Top Stories

Chris Benoit mystery editor confesses: claims "terrible coincidence"
The anonymous individual who wrote about Nancy Benoit's death hours before police discovered her body says the comment was a "terrible coincidence".

Former Japan Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa dies at 87
Former Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, serving from 1991 to 1993, died at his home in Tokyo yesterday at the age of 87.

Wikipedia Current Events

International Red Cross condemns Myanmar regime
In an unusual move, the ICRC publicly criticised Myanmar's military government for human rights abuses. The ICRC said private and confidential dialog with the Burmese government had not yielded results.

Shares in Blackstone Group fall below IPO price
Stock in the Blackstone Group, a major private equity founded by Peter G. Peterson and Stephen Schwarzman, has fallen below its initial public offering price of US$31.00.

Blackstone L.P. (NYSE symbol: BX) initially soared 13% after being offered on the New York Stock Exchange last week. However, lately the the stock has dropped to below US$30. The stock was issued to brokerages for US$31 a share.

Some fear that the so-called "Private Equity Boom" may be at its peak. Others attribute the falling price to recent discussions in Washington of closing, what critics call "loopholes," that allow such firms to pay capital gains tax instead of income tax.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Rebels unsuccessfully try to assassinate Guillaume Soro, Prime Minister of Ivory Coast, but kill three others in a rocket attack.
- British police defuse a bomb in Central London. A second bomb is found hours later.
- At least 13 people die in clashes between militants and Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The European Union revises its list of designated terrorist organizations, removing Anti-Imperialist Territorial Units, Unit for Revolutionary Proletarian Initiative, and Units for Proletarian Initiative while adding Revolutionary Struggle.
- After 16 years of existence, the National Football League announced that it would shut down its European operation known as NFL Europa with immediate effect.

Featured story

West Indies cricket team in England 2007 - 2nd Twenty20
England have beaten West Indies by five wickets in the second Twenty20 international of the West Indies tour of England at The Oval, London, England.

England's victory tied the two match series 1-1 after West Indies won the first Twenty20 yesterday.

Chris Gayle got the West Indies off to a good start with 61 runs off 37 balls, but the England bowlers and fielders restricted their score to 169-7 after 20 overs despite some big hits from Marlon Samuels.

In reply, England faltered, losing three wickets in 14 balls followed by the dismissal of Kevin Pietersen for 19. However Owais Shah scored 55 to help England past the target.

The tour now moves on to a series of three One-Day International matches starting on 1st July. Earlier in the tour, England won a four match Test series 3-0.

Cricket: 2007 Future Cup-2nd ODI
In the 2007 Future Cup, India beat South Africa by six wickets in the second One-Day International (ODI) held at the Civil Service Cricket Club Ground, Stormont, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The best of three series now stands level at 1-1 after South Africa's victory in the first ODI.

Sachin Tendulkar, in posting a score of 93, became the first batsman to score 15,000 runs in one day cricket.
NFL Europa ceases after 15 seasons

NFL has informed that their "farmer-league" NFL Europa has been discontinued after 15 seasons. Instead the NFL will focus on "the focus of its international business strategy to presenting the NFL to the widest possible global audience, including broader media visibility and the staging of international regular-season games". "The time is right to re-focus the NFL's strategy on initiatives with global impact, including worldwide media coverage of our sport and the staging of live regular-season NFL games," said Mark Waller, senior vice president of NFL International, to NFL.com

The NFL are focusing on the international market now. In October the owners passed a resolution to set up to two regular-season games in international stadiums per year. The first of these games are played on Wembley Stadium in London on October 28 when the Miami Dolphins and New York Giants meet.

In 2006 NFL Europa changed its name from NFL Europe to NFL Europa to focus more on the German and Dutch markets. When the NFL Europa shut down, it had 6 teams based in Holland and Germany. Hamburg Sea Devils won the last World Bowl (number 15) last Saturday.

EU bans all Indonesian airlines as well as several from Russia, Ukraine and Angola

The European Union banned all of Indonesia's air carriers yesterday, none of which presently operate services to Europe, as well as several from Russia, Ukraine and Angola. They are the latest additions to the already extensive list of air carriers banned in the EU. The ban is scheduled to come into effect on July 6. Just hours after the ban a Boeing 737 operated by one of the blacklisted airlines, TAAG Angola Airlines, crashed into a house during landing with at least six fatalities in Northern Angola.

Indonesia currently has 51 airlines, having grounded several and revoked the licences of others on June 25. The EU said that substandard maintenance and operation and a slow reaction by Indonesia to solve the problem were the main causes of the ban. EU holidaymakers who have booked flights with banned airlines via travel agents will be refunded for the services.

EU transport commissioner Jacques Barrot said of the ban "Once more, the EU blacklist will prove to be an essential tool not only to prevent unsafe airlines from flying to Europe and to inform passengers travelling worldwide, but also to make sure that airlines and civil aviation authorities take appropriate actions to improve safety."

Operations and safety editor at Flight International David Learmount commented that Indonesia, whose airline industry was deregulated the early 1990s, is one of a handful of cases where deregulation has lowered safety standards instead of improving them, saying of the move by the EU "Standards in aviation safety have been going up dramatically on a worldwide basis, but there are still places where they are [of the standards of] the 70s and 80s. In Indonesia the safety watchdog was told earlier this year to pull its socks up, but the EU is clearly convinced that it has not done so."

One unnamed EU official was reported by The Guardian to have described Indonesia's civil aviation authority as "not very reliable", referring to a lack of reaction to warnings of an imminent ban and requests that Indonesia reassured officials that the problem was being dealt with.

Indonesia has responded to the ban by saying that, according to information unseen by the EU, Indonesian safety standards are rising. Director-general of civil aviation at the Indonesian transport ministry Budhi Mulyawan Suyitno said that "Our data can show them that we have improved on every line," to Reuters The US had already downgraded Indonesia's safety rating earlier this year.

Also affected by the bans are Ukraine's Volare Aviation, while Russia has imposed bans on four of its airlines after consulting the EU and restricted six others, Bulgaria has revoked the licences of six cargo airlines and Moldova has banned eight airlines.

Meanwhile, Pakistan International Airlines, subject of a controversial EU ban earlier this year, had restrictions on some of it's aircraft lifted. The airline's fleet of Boeing 777s and some of their Boeing 747s and Airbus 310s will now be allowed back into European airspace.

The announcements come after three accidents involving Indonesian airliners - the New Year's Day crash of Adam Air Flight 574, which killed 102 people, the subsequent accident involving Adam Air Flight 172, which cracked in half on a hard landing but held together, preventing serious injury, and the March crash of state-run Garuda Indonesia.
Flight 200, which claimed 23 lives. All the accidents involved ageing Boeing 737 aircraft.

"Mrs. Dino" sentenced to one year in prison
Jo Hovind, wife of Kent Hovind, was sentenced to one year and one day in prison for 44 counts of evading bank reporting requirements. In November 2006 Jo was convicted of 44 counts and Kent was convicted of 58 counts, and both decided not to present a defense at trial.

Kent Hovind, self-styled as Dr. Dino despite lacking any degrees from accredited schools, is currently incarcerated at Federal Correctional Institution, Edgefield, and according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons is scheduled for release in July 2015. In addition to the prison time Jo Hovind, 51, was ordered to pay US$8,000 in fines and serve three years supervision when released from prison. In January 2007 Kent was ordered to pay US$640,000 in owed funds to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), pay prosecution's court costs of US$7,078, and serve three years parole once released.

Though the couple were indicted on these charges last summer in July 2006, they had a long history of tax protesting and running the Creation Science Evangelism Ministry without proper licensing. According to the IRS, Kent Hovind had never filed any income taxes with the agency.

Mrs. Hovind was found guilty in November on 44 counts of evading bank-reporting requirements. The same jury found her husband guilty on 58 federal counts, including failure to pay $845,000 in employee-related taxes. He was sentenced in January to 10 years in federal prison.

According to the Pensacola News Journal, Jo Hovind’s attorney, Jerry Barringer, plans to appeal the guilty verdict as well as the prison sentence.

Car bomb defused in central London
A car containing an large explosive device has been defused in the Haymarket, London. A second device was later found in a car park in Park Lane.

A car, a light metallic green Mercedes-Benz E Class saloon (produced 1984-1995), parked near the nightclub 'TigerTiger', contained petrol, gas cylinders and nails. Police described it as a "potentially viable explosive device".

Police carried out a controlled explosion at 02:00 BST and the car has been taken to a forensic explosives laboratory for further investigation.

Eyewitnesses saw the car driving "erratically" and colliding with bins before being abandoned. An ambulance crew in the area alerted police after seeing smoke inside the car.

Deputy Assistant Police Commissioner Peter Clarke said there could have been "significant injury or loss of life".

A meeting of COBRA, chaired by new Home Secretary Jacqui Smith was held about the incident.

Police say it is too early to tell who is behind the threat. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the country faces a "serious and continued security threat" and urged people to "be vigilant at all times".

Disruption has been caused to transport in the area with roads closed and bus routes diverted. Piccadilly Circus tube station has reopened after an earlier closure.

Police are reviewing major events to be held in London over the weekend.

CBS News has reported that a message appeared on the widely used jihadist Internet forum Al-Hesbah at 08:09 a.m. June 28, saying: "Today I say: Rejoice, by Allah, London shall be bombed." The message went on to mention the recently announced knighthood of Satanic Verses author Salman Rushdie.

Park Lane was closed to the public due to a suspicious car parked in the underground car park beneath Hyde Park. Police, who believed the two incidents to be linked, cordoned off Park Lane and Hyde Park to allow the bomb disposal unit access to the vehicle. The car was illegally parked on Cockspur Street and was towed to the pound on Park Lane, it was then discovered that the car contained an explosive device.

Former Japan Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa dies at 87
Former Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa died at his home in Tokyo yesterday at the age of 87.

He served as the prime minister of Japan from 1991 to 1993.

Miyazawa was born on October 8, 1919, in Fukuyama, Hiroshima Prefecture. He graduated from Tokyo Imperial University with a degree in law. He joined the Ministry of Finance in 1942, and in 1953, he was elected to the Diet of
In the 1970s and '80s, he held a number of positions in government, including Minister of International Trade and Industry in 1970-71, Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1974 to 1976, Director General of the Economic Planning Agency in 1977-78, and Chief Cabinet Secretary from 1984 to 1986.

He was Minister of Finance under Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in 1987, but resigned in 1988 amid the "Recruit" insider-trading scandal.

Elected prime minister in 1991 as a member of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party, he tried unsuccessfully to save the economy following the bursting of an asset-speculation "bubble" in the late 1980s, and also tried to push through political reform bills.

"A nation can be governed either by the rule of right or the rule of might. I will not stand by the rule of might. The position of prime minister should not be acquired by really trying to," he was once quoted as saying.

It was during a state dinner on January 8, 1992 that U.S. President George H. W. Bush vomited in Miyazawa's lap and then fainted. A new Japanese verb arose after incident: "bushu-suru" or "bushuru", meaning "to commit an instance of embarrassing public vomiting" or literally "to do a Bush."

Miyazawa stepped down as prime minister in June 1993 after a no-confidence motion against his Cabinet was submitted by opposition parties and approved by lower house of the Diet with the support of rival Liberal Democratic Party factions.

He subsequently served as finance minister in the Cabinets of Keizo Obuchi and Yoshiro Mori, who drafted him to rescue Japan from another financial crisis.

He retired as a legislator in October 2003 when he abandoned seeking re-election at the strong urging of then-prime minister Junichiro Koizumi.

**Chris Benoit mystery editor confesses: claims "terrible coincidence"**

The anonymous individual responsible for suggesting, 14 hours before police discovered the body, that WWE wrestler Chris Benoit's wife was dead is saying his/her comment was a "terrible coincidence."

In a post made at 12:26 AM EDT Friday morning to the talk page of a Wikinews article headlined as the "Death of Nancy Benoit rumour posted on Wikipedia hours prior to body being found", the user admitted to writing that Nancy Benoit was dead at the Wikipedia article page for Benoit came from information that was garnered from "rumors and speculation online." Freakishly, the post turned out to be true.

The IP Address of the individual making the apology was identical to that of the one who posted the Nancy Benoit rumor, a strong confirmation of the admission's authenticity. The lengthy apology was not signed, with the individual claiming, "I am just an everyday individual who posted a wrongful remark at the time that received so much attention because it turned out to actually happen."

Wikinews originally broke the story about the suspicious edit after receiving a tip from Wikipedia administrators. The fact the edit originated from a computer in Stamford, CT (the site of WWE headquarters) appears to be another coincidence.

The anonymous editor left a lengthy apology to the Wikimedia community, explaining, "I hope this puts an end to this speculation that someone knew about the tragedy before it was discovered."

Wikinews is continuing to follow the story, but the anonymous user has declined an interview.

Below is the full, unedited apology: "Hey everyone. I am here to talk about the wikipedia comment that was left by myself. I just want to say that it was an incredible coincidence. Last weekend, I had heard about Chris Benoit no showing Vengeance because of a family emergency, and I had heard rumors about why that was. I was reading rumors and speculation about this matter online, and one of them included that his wife may have passed away, and I did the wrong thing by posting it on wikipedia to spite there being no evidence. I posted my speculation on the situation at the time and I am deeply sorry about this, and I was just as shocked as everyone when I heard that this actually would happen in real life. It is one of those things that just turned into a huge coincidence. That night I found out that what I posted, ended up actually happening, a 1 in 10,000 chance of happening, or so I thought. I was beyond wrong for posting wrongful information, and I am sorry to everyone for this. I just want everyone to know it was stupid of me, and I will never do anything like this again. I just posted something that was at that time a piece of wrong unsourced information that is..."
typical on wikipedia, as it is done all the time.

Nonetheless, I feel incredibly bad for all the attention this got because of the fact that what I said turned out to be the truth. Like I said it was just a major coincidence, and I will never vandalize anything on wikipedia or post wrong information. I've learned from this experience. I just can't believe what I wrote was actually the case, I've remained stunned and saddened over it.

I wish not to reveal my identity so I can keep me and my family out of this since they have nothing to do with anything. I am not connected to WWE or Benoit at all in anyway. I am from Stamford as the IP address shows, and I am just an everyday individual who posted a wrongful remark at the time that received so much attention because it turned out to actually happen. I will say again I didn't know anything about the Benoit tragedy, it was a terrible coincidence that I never saw coming.

I hope this puts an end to this speculation that someone knew about the tragedy before it was discovered. It was just a rumor that I had heard about from other people online who were speculating what the family emergency Chris was attending to. I made a big mistake by posting this comment on his page, since all we had were what we thought was going on and nothing about what actually was going on yet, and sadly what happened turned out to be my speculation at the time. I assumed wiki would edit out my information, which they did, so that's why I didn't go back to edit it out myself.

I know I keep repeating it but I feel terrible about the mainstream coverage this has received, since it was only a huge coincidence and a terrible event that should of never happened. I am not sure how to react, as hearing about my message becoming a huge part of the Benoit slayings made me feel terrible as everyone believes that it is connected to the tragedy, but it was just an awful coincidence. That is all I have to say, I will never post anything here again unless it is pure fact, no spam nothing like that. Thank you, and let this end this chapter of the Benoit story, and hopefully one day we will find out why this tragedy ever actually happened.

**International Red Cross condemns Myanmar regime**

In a departure from its usual neutrality, the International Committee of the Red Cross today issued a statement condemning Myanmar's military State Peace and Development Council for human rights abuses.

The Geneva, Switzerland-based International Committee of the Red Cross, or ICRC, said the Myanmar junta is systematically causing thousands of people to suffer, especially along the border with Thailand, where government soldiers raid villages, destroy food supplies, force people from their homes and commit acts of violence, including murder and child abuse. Detainees, the ICRC said, were being forced to work on government projects or act as porters for the military.

The statement comes amidst other developments in Myanmar, where 51 detainees who were arrested in a crackdown on democracy demonstrations last month were released on Wednesday.

In Beijing yesterday, U.S. State Department officials held talks with representatives of Myanmar's military regime, with the U.S. issuing a "very pointed and very direct" demand that the junta release detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger said in a press release: "Despite repeated entreaties by the ICRC, the [Myanmar] authorities have consistently refused to enter into a serious discussion of these abuses with a view to putting a stop to them."

"The continuing deadlock with the authorities has led the ICRC to take the exceptional step of making its concerns public," Kellenberger continued. "The organization uses confidential and bilateral dialog as its preferred means of achieving results. However, this presupposes that parties to a conflict are willing to enter into a serious discussion and take into account the ICRC's recommendations. This has not been the case with the authorities of Myanmar and that is why the ICRC has decided to speak out publicly."

In March this year, the ICRC closed its offices in Yangon, Myanmar's former capital, after the organization's staff were prevented from visiting prisons or conducting independent field operations in the border areas.

The condemnation of Myanmar by the ICRC is the strongest since it denounced the 1994 Rwandan Genocide.

Separately in Beijing, U.S. and Myanmar officials met yesterday in the highest-level talks between the two countries since 2003.

The U.S. delegation was led by...
Assistant Secretary of State Eric John, who met with Myanmar Information Minister Kyaw San, Minister of Foreign Affairs Nyan Win and Culture Minister Khin Aung Myint.

One U.S. official, speaking to Agence France-Presse (AFP) on condition of anonymity, said the discussions were "very pointed and very direct."

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Tom Casey said the U.S. delegation demanded the release of Suu Kyi and other political detainees, but received no positive response from the Myanmar officials.

"I don't think we saw anything coming out of them that will indicate, unfortunately, that they have changed their basic opinions," Casey was quoted as saying by AFP. "We certainly did not hear that they were planning on releasing Aung San Suu Kyi or other political prisoners," he continued.

Long-standing U.S. diplomatic policy is to not meet with Myanmar leaders in their own country unless the U.S. officials are first allowed to visit Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won elections in 1990. The military, which has ruled Myanmar since 1962, never honored the results and has kept Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, under house arrest for most of the time since then.

Myanmar is also known as Burma, its former name under the British Empire. The military officially renamed the country Myanmar in 1989, but many countries and organizations, mostly those that refuse to recognize the military government, still refer to it as Burma.

51 detainees released, AIDS activist on hunger strike

In Yangon, also known as Rangoon, 51 NLD supporters who were detained last month in a crackdown on prayer vigils have been released, according to the NLD.

However Phyu Phyu Thin, an AIDS campaigner who was arrested on May 21 for organizing a prayer campaign for the release of Suu Kyi was not among those freed. While it isn't known where Phyu Phyu Thin is being held, the NLD says she has started a hunger strike.

"The NLD calls for the immediate release of Phyu Phyu Thin, who should receive health care from her family," NLD spokesman Myint Thein was quoted as saying by The Irrawaddy. "We [the NLD], together with her family, are seriously concerned about her health."

Phyu Phyu Thin began her hunger strike on June 19 and has been taking only liquids, Myint Thein told The Irrawaddy.

An outspoken critic, who has said the junta is understating the number of HIV and AIDS cases in Myanmar, Phyu Phyu Thin runs a small clinic that provides care and counseling to HIV/AIDS patients.

The U.S. State Department issued a statement on Wednesday, calling for Phyu Phyu Thin's release.

"The United States calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Phyu Phyu Thin [and] others recently detained while praying at pagodas," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in a statement.

Earlier, another NLD activist, Su Su Nway, was released for health reasons.

The release of the 51 activists coincided with a visit by United Nations envoy Radhika Coomaraswamy, special representative for children and armed conflict. She met acting prime minister Lieutenant-General Thein Sein on Wednesday morning in the new administrative capital, Naypyidaw. However, it wasn't known if the U.N. envoy had raised the issue of the detained activists.

**Lady Bird Johnson released from Austin hospital**

Former First Lady "Lady Bird" Johnson was released Thursday after a week at Seton Hospital after being admitted for tests because she was not feeling well. She is the widow of Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States from 1963 to 1969. She is best known for her conservation and beautification efforts involving wildflowers and roadsides.

As President Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird Johnson, criss-crossed States by road during the 1964 presidential campaign, she informed her husband of her feelings about the roadside junkyards they saw along the way. Inspired by her comments and enthusiasm from audiences, he observed "If it's beautifying they want, it's beautifying they'll get." Recognizing that "ours is an automobile society," the President did not want to curtail roads. He wanted to make roads the "highways to the enjoyment of nature and beauty." Lady Bird thought that her love of seeing Texas highways in spring had influenced her husband. She enjoyed the results of Texan...
wildflower conservation programs which began in the 1930s.

One of the most prominent results of the President's beauty initiative was the Highway Beautification Act of 1965. It created restrictions on billboards and junkyards. As expected, it had been controversial. When the House considered its version of the bill on October 7, the debate lasted into the early morning hours of October 8. A pointed but tongue-in-cheek amendment by Representative Robert Dole (R-Kan.) to strike out the term "Secretary of Commerce" wherever it appeared in the bill and insert the words "Lady Bird" lost by a voice vote. Saying, "Beauty belongs to all the people," the President signed the bill and gave the first pen to Lady Bird, along with a kiss on the cheek.

In 1982, she founded the National Wildflower Research Center to continue the mission of changing public attitudes toward native plants. In 1997 it was renamed the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

**Comprehensive immigration bill fails in United States Senate**

The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill backed by both United States President George W. Bush and Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy failed to receive enough cloture votes to overcome a possible filibuster and move on to a final vote in the United States Senate. The cloture vote was 53 votes against and 46 votes in favor; 60 votes are needed to invoke cloture in the Senate.

The large, complex bill was a compromise referred to as the "grand bargain" that would have made many changes to American immigration laws, including an expanded "guest worker" plan and a "path to citizenship" for immigrants currently residing illegally in America. The bill was largely drafted behind closed doors in negotiations between the White House and Senate leaders of both parties.

Proponents argued that the bill would have fixed enforcement problems with current immigration policy and that it was a reasonable compromise, while opponents charged that it amounted to an "illegal alien amnesty". Public opinion polls showed that the bill was unpopular among Americans surveyed, many of whom believed it would make things worse. According to Rasmussen Reports, only 22% of Americans favored the bill as of June 25.

"Bush wanted to do something good, but the Senate wouldn't let him. It's disappointing," Miguel Gonzalez told Reuters. Gonzales has been in the United States for five years.

**New pictures from Mars**

The space probe Mars Express has provided new pictures - with ground resolution of approximately 13 metres per pixel - of the Aeolis Mensae region.

This Martian area is currently subject of discussion for unexplained features. According to some theories, the shaping of the surface could be result also of aeolian, wind-erosion, glacial or other activities.

**Testing the theory of relativity on the existence of gravitational waves**

The European laser interferometer (VIRGO) is going to test the Albert Einstein's theory on the existence of gravitational waves. The VIRGO teams cooperates with the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory) in the US, and GEO 600 (German-UK Gravitation Wave Detector).

**CNN discontinues Pipeline service; will provide live video free**

CNN has shut down its CNN Pipeline service, just as it said it would in a May 25, 2007 announcement. The pay-service, which allowed news from the channel to be viewed online, will be offered at no charge to online viewers beginning July 2, 2007.

The service is currently closed, and is under construction so that the free service can be completed. Archive news videos are still available.

**Quote of the Day**

"If you would like to write, publish or edit articles, visit www.wikinews.org"
Love means to look at yourself  
The way one looks at distant things  
For you are only one thing among many.  
And whoever sees that way heals his heart,  
Without knowing it, from various ills —  
A bird and a tree say to him:  
Friend.  

~ Czesław Miłosz ~

**Word of the Day**

hortative; adj
1. Encouraging  
2. (grammar) Of a mood or class of imperative subjunctive moods of a verb for giving strong encouragement.