



Top Stories

Musharraf spokesperson denies resignation

The chief spokesperson for Pakistan's President Pervez



Musharraf denied the reports on Thursday that said the president would step down within days. Meanwhile, the ruling coalition

said that it intends to press forward with Musharraf's impeachment.

Olympic highlights: August 15, 2008

August 15, 2008 is the seventh main day of the 2008 Olympic games, Wikinews' article lists



some of the highlights. Visit the article to see the full medal

table, in addition to summaries of all the major events.

Ceasefire signed in Georgian-Russian conflict

The President of Georgia, Mikheil



Saakashvili had signed a ceasefire agreement today in the presence of United States (US) Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

An identical document, requiring the immediate withdrawal of all Russian forces from Georgian soil, was signed earlier this week, according to the New York Times, by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

Fire destroys fourth floor of hotel in Darlington, England

Guests at the King's Head Hotel



in Darlington, Northern England were evacuated in the early hours of Friday morning

as a fire broke out. The fire destroyed the fourth floor and the roof. No injuries have been reported.

Wikipedia Current Events

million Euro, \$420 million) aid to South Ossetia to help rebuild Tskhinvali 'leveled' during the Georgian 'lasting artillery shelling' of 7th and 8th of August.

•Russian soldiers continue to occupy Georgian towns.

Wikipedia Current Events

ETS Europe, part of the American owned Educational Testing Service, is sacked by the British government for bad failures in manipulating the UK Key Stage education tests. ETS agrees to repay some £35 million (USD70 million).

- The Nepalese Constituent Assembly elects former Maoist rebel Prachanda as the first Prime Minister of Nepal as a republic.
- Leftist former Catholic bishop Fernando Lugo is sworn in as the President of Paraguay ending 60 years of one-party rule.
- The former President of Chad, Hissene Habre, is sentenced, in absentia, to death by a Chadian court for a military assault on the capital.
- Russia threatens Poland with military consequences for allowing the United States of America to place defense missiles within its borders.
- Russia will provide 'at least' 10 billion Roubles (approx. 270

Sensitive Canadian document found on rainy streets

A sensitive Environment Canada document was found wet on an Ottawa street by someone who gave it to the CBC today.

The 131-page document was found on Castlefrank Road in Kanata, Ontario in a rain-stained, tire-marked brown envelope by a passerby.

The document which had the stamp Protected B on every page detailed various security vulnerabilities of the NEMISIS database which is used by officers to track and prosecute environmental law-breakers. If someone were able to shut the system down, or hack inside and delete or corrupt the information, it could affect the prosecution of the lawbreakers.

The database was unveiled in 1999 as the National Enforcement Management Information System and Intelligence System. However, on the document, it referred to the database as National Enforcement and Emergency Management Information System and Intelligence System, adding the

words "and Emergency" to the name.

Protection B documents are the second lowest grade of classified government documents. Environment Canada spokesperson Julie Hahn said they apply to letters of complaint, criticism or injury, research or scientific notes and findings that don't have any conclusion, and Treasury Board letters, agendas and minutes that don't deal with subjects of national interest.

Environment Minister John Baird has asked government officials how such documents that are supposed to be stored in "approved security cabinets" wound up on the street.

"I'm told two things: that it's neither classified nor secret and that it's stuff that could be available under access to information," Baird said.

Environment Canada spokeswoman Sujata Raisinghani told CBC News the department will look into the incident.

"We take document security seriously," she said, but refused to give any more details about how the papers came to be on a road.

Paul Dewar, an Ottawa New Democrat MP, said the combined security lapses raise serious questions about the government's ability to secure sensitive documents.

Dewar says that bureaucrats have complained to him that all documents by the Conservative government to the point that they can't share the information with their own colleagues, but when a government document has been found on the streets, the

government say that it wasn't particularly sensitive.

"This government is so consumed with control of information and secrecy yet they don't seem to be able to get the fundamentals right," Dewar said.

The incident is a reminiscent of two other incidents.

In March, a bundle of blueprints for a new headquarters for the military's counterterrorism unit were found stuffed in the trash on a downtown street.

In May, Maxime Bernier was forced to resign as Foreign Affairs minister after it became known that he left sensitive documents at the apartment of his then-girlfriend Julie Couillard who had ties to the Hells Angels biker gang.

Ukraine implements tougher rules on Russian navy

Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko issued a decree limiting the movement of Russian Black Sea Fleet in Ukrainian waters in response to its deployment in a blockade of Georgia's sea ports during the Russia-Georgia conflict. Ukraine has already before urged Russia to withdraw its troops from Georgia's territory. Last weekend Ukraine threatened to refuse the Russian vessels reentry to the Sevastopol naval base if they became involved in the conflict in Georgia.

The Russian fleet is based in Sevastopol on Ukraine's Crimea peninsula under an agreement signed between Russia and Ukraine. Under the terms of the decree, the Russian navy is compelled to obtain Ukrainian permission 72 hours in advance of the departure of any of its warships or aircraft. Ukraine's

foreign ministry would be empowered to demand a vessel leave Ukrainian territory if the Russians did not comply.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov described the Ukrainian move as reflecting "an obsessive desire to please NATO and join it." Russian deputy chief of General Staff, Anatoly Nogovitsyn, dismissed the decree as "nonsense" and said that the order would make Russia's Black Sea Fleet subordinate to the Ukrainian government. According to Russian RIA Novosti news agency, Yushchenko sent a proposal to Russia on Friday to draft a bilateral agreement on the Russian Black Sea fleet deployed in Ukraine.

The Russian fleet blocked several Ukrainian vessels in the Georgian port of Poti but within a couple of days they were released. Georgian Chief of Staff Serhiy Kirichenko said on Thursday that the presidential decree would be carried out, no matter what.

"Putin's next target will be Ukraine" said Richard Holbrooke, the expected future US Secretary of State, in a CNN interview.

'Bigfoot' hunters claim to have found corpse of mythical creature in Georgia, USA

During a press conference in Palo Alto, California, hunters of the mythical creature Bigfoot claimed to have found a corpse of the creature. Matt Whitton and Rick Dyer say that they were hunting for the creature in the forests of Northeastern Georgia in the United States when they came across the corpse of a one of the animals.

After finding the body, Whitton and Dyer allegedly took it home, where it is currently being stored in a freezer. Despite the possibility

of the historic find, they will not say where they found the body.

"We have no intentions of revealing the location. We want to protect this [creature]," stated Whitton during the press conference. He also mentioned that an autopsy is going to be conducted on the body.

The two men had earlier claimed that DNA evidence, photos and video would be presented during the conference, but only one photo was shown. Whitton states that all evidence will be provided once the autopsy, scheduled for next week, is completed.

The single photo shown at the conference portrays a blurred black figure in the distance. Whitton claims the creature was walking "parallel" to them as they hauled out the corpse. Another photo on Whitton's website www.searchingforbigfoot.com shows what is allegedly the corpse, decapitated and stuffed into a freezer.

Tom Biscardi, founder of the Great American Bigfoot Research Organization, joined Whitton and Dyer at the press conference. Biscardi has previously been caught in a hoax. In 2005, his organization claimed to have caught a live male Bigfoot.

Science website LiveScience, run by Imaginova, openly speculates that this is a hoax because of the involvement of Biscardi. It theorizes that this may be a marketing scheme to promote an upcoming film by Biscardi, entitled *Bigfoot Lives*.

At least one other person states that the group's pronouncement is a hoax. Jerry Parrino, owner of TheHorrorDome.com, a website

that sells Halloween costumes, was quoted as saying to Fox News that the photo appeared to resemble a costume that is being sold on his site.

"It definitely looks like our costume. This body has little to do with Bigfoot and everything to do with a Sasquatch costume that someone developed," stated Parrino.

Despite the claim, the Fish and Wildlife Reserve refuses to investigate the alleged discovery because it does not appear on an endangered species list in either the state of Georgia or the U.S..

Former Chadian leader receives death sentence

Hissen Habre, the former President of Chad, has received a death sentence for plotting to overthrow the Chadian government. He is currently in exile and is living in Senegal.

In addition, the head of Rally of Forces for Change, Timane Erdimi, was sentenced to death in absentia as well as 10 other individuals. Erdimi is related to the current President of Chad, Idriss Déby. 32 other people were penalized with hard labor.

The inquiry said that Habre's government was responsible for 40,000 politically motivated murders and 200,000 torture cases.

The trial, which began on Tuesday, lasted for three days. The individuals tried in the hearing, received no legal defence throughout the period. El Hadj Diouf, Habre's lawyer in Senegal, stated that "this is a manipulation ... I'm not taking this seriously." Habre is expected to be tried in Senegal per the request of

the African Union. The trial could potentially be years away, as no official date has been set.

Since being forced out of power in 1990, Habre has fought in a rebellion against the Chadian government along the eastern border of the country.

Ceasefire signed in Georgian-Russian conflict

The President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili had signed a ceasefire agreement today in the presence of United States (US) Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

An identical document, requiring the immediate withdrawal of all Russian forces from Georgian soil, is expected to be signed by Russia. Saakashvili stated that Georgia would "never, ever surrender" to Russia. The ceasefire document was originally drafted under the supervision of Nicolas Sarkozy, the President of France.

Saakashvili has stated that NATO had been "inviting Russian aggression" by rejecting Georgia's attempt to enter NATO back in April of this year. Meanwhile, in a report promptly denied by Russian officials, the Human Rights Watch said it had evidence that Russia attacked populated areas of Georgia with internationally banned cluster bombs.

Rice arrived in Georgia on Friday, and according to Saakashvili, the pair met for about five hours. Following the meeting, a press conference was held in which Saakashvili stated that he had in fact signed the accord. But he pointed out that "this is not a done deal. We need to do our utmost to deter such behavior in the future."

Rice has demanded that Russian forces withdraw from Georgia

immediately. The accord also provides protection for Georgia and a "reconstruction plan", as well as allowing certain concessions to Russia.

Russia advanced into the break-away province of South Ossetia on August 7 to aid the South Ossetian rebels who had been battling Georgian troops. On the 11th of August Russian troops advanced into Georgian home turf from their base in Abkhazia. Medvedev said that he had ordered Russian troops to begin leaving Georgia on August 11.

Fire destroys fourth floor of hotel in Darlington, England

Guests at a hotel in Northern England were evacuated in the early hours of this morning as a fire broke out, destroying the fourth floor and the roof. The upper floor of the King's Head Hotel in Darlington, County Durham was, at the height of the fire, engulfed by flames resulting in a large plume of smoke rising above the town.

Sixty-three guests were evacuated from the building whilst two were rescued by the fire service but it is not thought that anyone was injured.

Around sixty firefighters were involved in trying to bring the fire under control. Due to the danger of parts of the building collapsing they weren't able to fight the fire from within the hotel and instead broke holes in the roof and used a turntable ladder.

Several roads surrounding the hotel were closed and the adjacent Cornmill shopping centre was for a time threatened by the blaze.

Chief Inspector Paul Unsworth, of Durham Police praised the actions

of the hotel staff: "I'd like to congratulate the hotel staff - they did a marvellous job during the night. There were no casualties and they managed to account for everyone in the hotel."

A joint investigation between the local police and fire services has been launched but the cause of the fire is not expected to be known for several weeks.

Olympic highlights: August 15, 2008

August 15, 2008 is the 7th major day of the 2008 Olympic games, the below article lists some of the highlights.

Men's 200-meter individual medley

Michael Phelps won his sixth gold medal of the Beijing Olympics with a world-record time of 1:54.23 in the final of the men's 200m individual medley. The gold puts him one gold medal away from Mark Spitz's individual record of seven gold medals at a single Olympiad, set at the Munich Olympics in 1972. It was also his sixth world record, also one short of a single-Olympiad record set by Spitz as well.

Hungarian László Cseh won the silver medal with a time of 1:56.52, an European record. Cseh out-touched American Ryan Lochte, the bronze medal winner, by 0.01 seconds (1:56.53).

The previous world record time was 1:54.80, set by Phelps at the 2008 United States Olympic Trials in Omaha, Nebraska.

Men's 50m freestyle

In the first semifinal of the men's 50m freestyle, Cesar Cielo Filho set a new Olympic record with a time of 21.34 seconds, 0.12 seconds ahead of the previous

Olympic record and 0.06 seconds behind the current world record.

"It was a great race. The 50m is so fast and it was my best-ever race," said Filho after the race. 'I'm in lane four [in the final]. I'll just do my best and focus on my own race and will touch the wall with my best performance."

Women's 200m breaststroke

American Rebecca Soni net a new world record and won the gold medal in the final of the women's 200m breaststroke with a time of 2:20.22.

Leisel Jones, who was representing Australia, took the silver medal, while Sara Nordenstam finished in third place with a time of 2:23.02, less than one second behind Jones' time of 2:22.05.

Women's 75kg weightlifting

The Chinese Cao Lei set a new world record and won the gold medal women's 75kg weightlifting. Her score of 282 beat the competitor who took the silver medal by sixteen points.

"I was excited and overjoyed because I won the seventh gold medal for Chinese weightlifting," she said, after the event.

Men's individual pursuit

British Bradley Wiggins set a new Olympic record in qualifying round of the men's individual pursuit with a time of 4:15.031 and an average speed of 56.463 km/h.

Hayden Roulston, who was representing New Zealand, finished in second place, while Alexei Markov finished in third place with a time of 4:21.498.

Women's artistic gymnastics individual all-around

American Nastia Liukin won the

gold medal in the women's individual all-around in artistic gymnastics. She is the daughter of former Soviet Union gymnast Valeri Liukin, who won a gold medal at the Seoul Olympics in 1988. Her total score was 63.325: 15.025 in vault, 16.650 in uneven bars, 16.125 in balance beam and 15.525 in floor exercise. Her scores at balance beam and floor exercise were the top scores for the individual all-around competition.

Her American teammate, Shawn Johnson, won the silver medal with a total score of 62.725. Johnson had the top score in the vault, with a score of 15.875. Chinese gymnast Yang Yilin won the bronze medal with a total score of 61.925. Yang had the top score in the uneven bars, with a score of 16.725.

United States and Poland sign missile-defense deal angering Russia

In what seems to be the strongest reaction to the Russian invasion of Georgia, Poland agreed to place ten American interceptor missiles in a base in its territory. The deal, reached on Thursday, concluded almost two years of negotiations, so far delayed by Poland, reluctant to irritate its eastern neighbour. However, in view of the Russian offensive in Georgia, these concerns have been superceded.

The missiles, staffed with American personnel, are designed for defence against medium- and long-range ballistic missiles. In exchange for providing the base, Poland will get 96 latest-generation PAC-3 Patriot missiles for defence against aircraft and short-range missile attacks. Part of the deal obliges the United States to defend Poland in case of an attack, with greater speed than

normally required under NATO. "Poland wants to be in alliances where assistance comes in the very first hours of - knock on wood - any possible conflict" the Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said. "It is no good when assistance comes to dead people."

Russia reacted to the agreement with anger. According to the Associated Press, the Russian deputy chief of general staff stated that the deal exacerbated the Russia–United States relations and "cannot go unpunished."

According to Russian news agency Interfax, the agreement to accept a U.S. missile interceptor base exposes Poland to a Russian nuclear attack. Russian military doctrine sanctions the use of nuclear weapons against the countries that do not possess nuclear weapons themselves if they are allied with those having them, said Russian General Anatoly Nogovitsyn.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is reported to have cancelled a scheduled visit to Poland shortly after the deal was announced.

Musharraf spokesperson denies resignation

The chief spokesperson for Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf has denied reports that came out Thursday indicating that the president would step down within days. "I'm tired of saying there's no such thing," Rashid Quershi remarked, and called reports that Musharraf was seeking immunity "nonsense."

Meanwhile, Tariq Azim Khan, a former minister under Musharraf, has said that talks concerning the issue are taking place. "Talks are

under way and many people are interested that the issue is settled amicably without going into the impeachment of President Pervez Musharraf."

When the Associated Press asked if Musharraf was going to resign, Azim Khan replied that "there are people who are advising him to avoid confrontation, but I don't think he has made up his mind."

"It is at the moment that Pakistan cannot afford confrontation," Azim Khan said. "And it's obvious that the present government and President Musharraf cannot get along. So it is in the best interest of Pakistan that some way is found whereby this mode of confrontation can be changed or can be more conciliatory."

"Only a few people are still with [President Musharraf], and he only wants two things: indemnity ... and a piece of land." —Senior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan

"He is ready to resign but he is putting conditions like indemnity for the November 3 action," said an anonymous source within the coalition government to The Guardian. "Backdoor talks are still going on. Things have not yet been finalised. Let's see what happens."

Defence Minister Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar said the ruling coalition is determined to press forward with impeachment if Musharraf does not resign. "We have conveyed to them that the coalition is determined for impeachment, and if he wants to save himself, the best way is for him to quit."

Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, a senior minister in the government, said: "Only a few people are still with him and he only wants two things:

indemnity for the sins and crimes he committed in the past eight years, and a piece of land ... so he can live rest of his life there."

Swedish wrestler throws away Olympic bronze medal, leaves

Ara Abrahamian, an Armenian-born wrestler from Sweden, received a bronze medal in the 84kg class of Greco-Roman wrestling. During the award ceremony on Thursday, Abrahamian stepped down from the podium, took off his medal and dropped it onto the wrestling mat. He then angrily left and was later quoted as saying "I don't care about this medal. I wanted gold."

Abrahamian was upset about a decision in his semi-final loss to eventual gold medal winner Andrea Minguzzi from Italy. His coach, Leo Myllari, seemed to agree that he had been unfairly treated by the judges. "It's all politics," Myllari said, though he did not indicate if he was going to file an official protest.

"I don't care about this medal. I wanted gold."—Ara Abrahamian

Abrahamian participated in the bronze-medal bout, but only after friends pleaded with him. "I decided that I had come this far and didn't want to let them down, so I wrestled," said Abrahamian. "This will be my last match. I wanted to take gold, so I consider this Olympics a failure," the 33-year-old Swede said. Abrahamian won a silver medal back in the 2004 summer olympics in Athens.

"Certainly one can always question decisions made in the course of refereeing, but in sports it is appropriate to show sportsmanship and accept the results," said gold-winner Minguzzi, who was unhappy that

his celebration was spoiled.

The International Olympic Committee said there will be a disciplinary hearing.

Founder and CEO of Rockmount Ranchwear Jack Weil dies at age 107

Jack A. Weil, founder and CEO of Rockmount Ranch Wear died on August 13 at the age of 107 in Denver, Colorado. He was the oldest working CEO in the United States. He was also known as "Papa Jack".

He was born on March 28, 1901 in Evansville, Indiana. In 1946, Weil rented a space at 1626 Wazee Street in Denver and set about trying to create a fashionable yet practical identity for the western ranchers of the region.

Weil was well-known for coining the phrase "The West is not a place, it is a state of mind." He was the first person to put snaps on Western shirts, patented the saw-tooth pocket design seen on many Western shirts, and was credited with inventing the bolo tie.

In 2001, he told Associated Press, "I learned fast you can't sell to cowboys; they have no money. You have to appeal to the cowboy in everyone and sell to them."

Among his customers were Ronald Reagan, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton and Nicholas Cage. More recently, Rockmount shirts were worn by the late Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal in the 2005 Academy Award-nominated movie, *Brokeback Mountain*.

Weil's wife, Beatrice Baum, died in 1990, followed by his son Jack B. in January 2008.

"I never wanted to be the richest man in the cemetery," he told his grandson and current president of the family business.

Wikipedia Current Events

Georgian police left the town of Gori and neighbouring villages right after the hostilities in South Ossetia ended and the peace was brokered, says AP. 'The Russian troops had stopped the looting, restored order', while the locals interviewed by journalists say Russians are 'behaving well'.

- High Russian official names the way the anchor treats his guest in a breaking news on Fox a 'total shamelessness'. The journalist interrupts the story of a Ossetian-American girl and her mother accusing Micheil Saakashvili of the war, and announces commercial break before the two refugees have chance to continue.

- The U.S. Secretary of State has flown to Tbilisi for urgent talks to try to bring the Georgia's conflict with South Ossetia and Russia to an end.

- Turkish journalists near the border with South Ossetia came under attack by people Sky News supposes are either Russian soldiers or Ossetian militia.

- The President of the United States George W. Bush assures Georgia that it has US support stating the people of Georgia have chosen freedom and "we will not cast them aside."(USA Today) The president of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, said on Thursday that Russia's strike into Georgia should persuade NATO urgently to give Georgia and Ukraine membership of the alliance, Reuters reports. Baltic Business News.

Wikipedia Current Events

- However, the outcome of the conflict is characterized by many Western medias as a 'victory' of Russia, both in politics and warfare.
- Michael Phelps of the United States wins his sixth gold medal of the Beijing Olympics in the men's 200 metres individual medley setting a new world record.
- United States swimmers Rebecca Soni and Ryan Lochte win gold medals and set swimming world records in the women's 200-metre breaststroke and men's 200m backstroke respectively.
- Five people are arrested in Beijing after unfurling a "freeTibet" banner on the Central TV Tower, the highest building in Beijing.

Today in History

- 1777 – American Revolutionary War: The Americans led by General John Stark routed British and Brunswick troops under Friedrich Baum at the Battle of Bennington in Walloomsac, New York.
- 1896 – A group led by Skookum Jim Mason discovered gold near Dawson City, Yukon, Canada, setting off the Klondike Gold Rush.
- 1960 – Joseph Kittinger parachuted from a balloon over New Mexico at 102,800 feet (31,330 m), setting records for high-altitude jump, free-fall height, and fastest speed by a human without an aircraft.
- 1977 – Elvis Presley, "The King of Rock and Roll", was found dead on the floor of his bathroom. Although it was officially ruled as a fatal heart attack, many people have claimed to have seen Elvis alive since then.
- 1987 – Northwest Airlines Flight 255 crashed after takeoff in

Detroit, Michigan, USA, killing all of the crew and passengers except one.

August 16 is Raksha Bandhan (Hinduism, 2008); Tu B'Av (Judaism, 2008); Children's Day in Paraguay

Quote of the Day

It is fortunate to be of high birth, but it is no less so to be of such character that people do not care to know whether you are or are not. ~ Jean de La Bruyère

Word of the Day

pillage v

1. To loot or plunder by force, especially in time of war.

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