



Top Stories

Ship sinks off Djibouti, killing at least 109

A ship sank off the coast of Djibouti Thursday about 1 p.m. Eastern African Time (1000 UTC), killing 109 people. At least 20 more are reported missing. Reports say that 36 people are currently receiving medical care, and seven are in serious condition.

Thaksin departure doesn't signal end to Thai political crisis

Despite promising to step down before the new parliament convenes, caretaker Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is still embroiled in controversy. Opposition parties have stated they will not run in the by-elections on April 23.

Featured story

Photo Essay: Cherry Blossoms Bloom in DC



The Japanese Cherry Blossoms have again bloomed around the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., marking the beginning of spring for city residents and thousands of visitors. The accompanying annual National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the March 27, 1912 gift of 3,000 Japanese cherry trees to the city from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The Aligarh Riots between Hindus and Muslims enter its fourth day. At least 5 people have been killed in the rioting in the North Indian town of Aligarh so far.
- 3 protesters are wounded and 6 buildings are burned down in the fourth day of pro-Democracy protests in Bharatpur, Nepal against dictator King Gyanendra. CNN incorrectly reports that nine "communist rebels" were killed by government officials.
- The World Health Organization announces that the average life expectancy of Zimbabweans has declined to 37 years for men and 34 years for women.

Prisoners forced to be porters for military in Burma

The Burmese military is using forced labor in its fight against the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), an ethnic group fighting for self-determination. According to an escaped prisoner, they are being used as porters, carrying ammunition for use in battle.

Zaw Linn was one such prisoner, charged with destroying government property and sent to the Eain Sein prison for five years. He spent six months as a porter for the Light Infantry Battalion 250. He told the KHNA that he and 15 others had to carry ammunitions for the battalion without enough food and water to sustain them.

Two of the 15 porters were shot

dead while carrying ammunition near the Sha Daw Province of the Karenni State, after they were unable to travel anymore due to exhaustion, according to Linn.

"I heard the sound of shooting just behind us, but very afraid to turn around my head to have a look at the shooting," said Linn.

Linn said that he and the other porters were repeatedly threatened with beheading if they made an attempt to flee.

Linn, 22, was sentenced to Eain Sein, and forced to porter for frontline soldiers.

He also told KHNA, that some prisoners, whose time in prison is nearly finished, are still called out to be porters. One of the two killed during porter service was a person whose sentence had only three months remaining.

Linn escaped to Karenni Refugee Camp in mid-February this year. He escaped by taking a walking route between landmines set by KNPP and Burmese soldiers.

Honolulu man dies after fall into sewage-contaminated harbor

A Honolulu man who fell into the sewage-contaminated Ala Wai Yacht Harbor died Thursday night of a massive bacterial infection that caused the loss of one of his legs, septic shock, and ultimately organ failure.

Oliver Johnson, 34, a Honolulu mortgage broker, died between 9:15 and 9:30 p.m. Thursday (0715-0730 UTC Friday) when his family removed him from life support. On Friday, March 31, Johnson had apparently fallen into the waters of the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor, located at the mouth of the Ala Wai Canal on the western side of Waikiki.

At the time, the canal and surrounding beaches were contaminated by over 48 million gallons of untreated sewage. The extent to which the sewage spill contributed to Johnson's symptoms remains unclear.

Johnson earlier reported that he had fallen accidentally into the harbor, then later indicated that he had been involved in a fight on board a boat and had been pushed or thrown into the harbor waters. A security guard at Johnson's apartment reported that he was bloodied and soaking wet, and that he stumbled into the lobby and collapsed. Paramedics took Johnson to Straub Hospital where he was treated and released.

Johnson reported steadily worsening leg pain that weekend and was admitted to Queen's Hospital on Sunday with breathing difficulties. Doctors that night amputated his left leg above the knee to try to halt the spread of the infection, and Johnson was placed in a medically induced coma.

Initially suspecting that Johnson had contracted streptococcus-caused necrotizing fasciitis, doctors later found that Johnson had contracted three different bacteria, two of which, vibrio vulnificus and aeromonas hydrophila, have flesh-eating properties. Despite the

amputation, Johnson's condition steadily worsened to the point where doctors said that his other leg and left arm would also have needed to be amputated to save his life.

An autopsy performed by the Honolulu medical examiner's office reported that Johnson had suffered from massive organ failure caused by septic shock. The medical examiner noted that Johnson had a vulnificus infection on his foot and suffered from chronic alcoholic liver disease which may have contributed to the infection's taking hold.

The Honolulu Police Department has opened a third-degree assault case; with Johnson's death, homicide detectives are also investigating. State health officials are also investigating Johnson's illness.

Johnson's family has retained an attorney to investigate the causes surrounding his illness and death. It is not clear yet whether any legal action will be taken.

Men pose as police on Australian freeway, commit assault and robbery

New South Wales police have arrested and charged a man after an attack on the Sydney-Newcastle Freeway (F3) north of Sydney.

Police allege that on March 25, 2006 at around 11:20PM, a 22-year-old man was pulled over by three men posing as policemen on the F3 freeway on the New South Wales Central Coast. He was assaulted by one of the men and forced into the passenger seat of his car. During the seven-hour ordeal, he was raped and robbed. His bank card was taken and used

to withdraw cash from his bank account. The man was found by a passing driver at Canton Beach, where the group left him after the attack.

On Thursday, a 28-year-old man handed himself in to police at Toukley. He was arrested and questioned by detectives before being charged with robbery in company, aggravated kidnapping, and driving whilst disqualified.

Police are still searching for the other two men involved in the attack.

Australian provisional driver caught doing more than twice the speed limit

According to Police, a 22 year-old male provisional driver from Macquarie Fields in Sydney's West has been clocked doing 202 Kph (125 Mph) in a 110 Kph (68 Mph) speed zone. In New South Wales provisional drivers are limited to a maximum of 100 Kph (62 Mph) regardless of the actual road's limit.

The driver was detected by a highway patrol officer who was carrying out radar duties along the Hume Highway at Mittagong, South of Sydney.

Police also discovered after stopping the man that his driver's licence had already been suspended. He was subsequently charged with driving whilst suspended and dangerous speeding.

Electronic Frontier Foundation files motion to stop AT&T from forwarding Internet traffic to NSA

The California-based non-profit organization Electronic Frontier

Foundation (EFF) filed a brief on Wednesday claiming that AT&T has been illegally forwarding internet traffic directly to the National Security Agency.

The EFF has asked that the forwarding be stopped immediately. According to EFF staff attorney Kevin Bankston, "The evidence that we are filing supports our claim that AT&T is diverting Internet traffic into the hands of the NSA wholesale, in violation of federal wiretapping laws and the Fourth Amendment. More than just threatening individuals' privacy, AT&T's apparent choice to give the government secret, direct access to millions of ordinary Americans' Internet communications is a threat to the Constitution itself. We are asking the Court to put a stop to it now."

The motion was filed under seal allowing only the judge and litigants to view the complaint. The procedure allows AT&T five days to explain to the court their reasons for keeping the information from the public.

In the class action lawsuit, EFF is representing all AT&T residential customers nationwide.

Today in History

193: Septimius Severus was proclaimed Roman Emperor.

1865: Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union forces.

1940: Operation Weserübung: Germany invaded Denmark and Norway; Occupation of Denmark began.

1959: NASA announced the selection of the Mercury program astronauts.

1989: April 9 tragedy: An anti-Soviet demonstration in Tbilisi, Georgia was quashed by the Soviet army, resulting in 20 deaths and thousands of injured.

April 9 is Palm Sunday in Western Christianity (2006), Day of Valor in the Philippines.

Quote of the Day

"I'm sure we all agree that we ought to love one another, and I know there are people in the world who do not love their fellow human beings — and I hate people like that!" ~ Tom Lehrer

About Wikinews**License**

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Articles published in this Print edition were created by Wikinewsies.

To view a copy of this license, visit:
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>
or send a letter to

Creative Commons
543 Howard Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California, 94105, USA

Audio Wikinews

Audio Wikinews is a free non point-of-view news radio program recorded daily.

<http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Wikinews:Audio>

About Wikinews Print Edition

For more information about Wikinews Print Edition visit:
<http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Wikinews:Print>

About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.

Got news and no computer?**Call the Wikinews Hotline**

+1-866-653-4265
(toll-free in the U.S.)
+1-202-742-5918
(outside the U.S.)