



Top Stories

Major new bird flu outbreaks reported in Asia

New outbreaks of the lethal H5N1 strain of the avian influenza have been documented in Vietnam and China. Health officers in these regions have identified more than 13,000 potentially infected birds.

Nationwide rallies against anti-terror laws held in Australia

A coordinated set of Australian protests against proposed anti-terror bills and calling on the withdrawal of troops from Iraq occurred in Sydney on Saturday.

Featured story

Farmers hunt for missing bull semen

Authorities are looking for \$75,000 in frozen bull semen stolen Sunday from liquid nitrogen tanks at a farm in Frederick County, Maryland.

Wikipedia Current Events

- India's foreign minister, K. Natwar Singh, is forced to step down from his post amid allegations that he and the governing Indian National Congress had illegally benefited from the UN Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq.
- Canadian New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton withdraws his support to the minority government of Prime Minister Paul Martin. This decision might set a confidence vote in the next week.

Wikipedia Current Events

- China closes all Beijing poultry markets. Authorities ordered all live poultry markets in China's capital to close immediately and went door-to-door seizing chickens and ducks from private homes, as the government dramatically ramped up its fight against avian influenza today.
- Alberto Fujimori, former President of Peru, is arrested in Chile whilst a Chilean judge considers a Peruvian extradition request.
- India opens the first of three frontier checkpoints at Chakan Da Bagh in Poonch on the Kashmir Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan, for 2005 Kashmir earthquake relief

Gorbachev warns against rapid globalization

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has warned that rapid globalization without governance has led to a growing gap between the world's rich and poor. He has also asserted that global cooperation is needed to address problems such as such as poverty, terrorism and environmental damage.

"We need new thinking for the new world," said Gorbachev during a speech last month at Miami University of Ohio in the United States. "You cannot make people happy by using tanks and missiles."

Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 to 1991, has

been credited with ending the Cold War. As Soviet leader, he implemented wide-ranging political and economic reforms. However, his reforms have been blamed for inadvertently causing the dissolution of the USSR in 1991.

In 1993, Gorbachev founded the Green Cross International, of which he was one of three major sponsors of the Earth Charter.

First casualty of French riots reported

Jean-Jacques Le Chenadec has been reported as the first casualty of recent rioting in France. The 61-year old man had been reported as being beaten by a hooded man last week and been in a coma since the attack. This is the first death related to rioting in mainly immigrant communities following the death of two teenagers in an electricity sub-station.

The French prime minister, Dominique de Villepin, announced on Monday plans to allow the nation's regions to impose curfews. Mr. de Villepin appeared the day before on television with an appeal to end the violence.

The president, Jacques Chirac, ended his silence on the rioting on Saturday, when he spoke to the press. "Those who want to sow violence or fear will be caught, tried and punished," he said. "But we also understand very well that we must move towards respect for each individual, justice and equality of opportunity. We are all completely determined to go down this road and pursue the efforts

that are already under way in this domain."

The Minister of the Interior, Nicolas Sarkozy, called for a radical overhaul of the French social model that he said, "in every aspect, needs to be fundamentally rebuilt."

Arrests in the rioting total nearly 400 following the deaths of two youths on October 27. The unrest, which started in a Paris suburb, has spread to over 270 towns across France. More than 300 cars have been torched across the country, and 2 schools were burned.

First Iraq-Iran passenger flight in 25 years arrives in Tehran

The first Iraq-Iran passenger flight since war broke out between the two nations 25 years ago, has arrived safely in Tehran. The plane left Baghdad International Airport with 65 passengers and touched down in the Iranian capital a few hours later. It was an historic event, marking the end of a quarter-century of hostilities during which all flights from and to Iran were suspended by the former Ba'athist regime.

A spokesperson for the Iranian civil aviation authority, Reza Jafarzadeh, told Agence France Presse that there were plans to resume regular commercial flights from Baghdad to Tehran on November 16, although Iran would not consider flying its own aircraft to Iraq until the security situation was resolved.

Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told reporters that the "protection of Iraq's territorial integrity, independence and might is of special significance to Iran."

The United States and Britain have repeatedly accused Iran of allowing militants to cross its border to help Iraq's insurgents fight the US occupation. Earlier today, Major-General Jim Dutton, a British soldier commanding a multinational force in Basra, gave a press conference in Washington during which he claimed that insurgents were getting the technology to create increasingly sophisticated bombs from across the border.

Indiana tornado kills at least 19

A tornado with winds up to 300 km/h has killed at least 19 in Indiana and Kentucky. The tornado touched down at around 2.00 AM local time on the 6th of November in northern Kentucky and then crossed the Ohio River into southern Indiana. "At least five people were confirmed dead in Warrick County and at least 18 were killed in Vanderburgh County, according to county officials."

Peak storm season for the region is generally April through June - a storm of this ferocity is quite rare at this time of year, according to the National Storm Prediction Centre.

The death toll varies between sources, but between 19 and 23 is the current estimate, with most of those in Indiana.

Today in History

1519: Hernán Cortés entered Tenochtitlan where Aztec tlatoani Moctezuma II welcomed him with great pomp as would befit a returning god.

1793: In Paris, the Louvre was opened to the public as a museum by the French Revolutionary government.

Today in History

1895: Wilhelm Röntgen discovered x-rays.

1923: Adolf Hitler, Erich Ludendorff and other members of the Kampfbund started the Beer Hall Putsch, attempting to seize power in Germany.

2002: The UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1441 forcing Iraq to disarm or face "serious consequences".

Quote of the Day

"Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind." ~ John F. Kennedy

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