



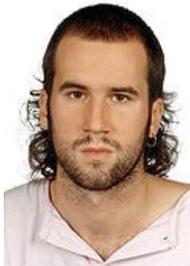
### Top Stories



#### Pirates capture Saudi oil tanker

Pirates have seized control of the Sirius Star, a Saudi-owned oil tanker off the coast of Kenya and are steering her towards Somalia, with two million barrels of oil. The ship is the largest captured by pirates in the area.

#### ETA chief arrested in southern France



Mikel Garikoitz Aspiazu Rubina (alias Txeroki), the suspected military chief of the Basque nationalist group ETA was arrested in a pre-dawn raid on Monday in the town of Cauterets in Southern France. He is being held in connection with the killing of two Spanish Civil Guards in 2007.

#### New Zealand delays emissions trading scheme



New Zealand's incoming government will delay the implementation of the country's emissions trading scheme (ETS) pending a full inquiry into climate change.

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#### Cricket: Pakistan wins Fortune Cup

Pakistan defeated the West Indies by 31 runs in the third and last match of cricket played at Abu Dhabi, to win the Fortune Cup 3-nil on Sunday.

#### Wikipedia Current Events

Central European stocks drop to a three-week low on expectations of slowing economic growth. Polish forecast economic growth drops to 2,3% from 5,4% at 2008, and leading Polish WIG 20 index falls 3,5% in two hours. Bulgarian SOFIX index is at a 5-year low. Both Bulgaria and Romania may need IMF loans to repay \$100 billion of external debt.

- HSBC bank announces 500 layoffs in Hong Kong.
- Pepsi announces 3,000 layoffs in the U.S, Canada, Mexico and Europe.
- 2008 Russian financial crisis:
- Trading remains suspended at the Micex stock exchange for another two days or until the Federal Financial Market Service (FFMS) would instruct otherwise.
- War crimes are reported in the Nord-Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo after a ceasefire is broken and fighting resumes, with at least 100 civilians dead.

#### Japan enters recession

Japan, which accounts for 7% of world output, has entered a recession after posting two consecutive quarters of negative growth. The Japanese economy

contracted by 0.9% between April and June and a further 0.1% since September.

Kaoru Yosano, the Japanese minister of fiscal policy, said "The downtrend in the economy will continue for the time being as global growth slows down. We need to bear in mind that economic conditions could worsen further as the US and European financial crisis deepens, worries of economic downturn heighten and stock and foreign exchange markets make big swings."

The Nikkei 225 stock index has fallen 40% since the year started, and has lost a quarter of its value during this month. After the news was announced the index dipped, then rose to close up 0.7%.

Japanese companies lose large sums whenever the yen's value surges. With the yen viewed as relatively stable during financial turmoil, the value against the US dollar has risen greatly.

JPMorgan Chase economist Masamichi Adachi said, "It's only going to get worse. Japan may be entering its deepest recession in a decade as the global financial crisis cools demand." Japan has not been in recession since 2001.

#### Pakistan wins Fortune Cup defeating West Indies by 3-0

Pakistan defeated West Indies by 31 runs in the third and last match of cricket played at Abu Dhabi, to win the Fortune Cup 3-nil on Sunday.

The competition was a series of One Day International matches (ODI), each of 50 overs. Pakistan won Wednesday's opening match in a thrilling finish. Kamran Akmal's heroic last over opened with 2 sixes and scored 17 in five balls, in response to a score of 294 from the West Indies.

In the second ODI on Friday, Pakistan won by 24 runs. Pakistan bat first and scored 232 all out in 49 overs. On the other hand, West Indies were all out in 48.5 overs scoring 208. Sohail Tanvir earned Friday's Man of the Match award by taking two wickets, after scoring 26 runs on just 20 balls.

### **ETA chief arrested in southern France**

The suspected military chief of the Basque nationalist group ETA was arrested in a pre-dawn raid on Monday in the town of Cauterets in Southern France. Mikel Garikoitz Aspiazu Rubina, alias Txeroki (English: Cherokee), was arrested along with a woman who has not been named.

He was arrested in a joint operation by Spanish and French police. He is being held in France in connection with the killing of two Spanish Civil Guards in Capbreton, France, December 1, 2007.

Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero said, "Today Eta is weaker and Spanish democracy is stronger."

"The arrest shows the unfailing determination of the police forces in the battle against any form of terrorism. It also illustrates once again the admirable collaboration between France and Spain in the fight against Basque terrorism," read a statement from French Interior Minister Michèle Alliot-

Marie's office.

The ETA organization is blamed by authorities for the deaths of 820 people since it began campaigning for a separate Basque state in the 1960s.

According to CNN, Txeroki is thought to have joined the ETA in 2000, rising to become the military chief in 2004.

### **Iraq helicopter crash kills two**

On Saturday, 2 US soldiers were killed when their OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter crash landed when it hit overhead cables while attempting to land in Mosul. This is one of a number of aviation crashes that have happened in Iraq in recent months.

### **66 people killed in Burkina Faso collision**

At least 66 people are dead after a bus and truck collided with one another Saturday, in Burkina Faso, west Africa. 66 people were reported dead by officials; 30 further victims were being treated in hospital on Saturday.

The bus is reported to have been bound for Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), when the collision occurred near the city of Boromo. Many of the bodies were badly burned.

### **Alaskan Democrat gains in US Senate race**

After Friday's counts, Democratic Party candidate Mark Begich increased his small lead over his Republican rival for the US Senate, Ted Stevens, to 1022 votes. The final counts are scheduled for today. Around 24,000 Alaskan votes remain to be counted from the November 4 election. The State Division of Elections said that it postponed counting of some votes in order to verify questioned and absentee ballots.

Three weeks ago, incumbent Stevens was found guilty of failing to disclose gifts, and so could be the first convicted felon elected to the Senate.

### **Today in History**

1493 - Christopher Columbus became the first European to land on Puerto Rico, an island he named San Juan Bautista after John the Baptist.

1863 - American Civil War: U.S.

President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

1941 - World War II: The Australian light cruiser HMAS Sydney and the German auxiliary cruiser HSK Kormoran destroyed each other off the coast of Western Australia in the Indian Ocean.

1969 - Playing for Santos against Vasco da Gama at Estádio do Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro, Brazilian football player Pelé scored his 1000th goal on a penalty kick.

1999 - Shenzhou 1, China's first unmanned test flight of the Shenzhou spacecraft, was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Alxa League, Inner Mongolia.  
November 19 is Liberation Day in Mali

### **Quote of the Day**

Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained. ~ James A. Garfield

### **Word of the Day**

imprimatur n

1. An official license to publish or print something, especially when censorship applies.
2. (by extension) Any mark of official approval.

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