



Top Stories

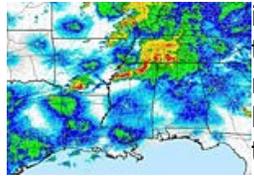
Fighting continues in Tripoli, Lebanon

Over thirty people have died as a result of several days of fighting in Lebanon, between Hezbollah and supporters of the Lebanese government. Violence has taken place in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, although most recently it has been in Tripoli.



Tornadoes in central US kill nearly two dozen people

At least 22 people in three states, including an infant, have been killed with over 50 reported injured and three are missing from late afternoon tornadoes that ripped through the central United States Saturday May 10. Tornadoes hit towns on the Missouri and Oklahoma borders which caused significant damage.



US denies arrest of al-Masri, al-Qaeda in Iraq leader

Thursday, an Iraqi Defense Ministry spokesman said that the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Ayyub al-Masri, was arrested. Today, the US military is saying that he was not.



Search for Brazilian plane with four UK passengers called off after seven days

Search and rescue operations for a light aircraft that disappeared seven days ago in Brazil have ceased having failed to locate the plane. In addition to two local pilots the Cessna 310 was carrying four businessmen who were citizens of the United Kingdom.

Wikipedia Current Events

A medical helicopter crashes returning to Madison, Wisconsin resulting in the death of three people including the pilot, a doctor and nurse.

•China announces the establishment of China Commercial Aircraft in Shanghai to challenge Airbus and Boeing for the domestic market. The first jet to be marketed is the ARJ21, developed by AVIC I, with a \$2.7 billion start-up capital.

•Pakistan's two main coalition leaders, Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif meet with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher in London to discuss the removal of judges by President Pervez Musharraf.

•Run-offs in the Zimbabwean presidential election, according to George Chiweshe, the elections commissioner, must be delayed past the time allotted by law, up to a year, until funding can be found.

•The International Federation of the Red Cross says that the cargo

Wikipedia Current Events

ship carrying the first load of food aid from the Red Cross for survivors of Cyclone Nargis has sunk in the Irrawaddy River.

•The official death toll for Cyclone Nargis rises to 28,458.

•Serbian voters go to the polls in the Serbian parliamentary election, 2008. A pro-Europe coalition associated with the President of Serbia Boris Tadić wins the most votes.

•2008 attack on Omdurman and Khartoum: Sudan's government says it has halted an attack on the country's capital Khartoum by hundreds of rebels from Darfur.

•Football: Manchester United claim their 10th Premier League championship, ending Chelsea's chances by winning at Wigan Athletic 2-0.

•2008 Formula One season: Felipe Massa wins the 2008 Turkish Grand Prix.

Galatasaray clinch 17th Turkish title

After the final match of the season, Galatasaray became the champions of Turkish Super League with 79 points in 34 games, six points ahead of rivals Besiktas and Fenerbahce.

50th season of the top-flight football league in Turkey ended Saturday as Galatasaray and Fenerbahce qualify for next season's Champions League, third-place Beşiktaş J.K. and Federation Cup winner Kayserispor qualify for

the UEFA Cup. There was disappointment for Sivasspor, who came fourth by having same points with Besiktas but less goal average.

Galatasaray trainer Cevat Guler stated that, "There may have been times in recent weeks when the fans didn't think we would be champions... but we are delighted and thank everyone for their support."

The Istanbul-based club started season with German coach Karl-Heinz Feldkamp, who resigned at the start of April, citing differences with the management. Galatasaray were two points behind Fenerbahçe when Cevat Guler took over in a caretaker role. Also, the team hit by number of injuries, including two key foreign players of this season - Linderoth and Lincoln. However they accomplished five victories in last five games of season and clinched the 17th title for Galatasaray S.K.

After the match, thousands of Turks of all ages rallied at Istanbul's central Taksim Square to celebrate with fireworks, flags and slogans, singing the club anthems. Similar celebrations took place in big cities like Ankara and İzmir in the huge outdoor parties, organized on the spot, letting them join their voice with millions of fans around the country celebrating the 17th title of the club.

Felipe Massa wins 2008 Turkish Grand Prix

Ferrari driver Felipe Massa for the third consecutive year won from pole the FIA Formula One 2008 Petrol Ofisi Turkish Grand Prix at Istanbul Racing Circuit, Istanbul, Turkey. Massa was also 2007 and 2006 year winner.

McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton came second after overtook his teammate Heikki Kovalainen on start. Kovalainen later suffered a rear tire puncture from Kimi Räikkönen and dropped to the back while on a pit-stop.

Massa's Ferrari teammate, driver Kimi Räikkönen, ran third. This leaves Räikkönen lead in the championship with 35 points, ahead of Massa, Hamilton and Kubica. Ferrari heads over both BMW Sauber and McLaren.

In other related news this week, Super Aguri-Honda withdrew from the Formula-1 after participating in four races this season. The team principal Aguri Suzuki claimed in the press release it all started when SS United Group defaulted it's payment previous years and the absence of support from Honda. The team was put into external administration. Thus the race featured only 10 teams and 20 cars for the first time since the 2005 Chinese Grand Prix.

Also in the news, Honda's Rubens Barrichello, who finished 14th in this race, is now the most experienced Formula One driver of all time surpassing the record of 256 Grands Prix held by Riccardo Patrese since 1993. For this occasion, his car and the helmet design included the "257" marking for this race.

Fighting continues in Tripoli, Lebanon

Over thirty people have died as a result of several days of fighting in Lebanon, with the latest violence having occurred in the Lebanese city of Tripoli. The violence is the result of conflict between Hezbollah and supporters of the Lebanese government. Over the past four days, there has also been violence in the Lebanese

capital, Beirut, although most of the violence has now left that city. A BBC reporter noted that machine guns and rocket propelled grenades were being used.

A US government spokesperson discussing the situation in Lebanon on Friday

Approximately 7000 people have now evacuated from the scene of the violence, although the level of violence has decreased after the Lebanese government announced that it would retract two decisions which have proven to be controversial with supporters of Hezbollah.

According to The New York Times, Hezbollah currently has control of a large amount of Beirut. A TV station that supported the the Lebanese government is no longer broadcasting as a result of these recent incidents.

The United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice commented on these latest incidents. She said that she was "deeply concerned" by the current situation in Lebanon. She also stated that, in her opinion, Hezbollah should stop "undermining the legitimate authority of the Lebanese government."

The Washington Post also reported on the incident. It reported that the Lebanese government was struggling to bring an end to the violence.

In addition to the 36 deaths from the violence, over ten dozen people have been wounded, some seriously, by the attacks.

On Friday, a US government spokesperson discussed the ongoing situation. He said:

"The United States is deeply concerned about the ongoing violence in Lebanon. We condemn the use of force by illegitimate armed groups and call upon all parties to respect the rule of law. Backed by Syria and Iran, Hezbollah and its allies are killing and injuring fellow citizens, undermining the legitimate authority of the Lebanese Government and the institutions of the Lebanese state. Seeking to protect their state within a state, Hezbollah has exploited its allies and demonstrated its contempt for its fellow Lebanese. No one has the right to deprive Lebanese citizens of their political and economic freedom, their right to move freely within their country, or their sense of safety and security."

Prime Minister of Lebanon Fouad Siniora also commented on the incidents. He demanded that Hezbollah "remove its fighters from the streets... and respect government institutions."

The Next Consortium of ITRI launches 'RoboScooter'

At the Pavilion of Taiwan Automotive Research Consortium during the AutoTronics Taipei 2008, in Taipei Time, the Next Consortium of Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) unveiled a brand-new environmental-concept vehicle named "RoboScooter". It was jointly designed by the Creativity Lab of ITRI, SYM Motors, and the Media Lab of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This announcement was approved by industrial, governmental, and academical executives, but not just in Taiwan.

The ability for R&D to manufacture the electronic vehicles and bicycles was concerning to several

automobile-related industries. There was concern not only from several trade shows, but also international competitions related to the design after winning several prizes back in Taiwan to establish the industrial position and brand image of "Made in Taiwan". Since several industries like automobile are transformed to high-value industries, "creativity"

progressively became a key element before unveiling any new products.

As of this sector, Wen-jean Hsueh (ITRI Creativity Lab General Director) hoped companies could do proper transformations on its R&D nature from "Made in Taiwan" to "Created in Taiwan" for best practice. This not only echoed "OBM" theory discussed at 2007 Taiwan Brands' Trend Forum but also blended with a key element of production - "creativity".

On the other side of SYM Motors, to solve the transportation problem for TWTC Nangang, SYM Motors Taiwan imported manufacturing technology from Kinglong Bus Co., Ltd. to manufacture several 4th-cycle low floor buses and sell them to Chung-hsing Bus Co., Ltd. and Kwang-huang Bus Co., Ltd. In this launch, the SYM Motors Taiwan hope this vehicle is energy-efficiency, easily-parked, and has creative functions which can improve the transportation habits of individuals.

2008 Computex Preview: A decisive battle for IT industry and trade show quality

The 28th-annual COMPUTEX Taipei show, the second largest IT show in the world, is the largest one since they held their first show in 1982 since expanding to TWTC Nangang. Not only were vast ICT products showcased from upper,

mid, and lower-stream vertical and horizontal OEMs, OBM, and world-class stellar companies like Intel, AMD, ASUS, Foxconn, Acer, BenQ, and Kingston, but also featured products related to green technology. Companies from Korea will be hosting the biggest international pavilion to catch the buyers' eyes.

The Taipei Computer Association (TCA), one of the show organizers, will hold the 2008 WiMAX Taipei Expo at the Taipei Show Hall 2. It will allow the networking industry to chain the WiMAX Pavilion located in the TWTC Nangang and echo the basic infrastructure construction of WiMAX.

Organizing the show and promoting the ICT industry are considered major tasks by newly-elected President of the Republic of China Ying-jeou Ma. Pavilions like "mega trends", "multimedia", and "green technology" will be re-arranged to host trendy and energy-efficient products launched prior to this show.

According to Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), there were several seminars like "e21 Forum", "DRAMeXchange Forum", "Next Generation Networks Taipei", "Taiwan Design Center Forum", "CE Summit", "Green IT Forum" held at the Taipei International Convention Center. TWTC Nangang was organized for buyers and companies to glance the vision of global ICT industry during the show hours. Since Jonney Shih, Chairman of ASUSTek, showcased Eee PC before its launch during 2007 e21 Forum, seminars were progressively respected by industrial businessmen, especially international buyers.

Not only will there be a senior

competition - Best Choice of COMPUTEX, mainly promoted by the TCA, but also the TAITRA will cooperate with International Forum Design (iF) holding the "Design and Innovation Award of COMPUTEX". Its goals aims at discovering innovative and brand-new IT products to elevate the notability of Taiwan's innovations.

TAITRA and TCA, the organizers, promised to do the be the best at services for transportation (Shuttle Buses, Taxis, MRT, International Airlines), living (Hotels), networking (TAITRA Lounge), and business (Trade Opportunity Rooms and Business Center) for the best quality of COMPUTEX.

Tornadoes in central US kill nearly two dozen people

At least 23 people have been killed in late afternoon tornadoes that ripped through the central United States on Saturday May 10 with over 150 reported injured and at least three people are missing. Tornadoes hit towns on the Missouri and Oklahoma borders which caused significant damage. Several watches and warnings for storms and tornadoes remain today. At 4:11 a.m. (eastern time) on Sunday, nearly the entire states of Georgia and Alabama were encompassed with tornado watches and severe thunderstorm warnings.

In Picher, Oklahoma where the tornado is reported to have started, 7 were killed, including an infant. The tornado then traveled across state lines to Missouri where 14 were killed near Seneca and then into Georgia where two people were killed. Officials state the death toll is likely to climb.

"It's a bad deal. There are maybe 150 badly damaged homes on south side of town," said Picher's

town attorney, Erick Johnson. More than two dozen streets in Picher are described as being wiped out. Oklahoma's governor Brad Henry has ordered the national guard to the area to help in aiding those hit by the storms.

"[Our] thoughts and prayers are with the people of Picher and all of the other Oklahoma communities," said Henry in a statement to the press, who also plans to visit the areas hardest hit on Sunday.

Buildings have been destroyed and people have been reported to be trapped in debris from tornadoes that touched down. Trees were thrown from yards and cars were overturned. Tornadoes were also reported in Arkansas and in Oklahoma, one tornado left more than 15 miles of destruction with some places seeing a path over a half mile wide. Rescue efforts are hampered by the darkness, making it difficult for rescuers to find people who are trapped.

"It's hard to do in the dark. They're going over the hard-hit area and turning over everything and looking," said Susie Stonner, a spokeswoman for SEMA.

At last count, 34 tornadoes were reported in Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, but reports say that some eyewitness accounts were of the same tornadoes. At 02:48 (UTC) on Sunday morning, Doppler radar for the National Weather Service showed very strong storms in Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and Mississippi.

Today in History

1551 – The oldest university in the Americas, National University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru, was founded.

1885 – North-West Rebellion:

Louis Riel and the Métis rebels were decisively defeated by Canadian forces under Major-General Frederick Middleton in Batoche, Saskatchewan.

1926 – A general strike by British trade unions "in defence of [coal] miners' wages and hours" ended after nine days.

1941 – German engineer Konrad Zuse presented the Z3, the world's first working programmable, fully automatic computer, in Berlin.

1958 – Canada and the United States signed a formal agreement establishing the North American Air Defense Command to provide aerospace warning and defense for North America.

May 12 is Whit Monday (Western Christianity, 2008); Buddha's Birthday in Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea (2008); International Nurses Day

Quote of the Day

I never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself. ~ Florence Nightingale

Word of the Day

prosody n

- (linguistics) The study of poetic meter; the patterns of sounds and rhythms in verse or speech.

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