was in the area, uprooting trees and knocking down hydro poles. It also tore a roof off a house.

The City of Toronto opens public cooling stations at the East York Civic Centre, Etobicoke Civic Centre, North York Civic Centre and Metro Hall.

Toronto set a new record for any date when the overnight temperature did not go lower than 27 C (aprox. 84 F) overnight, besting the record of 26.5 set in 1999. The daytime humidex hit 47 C (aprox. 117 F) by mid-day and was expected to go slightly higher in the afternoon.

## Fidel Castro temporarily hands power to his brother Raul

President Fidel Castro of Cuba has temporarily handed duties, including command of the military forces, to his brother, Raúl Castro. Fidel Castro is undergoing intestinal surgery for gastrointestinal bleeding, and is temporarily unable to govern. 75-year-old Raúl Castro has been the Vice-President of Cuba and number two in the Communist Party of Cuba. Fidel Castro is 79 years old and has ruled since the 1959 revolution.

The power change was reported on Cuban television Monday night by Carlos Balenciago, Castro's secretary. According to the letter of Castro's that he read, the reason for the operation was stress and the President of Cuba will need to spend several weeks in bed.

Over 70% of Cuba's population was born after Castro's rise to power, who has served as president ever since. It is unknown how the population will react to such an unexpected change. However, a recently signed White House bill has allocated \$30 million US dollars for the transition to a new Cuban regime in the case of just such an event.

## Today in History

- 216 BC - Second Punic War: Carthaginian forces led by Hannibal (bust pictured) destroyed a Roman army at the Battle of Cannae.
- 1870 - Tower Subway, the world's first underground tube railway, opened in London.
- 1903 - The Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization and Bulgarians in the Ottoman Empire carried out the Ilinden Uprising.
- 1934 - Adolf Hitler became Führer of Nazi Germany.
- 1990 - Iraq invaded Kuwait, triggering the Gulf War.

## Quote of the Day

"Ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have." ~ James Baldwin

## Word of the Day

infix; n

1. (linguistics) A morpheme inserted in the body of a word.

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