



Top Stories

United States Navy ordered to Somali coast

The United States Navy has been ordered to the Somali coastline in an attempt to stop members of the Union of Islamic Courts, from escaping the country. Naval forces have been boarding ships searching for fighters who might be hiding on them to escape Somalia.

Pelosi named new Speaker of the House

Californian Democrat Nancy Pelosi has been named the 60th United States Speaker of the House at the age of 66. She is the first female House speaker in United States history. The opening of the Congress in 2007 marks the first time in a dozen years that the Democrats have control of the entire Congress.

Featured story

CNN typo mixes up U.S. Senator with Osama bin Laden

CNN mixed up U.S. Senator Barack Obama and Osama bin Laden by mistake Monday, leading into a segment on Osama bin Laden with the title, "Where's Obama?" on The Situation Room, a show hosted by pundit Wolf Blitzer. CNN called it a "bad typographical error."

Wikipedia Current Events

•As gold output plummeted by almost 36%, foreign investment increased by 40% to \$189.5

Wikipedia Current Events

million, in Kyrgyzstan in 2006. Trade loans increased by 100%.

- A second bus bomb in Sri Lanka, this time near the tourist resort of Hikkaduwa has killed at least 15 and injured dozens more. The Sri Lankan government declared the Tamil Tigers responsible, but the rebel group is denying involvement.
- At Least 40 people have died in a bus crash in Comilla, Bangladesh.
- Nine bound and gagged bodies are found in grave in Uruapan, Michoacan state, Mexico. Drug gangs are suspected.
- The British Army raises its maximum recruitment age from 26 years to 33, but denies that this is a reaction to a failure to recruit sufficient young people. The normal term of engagement remains 22 years, meaning that some soldiers could still be serving to age 55.
- Jeff Bezos, Amazon.com founder and Billionaire has joined the "budget space race" with a test burn of the Blue Origin passenger rocket, the New Shepard.

Meteorite falls through roof of house in New Jersey

Scientists say that a rock that fell through the roof of a house in Freehold Township, New Jersey this week was a meteorite and was likely over a billion years old. The meteorite is currently owned by the same family whose house it hit; the names of the family members have not been released

and no one inside the home was injured.

The meteorite is named "Freehold Township" after the township it landed in. Scientists have not yet been able to take samples of the rock, they have looked at it but they say the rock is likely made of iron due to its "density, magnetic properties, markings and coloration" and is likely a piece of a much larger asteroid. The rock weighs approximately 13 ounces (about .37 kilograms), which is little more than the weight of a can of soup.

"It's a pretty exciting find," said one scientist who has examined the rock, Jeremy S. Delaney. "It's a good candidate for the core of an asteroid," added Delaney.

Avalanche buries cars in Colorado

An avalanche on U.S. route 40, which was 100 feet wide and 15 feet deep, has buried many cars and caused other cars to be pushed over the edge of an expressway just outside of Denver, Colorado. The avalanche took three different paths down the mountain before coming to a stop.

"Our crews said it was the largest they have ever seen. It took three paths," said a spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Transportation, Stacey Stegman.

At least 7 victims have been rescued and at least one person has been taken to the hospital. It is unknown if anyone was killed or

how many people may be trapped underneath the snow.

U.S. route 40 is currently closed to traffic.

This is the third snow storm to hit the Denver area in three weeks.

Southeast United States hit with strong storms

Strong storms hit Southeastern United States Friday. Crews are currently working to restore power to the area. As of writing there are 2 reports of fatalities. Tornadoes were reported in South Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiana.

In South Carolina, a possible tornado piled up cars, injuring 15 by an elementary school.

In Mississippi, 9 people were injured with "8 to 10 homes destroyed," Ben Dudley, Kemper County's emergency management director, told CNN.

In Alabama, a few mobile homes were destroyed and power was out.

In Louisiana, had the worst damage (especially around Iberia Parish) with a tornado touching down.

In Georgia, had lots of trees down.

Vancouver stadium dome damaged

The inflatable roof covering BC Place Stadium in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada was intentionally collapsed in a "controlled deflation" on Friday after a section of the dome was ripped open. As the seven-metre tear became caught in the wind, it began to make loud noises, which one stadium worker described as similar to "elephants running through your living room". The

venue was evacuated and no one was reported injured. Windy weather conditions are blamed for the damage. Officials have not yet indicated when roof repairs can be completed to allow the facility to re-open.

BC Place Stadium was opened in June 1983 and is scheduled as a key venue for the 2010 Winter Olympics. The roof costs \$300,000 per year to maintain.

A1GP New Zealand speeds its way into record books

Jonny Reid, co-driver for the A1GP New Zealand team, today made history by driving the fastest over the 48-year-old Auckland Harbour Bridge, New Zealand, legally.

Mr Reid managed to drive the New Zealand's A1GP car, Black Beauty at speeds over 160km/h seven times over the bridge. The New Zealand police had trouble using their speed radar guns to see how fast Mr Reid was going because of how low Black Beauty is, and the only time the police managed to clock Mr Reid was when he slowed down to 160km/h.

Black Beauty, like all the other A1 Grand Prix cars, is powered by a V8 engine, 3.4 litres and has a top speed of 300km/h. During the record attempt, it managed to get to 160km/h from zero in under three seconds.

The stunt was to promote the upcoming A1GP sixth round at Taupo in a couple of weeks, which Mr Reid will be racing because of his two wins at Indonesia, instead of other co-driver, Matt Halliday.

Mr Reid performed the record on the clipon lanes of the bridge which were closed at Christmas because the lanes were being resurfaced. The lanes will be open

this Monday, January 8.

Mr Reid said the surface at the top of the bridge hadn't been swept so it was quite slippery. "It was mega slippery at the top but we always knew that would be the situation and it was just great to show the public a little bit of what we were about." However he also said that "It was fully under control."

Mr Reid said the buzz from doing that, especially with the help from police, was huge. "I absolutely thrived on it. It was a very unique experience which you don't come across every day. It was mega, it really was."

Mr Reid assures everyone that the speeds he will be reaching in Taupo will be much, much faster than what he achieved today.

Once Mr Reid had finished crossing the bridge seven times, he finished with a few donuts.

Two cars were involved in a nose to tail crash on one of the northbound lanes trying to watch the action.

Today in History

- 1558 - Francis, Duke of Guise retook Calais, England's last continental possession, for France.
- 1610 - Galileo Galilei first observed the Jovian satellites Io, Europa and Callisto through his telescope.
- 1785 - Frenchman Jean-Pierre Blanchard and American John Jeffries became the first to cross the English Channel by balloon.
- 1975 - OPEC raised the price of crude oil by 10 percent.
- 1979 - Phnom Penh fell to the People's Army of Vietnam, effectively ending the Democratic Kampuchea regime.
- January 07 is Christmas (Christianity-Julian calendar).

Quote of the Day

It does not do harm to the mystery to know a little more about it. For far more marvelous is the truth than any artists of the past imagined it. Why do the poets of the present not speak of it?

What men are poets who can speak of Jupiter if he were a man, but if he is an immense spinning sphere of methane and ammonia must be silent?

~ Richard Feynman

Word of the Day

gormless; adj

1. (British) Lacking intelligence, sense or discernment.
2. Naive; innocent to the point of foolishness.

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