



Top Stories



Adventurer Sir Edmund Hillary dies aged 88

Canupa Gluha Mani speaks about Lakota Oyate, Lakota freedom

Wikinews interviewed Canupa Gluha Mani, a longtime activist and the central figure of the Lakota movement, about the movement and Lakota Oyate.



Featured story

John McCain and Hillary Clinton win New Hampshire primaries



According to media reports, John McCain has won the New Hampshire primary for the Republicans in the 2008 Presidential race. "I hate to use the word kid, but I think we showed the people of this country what a real

Featured story

comeback looks like." New York Senator Hillary Clinton has won the New Hampshire Primary.

Wikipedia Current Events

Operation Emmanuel: Colombian hostages Clara Rojas and Consuelo González, held by FARC guerrillas since 2002 and 2001, are released.

- Lithuanian Railways finalizes plans for a high-speed rail link to join Kaunas with Vilnius, which if successful could be upgraded connect Vilnius to Klaipeda.

- U.S. President George W. Bush says Israel should return its pre-1967 borders to enable the establishment of a Palestinian state.

- Governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson withdraws his candidacy.

- Former presidential candidate John Kerry endorses Illinois Senator Barack Obama.

- Congressman Dennis Kucinich calls for a recount in the New Hampshire primary, citing "unexplained disparities between hand-counted ballots and machine-counted ballots."

- Republican candidates debate in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Sir Edmund Hillary dead at 88

New Zealand mountain-climber Sir Edmund Hillary died today at age 88 at the Auckland City Hospital at 9am NZDT (UTC+13).

Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first two to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the tallest mountain on earth. Mr Norgay and Sir Hillary reached the summit in 1953, after many previously failed attempts. Sir Hillary and Mr Norgay participated separately in some of these attempts.

After summiting Everest, Sir Hillary was, among other recognition, made a Knight Commander of Order of the British Empire and inducted into the Order of New Zealand. He was made an honorary citizen of Nepal in 2003 for his humanitarian work for the people of Nepal.

Sir Hillary's death has been noted by the placement of flags at half-mast at the New Zealand parliament and at Scott Base in Antarctica.

Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand, said Sir Edmund was not just another New Zealander like he had wanted to believe but, "a colossus."

Ms. Clark said, "He was an heroic figure who not only 'knocked off' Everest but lived a life of determination, humility and generosity."

Hillary was in the hospital at the time of his death but was expected to come home that day according to his family.

"The legendary mountaineer, adventurer, and philanthropist is

the best-known New Zealander ever to have lived. But most of all he was a quintessential Kiwi. He was ours - from his craggy appearance and laconic style to his directness and honesty. All New Zealanders will deeply mourn his passing," Ms. Clark said.

A state funeral will be held for Hillary following an offer from the New Zealand Government.

He was born Edmund Percival Hillary on July 20, 1919. His first wife, Louise, and one of their three children, Belinda, died in a plane crash in 1975 while helping with Hillary's philanthropic work. Sir Hillary is survived by his second wife, Lady June Mulgrew, and the other children from his first marriage, Peter and Sarah.

At least 24 killed in suicide bombing in Pakistan

At least 24 people were killed and more than 60 were injured when a suicide bomber struck outside a courthouse in the Pakistani city Lahore. The bombing took place at approximately 0700 UTC (1200 local time)

Lahore Police Chief Malik Iqbal says the bombing was aiming at police deployed outside the Lahore courthouse Thursday preparing for an anti-government protest by lawyers.

"This was a suicide attack and the police on duty were the target," he said.

Local television footage showed a chaotic scene outside the courthouse, with the road littered with the dead and injured.

Pakistan has suffered from a wave of bomb attacks in recent months, mostly against the security forces. Hundreds of people have been

killed. The government blames Islamic militants linked to al-Qaeda for the attacks.

Two weeks ago opposition leader and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in a bomb and gunfire attack as she left an election rally in Rawalpindi.

Police Chief Iqbal says security has been tightened, throughout Lahore, following the latest attack.

"A large number of police are deployed...and the entire police (are) under high security alert and a large number of policemen are spread out around Lahore.... And, we are enhancing the security of important personalities," he said.

However, Ayaz Amir, a political analyst, says the continuing violence, coupled with a deepening power crisis, is plunging the nation into chaos.

"It really means a greater slide into chaos. The government is losing its grip," Amir said. "It doesn't have its grip on anything... They don't have a grip on energy, the power cuts and they don't certainly have a grip on the suicide bombers or whoever is causing mayhem across the country. They don't have a grip on that."

President Pervez Musharraf declared a state of emergency last November and suspended the constitution. He says the extreme measures were necessary to curb rising violence by Islamic militants.

But opponents say his real motive was to dismiss judges who were getting ready to rule that his re-election as president had been illegal. Since then, the nation's lawyers have been among Mr. Musharraf's strongest critics.

The emergency was lifted in December and elections were scheduled for this month. But the three days of rioting that followed the Bhutto assassination prompted Mr. Musharraf to postpone the elections to February 18.

Hollywood "Mayor" Johnny Grant dead at 84

The death of longtime Los Angeles civic personality and honorary mayor Johnny Grant, who often presided at the installation of new stars at the Hollywood Walk of Fame, has been reported. He was 84.

Grant, who had lived at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, was found dead in his bed by members of his staff around 7:00pm Wednesday evening. Police say he died from a natural cause.

"He was supposed to appear at some kind of function and they checked on him and found he passed away on his bed," said LAPD spokesman, Officer Jason Lee.

Moderate earthquake strikes off the Oregon coast, US

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), a preliminary magnitude 6.4 earthquake has struck off the coast of Oregon in the United States.

The quake struck at 01:37 (UTC) and its epicenter was located 242 kilometers (151 miles) west, northwest of Barview. It registered at a depth of 10 k.m. (6.2 miles).

So far there are no reports of damage, injuries or deaths and no tsunami warning has been issued, but small waves could be locally generated by any possible landslides.

"The magnitude is such that a tsunami is not expected. However, in coastal areas of intense shaking, locally generated tsunamis can be triggered by underwater landslides," said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in a statement on its website. No further messages will be generated it adds.

Firefighters in Bandon report that they didn't even feel the temblor and police say that no one has yet called to report any quake related incidents. Bandon is also located within 150 miles of the quake's epicenter.

British troops may have received contaminated blood from American donors

Several British troops who received blood transfusions from American emergency front-line donors face the risk of infectious diseases such as AIDS, the Ministry of Defence confirmed, but said risk of infection was low.

Eighteen troops who fought and were wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq are being tested for HIV as well as Chagas, Hepatitis B, HTLV and Syphilis.

The British military says that the unscreened transfusions were needed to keep the troops alive when they were receiving emergency treatment for their wounds.

The U.S. says that all of the donors have since been found not to be infected with HIV or hepatitis B, but does say that the donors did not receive the proper testing that is required for donating blood.

"These 18 service personnel would almost certainly have died without receiving an emergency blood

transfusion at the front line. We are working with the appropriate health authorities to do all that we can to test and reassure the people involved. We continue to do all that we can to support them and their families through this uncertain time," said British Defense Minister, Derek Twigg.

Alabama father throws children in river

Lam Luong, a 37 year old shrimp fisherman from Irvington, Bayou La Batre, Alabama, United States, has confessed to throwing his four children off an 80 feet high bridge after a fight with his wife the day before. Police have charged Luong with 4 counts of capital murder.

Family members and friends told Fox News that the couple had been fighting over several things, including Luong's girlfriend, on Sunday evening and Monday morning. Luong later drove off with his four children, whom he reported missing to the police and claimed he had left them with his girlfriend who lives in a hotel. Police however became suspicious due to "holes in his story" and he later changed his story. The Associated Press say that the authorities believe that Dauphin Island Bridge is where Luong threw the four children, of which he was the biological father of three, into the water.

Initially the family had feared that Luong had traded his children to fund a drug habit. Luong's wife, Ngoc Phan, is at the family home which they shared with her mother. She was not available to comment to the media, but other family members said that they still have hope that the children are alive.

Police and other authorities are using divers, dogs and helicopters

to search for the bodies in a 100-square-mile area with a total of 70 people on the case. The search had to be called off on Wednesday due to fog. Luong is scheduled to appear in court on Thursday January 10, 2008.

Today in History

1787 – German-born British astronomer and composer William Herschel discovered the Uranian moons Oberon and Titania. They were later named by his son John after the King and the Queen of the Faeries from William Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, respectively.

1922 – Insulin was first administered to a human patient with diabetes at the Toronto General Hospital in Toronto, Canada.

1923 – Troops from France and Belgium invaded the Ruhr Area to force the German Weimar Republic to pay its reparation payments in the aftermath of World War I.

1964 – In a landmark report, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Leonidas Terry issued the warning that smoking may be hazardous for one's health, concluding that it has a causative role in lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and other illnesses.

1986 – The Gateway Bridge in Brisbane, Australia, at the time the longest prestressed concrete free cantilever bridge in the world, opened.

Quote of the Day

I do indeed disbelieve that we or any other mortal men can attain on a given day to absolutely incorrigible and unimprovable truth about such matters of fact as those with which religions deal. But I reject this dogmatic ideal not out of a perverse delight in intellectual instability. I am no lover of disorder and doubt as such. Rather do I fear to lose truth

by this pretension to possess it already wholly. ~ William James

Word of the Day

malodorous adj

1. Having a bad odor.

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