



Top Stories



Bush pledges support for Turkey after meeting with PM

Businessman Álvaro Colom wins Guatemalan Presidency



Álvaro Colom Caballeros has assumed the title of President-Elect

following the run off phase of a sometimes literally violent campaign season.

Featured story

Satanism: An interview with Church of Satan High Priest Peter Gilmore



Wikinews sat down with the High Priest of the Church of Satan, Peter Gilmore, who

has led Anton LaVey's congregation of Satanists since his passing.

Wikipedia Current Events

At least six people are killed as a Learjet 35 crashes into a residential district in São Paulo, Brazil.

•The Wall Street Journal reports

Wikipedia Current Events

that Charles Prince has resigned as the head of Citigroup to be replaced by former United States Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin.

- Former cricketer and leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Imran Khan escapes from house arrest.
- Lawyers prepare for a countrywide strike tomorrow.
- Guatemalan general elections are held to elect a new president.

Chad releases seven Europeans held in alleged kidnap plan

Earlier today, the government of Chad set free three French journalists and four Spanish flight attendants, who had been held since October 25. Chadian authorities had been investigating the role of the seven and 14 other suspects with regard to an attempt to fly 103 African children to Europe for placement with host families.

The release of the seven came as French President Nicolas Sarkozy arrived in Chad to hold talks on the case with Chadian officials. The lawyer for the seven, Jean-Bernard Padare, told Reuters that the seven were free to collect their belongings from the courthouse. "They are happy, they are free," said Padare. "It's the end."

A French charity, Zoe's Ark, had arranged for the 103 children to be flown out of Chad in an attempt to rescue them from the humanitarian crisis created as a

result of the neighbouring Darfur conflict. However, Chadian officials have since described the operation as "kidnapping" and "extortion", while the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees revealed that many of the children involved were not orphans.

According to Radio France, Eric Breteau, the founder of Zoe's Ark charity, spoke at a pretrial hearing in N'Djamena, Chad and stated that the seven released Europeans had not been involved with the charity's plans.

Ten other Europeans are still being held in Chad and are facing child abduction and fraud charges.

Hundreds detained under emergency rule in Pakistan

Hundreds of people were rounded up by security forces in Pakistan, one day after Pervez Musharraf declared emergency rule, effectively martial law. Scores of opposition figures were among those detained.

Javed Hashmi, a leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) party, the party of exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was arrested. "Musharraf's days are numbered. The time has come to end the political role of the army," he told reporters in Multan before being taken away by police. Nawaz Sharif said to an Indian news channel: "We have not witnessed such a grave situation in the 60 years of Pakistan's history."

Also arrested were pro-democracy

attorney, Munir Malik, and the leader of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Asma Jehangir. Both have been involved in protests against Musharraf in past years. Troops also arrested the staff of the Commission and began to close off and surround government buildings.

Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who recently returned home, addressed supporters in Karachi. "This is a situation worse than an emergency. The people of Pakistan will not accept this," Bhutto said.

On Saturday, Musharraf laid out his reasons for the emergency rule. "Please do not expect or demand your level of democracy, which you learned over a number of centuries. Please also do not demand or expect your number of civil rights, human rights or civil liberties ... Please give us time. For me and every Pakistani, Pakistan comes first," said Musharraf in a statement.

In a "charge sheet" levied against the judiciary, the government said: "... (T)here has been increasing interference by some members of the judiciary in government policy, adversely affecting economic growth, in particular," adding that there was "constant interference in executive functions."

The government further accused the judiciary of having "weakened the writ of the government, the police force ... been completely demoralised and ...fast losing its efficacy to fight terrorism, and intelligence agencies ... thwarted in their activities and prevented from pursuing terrorists."

Parliamentary elections may be delayed. The current Prime

Minister, Shaukat Aziz said, at a news conference, that the government is still committed to democracy, but "the government is deliberating on the election schedule."

"Now that we have emergency rule, parliament's term can be extended by one year," said Aziz. Pakistan was due to have a general election on January 15, 2008.

Meanwhile, the United States has said it will review the financial aid that is providing Pakistan. United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters, while in Jerusalem: "Obviously we are going to have to review the situation with aid, in part because we have to see what may be triggered by certain statutes."

The US has given an estimated US \$10 billion in aid to Pakistan since 2001, primarily for counter-terrorism. This year Pakistan is receiving about US\$700 million in assistance.

"We have to be very cognizant of the fact that some of the assistance that has been going directly to Pakistan is directly related to counter-terrorism missions. This is a complicated matter," Rice said. She also condemned the declaration of emergency rule, saying "it's highly regrettable that Pakistan's president has declared a state of martial law. The U.S. does not support extra constitutional measures."

US Senator Joe Biden, the chairperson on the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations agreed that a review is needed. "I'm not sure how much good that military aid we're giving him to fight the extremists is doing us

anyway," he said on television program, Face the Nation.

Tony Blair, special envoy for the Quartet on the Middle East said on Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer: "The sooner that we return to the pledges to restore democracy that were set out, the better. But it's a very, very difficult situation this indeed, and it's a situation that if it's not resolved in the right way, I think it's extremely worrying for the whole of the world, not just for Pakistan."

University of Maine may file lawsuit against My Chemical Romance

According to a University of Maine student government representative, the university may file a lawsuit against rock band My Chemical Romance due to a cancelled show.

The band cited health concerns for drummer Bob Bryar in the cancellation notification on Thursday, but played a show on the proceeding Friday. The cancellation reason is considered an 'act of God', and relieves both parties from any obligations.

"Unless it is truly due to sickness or injury of the band, we intend to seek full damages for breach of contract. When they played Friday night, I think that kind of voids an 'Act of God' claim," Derek Mitchell, the vice president of student entertainment said.

The lawsuit, if agreed upon by the General Student Senate, would seek \$20,500 for advertising, ticket sales, contractor fees, and cancellation fees.

Paula Radcliffe makes comeback and wins New York City marathon

In a comeback after two years of

inactivity due to stress fractures and becoming a mother, world record holder Paula Radcliffe from the United Kingdom has won the New York City marathon today. After leading the women's race almost all the way, she managed to shake off Ethiopian Gete Wami, who challenged her in the last mile. The men's race was also a duel, but Martin Lel from Kenya managed to repeat his victory over Abderrahim Goumri from Morocco from the London marathon last April.

Radcliffe, 33, said that she had to think of her baby to keep up her pace: "I just kept repeating to myself 'I love you Isla' to keep my rhythm going." The elite runner has now won all seven marathons she has competed in, and has qualified for the upcoming Beijing Olympics of 2008, where she will try to rectify the forfait from the 2004 summer Olympics in Athens.

Wami, who had just successfully defended her title in the Berlin marathon 5 weeks ago, still managed to take home the \$500000 prize for winning the World Marathon Majors, a contest that spanned major races over the last two years (New York City, Boston, Chicago, London and Berlin).

In an interview just after finishing, Radcliffe expressed her grief over Ryan Shay, who died yesterday during the U.S. men's marathon trials in Central Park, by calling it "a tragedy, and it puts everything into perspective." Apparently Shay had a preexistent large heart, and died from a massive heart attack.

Australia Votes 2007: Labor plan for home buyers

Kevin Rudd, Australia's Leader of the Opposition has promised a special home buyers' bank account

with tax concessions if Labor is elected on November 24.

Mr Rudd says \$64,000 could be saved by a couple on the average wage over five years. The plan would cost the Government \$600 million dollars.

The Housing Industry Association has welcomed the announcement but says it would be a start and would "avoid a stampede of first home buyers into the market."

Prime Minister John Howard is bracing himself for a possible Wednesday interest rate rise which may decide the election. Howard has defended the rumours, saying that some rise would be 'unavoidable'.

Peter Andren, Australian MP dies aged 61

Australian federal member of Calare, Peter Andren died on Saturday after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. He was aged 61.

Mr Andren who had held the seat since being elected in 1996 had previously announced his intention to run for the senate after his electorate was changed for the 2007 federal election. After Mr Andren was diagnosed with cancer in July, he announced that he would be retiring from politics at the election.

Mr Andren's 1996 campaign platform was based upon retaining services in regional Australia, particularly banking, health and telecommunications. Over the next 11 years, Mr Andren's primary vote grew and at the 2001 and 2004 elections was elected without preferences, achieving a majority primary vote.

In 2001, Mr Andren disagreed with

his electorate on refugees. The electorate supported the government's tough stance but Mr Andren could not support the government's border protection measures. Following this, a vicious letter-box campaign rose up saying "you might like Peter Andren ... but you won't like what he's got to say about keeping our borders safe".

Fellow NSW independent member, Tony Windsor said Mr Andren's stance on asylum seekers was just one sign of his compassion and strong belief in human rights.

Mr Windsor described Mr Andren as the "conscience" of parliament. "Peter Andren was a true representative of the people of the Calare electorate, a man of the highest integrity and the conscience of the Parliament," he said.

"He was subjected to vitriol from time to time within the Parliament over issues, but if he believed in something he stuck to it. He didn't compromise and I think that's a lasting legacy that Peter will leave."

Prime Minister John Howard said despite having a difference of opinion with Mr Andren on many issues, he had a lot of respect for him.

"I respected his skills as a local member," he said.

"Mr Andren and I frequently disagreed on major issues and he made no bones about that and I made no bones about it either but that didn't stop me respecting him and acknowledging the tremendous work he did for his electorate."

Labor leader Kevin Rudd described

Mr Andren as a true independent.

"Peter Andren will be a great loss to the Australian parliament," he said.

"He was a man of principle, a man of commitment, a man who was an absolute independent."

Leader of the Greens, Bob Brown said Mr Andren was an example of how a politician should be.

"He was an exemplar of representative politics for his electorate and the people of Calare kept returning him with a bigger and bigger majority," he said.

"[If] anybody ever asks me how a politician should be, I am going to say, 'Look at the record of Peter Andren'"

"He was a great Australian representative and he is a great loss to this country."

During his political career, Mr Andren fought the sale of Telstra, introduced a bill to allow MPs to opt-out of their generous superannuation schemes, opposed the Iraq war and campaigned on environmental issues.

Mr Andren was born at Gulargambone, near Dubbo in Western NSW in 1946. Before he entered politics Mr Andren worked as a teacher before moving into journalism. Mr Andren worked as a news producer in Sydney for the Seven and Nine networks, before moving back to regional NSW where he worked as the news editor for both Radio 2GZ and Prime Television.

Mr Andren is survived by his partner and two sons.

Today in History

1605 – The Gunpowder Plot: Thomas Knyvet arrested explosives expert Guy Fawkes and foiled Robert Catesby's plot to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London during the State Opening.

1688 – Glorious Revolution: Protestant Prince William of Orange landed at Brixham in Devon, on his way to depose his father-in-law King James II, the last Catholic monarch of England.
1838 – The collapse of the Federal Republic of Central America began with Nicaragua seceding from the union.

1872 – American Suffragette Susan B. Anthony voted in the U.S. presidential election for the first time in Rochester, New York. She was later fined US\$100 for her participation, which she never paid, and the government never pursued her for nonpayment.
1917 – St. Tikhon of Moscow was elected Patriarch of Moscow and of the Russian Orthodox Church.
November 05 is Guy Fawkes Night in the United Kingdom and some Commonwealth countries.

Quote of the Day

Remember, remember, the 5th of November
The Gunpowder Treason and plot;
I know of no reason why
Gunpowder Treason
Should ever be forgot.
~ Traditional rhyme for Guy Fawkes Night. ~

Word of the Day

- autochthonous; adj
1. Native to the place where found; indigenous.
 2. (geology) Buried in place, especially of a fossil preserved in its life position without disturbance or disarticulation.

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+1-866-653-4265
(toll-free in the U.S.)
+1-202-742-5918
(outside the U.S.)
+44-871-218-6397
(U.K. / Europe)

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