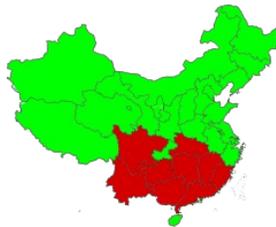




Top Stories

Scores dead, thousands flee as flooding spreads across southern China

Over 50 people have been confirmed dead and at least one million people have fled from their homes as a result of heavy flooding across much of Southern China.



UK drivers urged not to panic buy during delivery strikes

British drivers have been urged not to panic buy fuel because of the 4 day walk out by delivery drivers working for companies delivering to Shell petrol stations. Shell admitted that the walk out could leave some of its 1,000 forecourts without fuel.

Senior intelligence official suspended after leaving top secret files on train

A senior intelligence official in the United Kingdom has been suspended from his job pending an investigation into top secret documents that were left on a commuter train on Tuesday. The Cabinet Office confirmed that the documents, including reports on Al-Qaeda and Iraqi security forces, had been found on the train and handed in to the offices of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), who turned the files in to police.

SPECIAL REPORT

Temporary restraining order stops demolition of partially collapsed building in Buffalo, New York

In an exclusive report, Wikinews has learned that a restraining order won by area residents has temporarily stopped the emergency demolition of a three story building which partially collapsed on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 causing at least 15 homes to be evacuated in Buffalo, New York.



Credit: DragonFire1024 (CC-BY 2.5)

Wikipedia Current Events

August: Osage County wins the 62nd Tony Award for best play while In the Heights wins best musical.

- The American International Group, the world's largest insurance company removes Martin J. Sullivan as its CEO due to losses due to the subprime mortgage financial crisis.
- Tiger Woods and Rocco Mediate will play in an 18-hole playoff to determine the winner of the 2008 U.S. Open Golf Championship.
- Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr claims that he is developing a new force to fight United States forces in Iraq.
- The President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai warns the Taliban that he will send forces into

Wikipedia Current Events

Pakistan in hot pursuit of militants.

•More than 15 Taliban insurgents are killed as NATO and Afghan forces attempt to recapture the hundreds of prisoners who escaped following the Kandahar prison raid.

•The Prime Minister of Pakistan Yusuf Raza Gillani warns that Pakistan will not tolerate incursions in their borders.

•Heavy rains in southern China causes flooding with at least six people dead, 4 missing and 150,000 people evacuated from Guangdong and Guangxi provinces.

•Japanese rescue squads resume the search for missing people after the 2008 Iwate earthquake including seven people feared buried by a mudslide at a hot springs hotel in mountains outside the town of Kurihara, Miyagi.

•The constitution of Kosovo comes into effect.

Quebec man found not guilty in shooting death of Laval officer

After four days of deliberation, a jury found Basil Parasiris not guilty Friday in the shooting death of a Laval police Constable in March of 2007.

Laval police were executing a "no knock" warrant on Parasiris' Brossard home March 2, 2007, when Parasiris fatally shot officer Daniel Tessier, thinking he was an

invader in his home. The warrant was issued to investigate drug trafficking in the area. Only a small amount of cocaine and marijuana was found during the execution of the search warrant.

Parasiris still faces charges stemming from firearms that were in his possession. The .357 magnum revolver used during the shootout was licensed, but three other loaded firearms were not registered. Parasiris' attorney has indicated that he will plead guilty to those charges.

Nepal's royal palace now a public museum

Narayanhity Royal Palace, home to Nepal's kings for over a century, was today converted into a public museum, further signifying the country's recent transition from a monarchy to a republic.

At a brief ceremony, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala hoisted the national flag where previously only the royal flag had flown, and unveiled a plaque reading "Narayanhity National Museum". Proclaiming the museum as belonging to the people, Koirala said, "Today the son of a common people has hoisted the country's flag in this palace. Now Nepal has entered a new era."

Nepal's deposed king Gyanendra vacated the palace on Wednesday, after the newly elected Constituent Assembly voted to abolish the 239-year-old monarchy on May 28. He then moved to Nagarjuna Palace, a summer home on the outskirts of the capital Kathmandu, where he is now living as a civilian. However, this home is only a temporary one, and he will soon be asked by the government to leave it as well. "The world's eyes are on Nepal for

the unique example it created of proclaiming a republic without any bloodshed." —PM Girija Prasad Koirala

Prime Minister Koirala said he was glad the transition occurred peacefully. "The world's eyes are on Nepal for the unique example it created of proclaiming a republic without any bloodshed," he said. He also thanked the former king for "understanding the desire and expectation of the people by voluntarily moving out to live an exile-like life." Koirala also addressed the need to focus on more pressing issues, such as drafting a new constitution and choosing a new federal structure.

The process began around two years ago, when a national uprising forced the king to relinquish the absolute power he had installed and to reinstate the parliament. In late 2007, the parliament agreed to declare Nepal a republic, which was to be implemented after the April 2008 elections. The Maoists, who had been fighting against the monarchy for over 10 years, won the majority of seats, and the monarchy was officially ended in an overwhelming vote.

Despite the ceremony, Narayanhity National Museum is not yet open to the public. Nepali home minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula said, "After proper preparation, the palace will be opened to the public in two to three months." There are some differing opinions of what to do with the museum; Nepal's national library wants the museum to include a national archives of important documents, while others want to develop the museum into a major tourist attraction.

Officials say the museum will likely

include the king's crown, sceptre, and royal throne, as well as a 1939 Mercedes-Benz given to Gyanendra's grandfather by Adolf Hitler. "The car will be a major attraction there," said Govinda Kusum, a senior Home Ministry official. King Tribhuvan used to ride the Mercedes when there were no other cars in the country, and it currently lies on the palace grounds, after an engineering college in Kathmandu said they didn't have enough money to restore it.

Jenny Li and Thomas Dold win the 2008 Taipei 101 Run Up

Different from the past three years, 2008 the 4th-annual Taipei 101 Run Up was held earlier in the top half of 2008 today (June 15). Approximately 2,500 people, world-class runners, corporate teams and individual people, participated in the challenge to climb 2046 steps (390 meters height), 91 floors at this race. Chinese Taipei Road Running Association (CTRRA), the race organizer, set up the "ChampionChip" timing system and recruited several local volunteers for the floor service from vast industries.

"Sport volunteers have become a must-have trend in several world-class games such as Boston Marathon, New York City Marathon, Paris Marathon, and Asian Games, ..., etc. For example, since we [the CTRRA] started the initiation of volunteer recruitment on 2004 ING Taipei Marathon, a good practice of volunteer service was established and developed. I hope this practice can be devoted not only in this game, or not only in Taiwan." —Sunny Chen, Secretary General of Chinese Taipei Road Running Association

Australian cyclist Paul Crake was paralyzed from a spinal injury, suffered in New Zealand in 2006, and Austrian runner Andrea Mayr wasn't able to retain her title in this race, the state of Elite Group became more and more uncertain although several international media focused on competitions between Italian runner Marco De Gasperi and German runner Thomas Dold.

Finally, Thomas Dold defeated Marco De Gasperi by 46 seconds with a time of 10 min and 53 seconds in the Men's Elite Group, Taiwanese runner Jenny Hsiao-yu Li got her first title in Women's Elite Group with a time of 14 min and 53 seconds, and Taipei City Fire Department still retained their title in Enterprise Group in this race.

After the race, Jenny Li spoke to media about this race: "The re-arrangement of the race must be a critical factor to cause the actual strengths of elite runners changed rapidly. Not only did I, but some of [elite] runners also regressed on their score." In addition, Stephen M. Young, Director of the Taipei office of the American Institute in Taiwan, also commented this race to media: "When participating in this race, a regular mental condition should be developed. Don't think too much! Just do the best. If fully prepared, a great result will be accomplished."

Scores dead, thousands flee as flooding spreads across southern China

Over 50 people have been confirmed dead and at least one million people have fled from their homes as a result of heavy flooding across much of southern China.

In the Guangdong and Jiangxi

provinces alone, at least 6,000 homes have been submerged and destroyed by the flood.

Further rainfall is expected to occur throughout the next ten days.

The China Meteorological Association (CMA) has issued a warning on the situation. "Faced with the increasingly severe rain and flood situation, at 16 o'clock of June 12, Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters of Guangxi urgently started level 2 flood control emergency response and required the relevant departments and places to prepare immediately so as to ensure the work of flood control and drought relief," said the CMA in a statement released on Friday.

Western Australia gas crisis set to worsen

A blast at the Apache Energy plant on Varanus Island on June 3, 2008 cut off one-third of Western Australia's {WA} gas supply, Apache Energy says that it could take up to two months before the supply from Varanus Island gas plant will be partially resumed.

The gas crisis in Western Australia {WA} is set to worsen this week, "I think the most difficult times are ahead of us. I think this week will be very difficult and I think the following week will be very difficult, and I mean very difficult", The WA Premier Alan Carpenter said.

Temporary restraining order stops demolition of partially collapsed building in Buffalo, New York

Buffalo, New York – In an exclusive report, Wikinews has learned that a restraining order won by area residents has temporarily stopped the

emergency demolition of a three story building which partially collapsed on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 in Buffalo, New York. The collapse caused at least 15 homes surrounding the property to be evacuated

During the early afternoon hours on June 11, the Buffalo Fire Department was called to scene at 428 Jersey Avenue after residents called 9-1-1 stating that part of a building had collapsed. A large portion of a former livery and stable had collapsed into the yards of at least four houses that surround the stable. Some of the bricks landed inside the building, while some fell into the yards of some houses behind homes on Richmond Avenue, leaving a 'V' shape.

According to savethelivery.com, a website set up and dedicated to "saving part of this historic structure", the restraining order was granted on Saturday, forcing demolition crews to halt their work. The site also states that court papers will be filed on Monday in an attempt to hold the owner Bob Freudenheim responsible for the damage done to the building, and surrounding properties. The site states that Freudenheim has neglected the building for "the last twenty years."

"We are an outraged and responsibly concerned group of neighbors and citizens who have rallied to oppose the impending demolition of the historic White Brothers Livery and Boarding Stable at 428 Jersey Street, just west of Richmond Avenue," says the site's mission statement. They seek to evaluate all options to saving the building before demolishing it, find immediate support to stop any further

collapse, hold Freudenheim personally responsible for "endangering the public safety, and compensation of the city and neighbors for expenses incurred by being displaced from their homes." They also want the city to personally inspect any and all properties he owns and for him to surrender the stable to an interested party who would restore it.

"[We want Freudenheim held responsible] for endangering the public safety, and compensation of the city and neighbors for expenses incurred by being displaced from their homes."
—Residents

Freudenheim gave the city permission to demolish the building on Thursday June 12 during an emergency Preservation Board meeting, because he would not be "rehabilitating the building anytime soon." Freudenheim, along with his wife Nina, were part-owners of the Hotel Lenox at 140 North Street in Buffalo and were advocates to stop the Elmwood Village Hotel from being built on the corners of Forest and Elmwood Avenues in 2006 and 2007, which Wikinews extensively covered. They also financially supported a lawsuit in an attempt to stop the hotel from being built. Though it is not known exactly how long Freudenheim has owned the stable, Wikinews has learned that he was the owner while fighting to stop the hotel from being built.

According to city officials, Freudenheim is facing housing violations for neglecting the building. Residents state that Freudenheim should be "100% responsible" for his actions, and many are afraid that once the building is demolished,

Freudenheim's charges of neglect will be abolished.

Although a restraining order is in place, residents still fear that demolition crews will attempt to continue demolition. As a result, police have a permanent detail on location to make sure everyone including both protesters and residents, follow the law.

A rally is planned to take place today at 1:00 p.m. for anyone interested in saving the building.

Australian Government to pressure Asia to reduce fuel subsidies

The Australian Government is to lobby Asian countries to to reduce fuel subsidies and price caps in a bid to lower fuel prices, which the Government argues that fuel subsidies are artificially inflating fuel prices across the Asia-Pacific region.

Resources and Energy Minister, Martin Ferguson said that the Rudd Government don't want to be critical of countries which have used the subsidies to help promote development, however he said that "the challenge of dealing with energy subsidies in our region is a serious one".

Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Andrew Robb told Sky News Australia that "it was a bit presumptuous of Australia to be lecturing Asian countries".

"The best thing for us is to look at our own affairs in the first instance, that way you then have some credibility in lecturing others".

Hundreds of cyclists take part in 2008 London Naked Bike Ride

People in London yesterday were

surprised to see hundreds of cyclists in varying degrees of nakedness riding through the city as the annual London Naked Bike Ride took place, one of many other rides as part of World Naked Bike Ride. The ride was intended to protest against oil dependency and celebrate cycling and the human body.

The ride took a route past many well known landmarks in London, starting from Hyde Park Corner then going via locations including Trafalgar Square, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Covent Garden, Oxford Street, the United States embassy and returning to Hyde Park Corner, finishing at the Wellington Arch.

Described as a clothing-optional bike ride, participants ranged from being fully clothed to full nudity and were of a broad range of ages and ethnicities. Nudity is encouraged but is not mandatory.

Whilst public nudity in itself isn't illegal in the United Kingdom, indecent exposure is an offence where the person exposes their genitals and "intends that someone will see them and be caused alarm or distress" and as such participants were unlikely to be at risk of arrest. Police officers riding bikes worked to facilitate the passage of the cyclists through the city whilst minimising disruption.

WiMAX Forum: WiMAX usage anticipated to increase significantly over next four years

In the opening day of 2008 WiMAX Expo Taipei (June 2), WiMAX Forum and Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) held the "WiMAX Forum Operator Summit" for global WiMAX operators at Far Eastern Plaza Hotel to examine and forecast the opportunity of

WiMAX. In addition, WiMAX Forum released the "Executive Summary of the WiMAX Forum Global WiMAX Subscriber & User Forecast" during a press conference at Taipei Show Hall 2.

"With the maturity of WiMAX [industry and technology], we [the WiMAX Forum] predict that the utilization of WiMAX will reach over 133 million users globally by 2012, and regions from The Asia Pacific and North America will lead the market in total actual users. The number of global WiMAX users is expected to rise to 538 by 2012, and regions from Africa and Middle East will have the highest number of WiMAX operators in the future." —Ron Resnick, President of WiMAX Forum

Besides of the announcements and M-Taiwan Pavilion showcase, the WiMAX Forum Taiwan Chapter also held the "Open House of M-Taiwan WiMAX Application Lab" to demonstrate the R&D achievements in Hsinchu on June 3 - 4, driving more discussions between industrial businesspeople especially in Taiwan.

Australian Medical Association withdraws from NT Intervention

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) announced that it has withdrawn from the Northern Territory National Emergency Response.

The AMA head, Rosanna Capolingua, said that working with the Government has been fraught with problems and is too costly.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said that he is not concerned about the future of the Northern Territory Intervention and that the Australian Government would look at other organizations to take over

the AMA's role.

The Northern Territory National Emergency Response also known as the Intervention was put in place by the the former Howard Government in response to the Northern Territory Government's Little Children are Sacred report.

Opposition leader in Zimbabwe arrested again

Morgan Tsvangirai has been arrested again according to his party, the Movement for Democratic Change.. The police detention of Tsvangirai and 11 co-workers occurred in Shurugwi, but all were released after three hours. In the past week, the MDC leader was arrested four times as Zimbabwe approaches the June 27 secondary elections to determine if he, or incumbent President Robert Mugabe will receive a clear majority of votes.

Space Shuttle Discovery touches down in Florida

Space Shuttle Discovery landed at 11:15 AM Saturday on Runway 15 at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The STS-124 mission successfully delivered parts for Kibo, an experimental module developed in Japan, to the International Space Station.

R. Kelly found not guilty on charges of child pornography

R. Kelly, a popular American R&B musician has been found not guilty on all 14 charges involving a videotape of him having sex with a minor. Both Kelly and the girl who was alleged to be his partner both denied they were participants in the video recording. Had the Chicago-based trial jury convicted the singer, he could have faced a 15-year prison term.

Today in History

1487 – Lancastrian forces defeated

Yorkist supporters at the Battle of Stoke Field in East Stoke, Nottinghamshire, England, the final battle of the Wars of the Roses.

1745 – King George's War: British colonial forces led by William Pepperrell captured the French stronghold at Fortress Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island after a six-week siege.

1883 – Over 180 out of 1,100 children died in the Victoria Hall disaster in Sunderland, England when they stampeded down the stairs to collect gifts from the entertainers after the end of a variety show.

1904 – Irish author James Joyce began his relationship with Nora Barnacle, and subsequently used the date to set the actions for his 1922 novel Ulysses.

1963 – Aboard Vostok 6, Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space. June 16 is Whit Monday in Eastern Christianity (2008); Bloomsday in Dublin, Ireland; Youth Day in South Africa

Quote of the Day

When you're 50 you start thinking about things you haven't thought about before. I used to think getting old was about vanity — but actually it's about losing people you love. Getting wrinkles is trivial. ~ Joyce Carol Oates

Word of the Day

Machiavellian adj

1. Done by cunning, scheming and unscrupulous methods, to achieve one's desired outcome.

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