



Top Stories

Explosions rock 'Green Zone' inside Baghdad

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North Korea warns U.S. of nuclear missile strike

An unnamed North Korean Military official has said that if the United States does not "resolve its standoff with Pyongyang" that the country may fire a missile at the U.S. loaded with a nuclear warhead.

Featured story

Russia estimates larger yield for N. Korea nuclear test

Russia's defense minister, Sergei Ivanov, said Monday that North Korea's nuclear test has been confirmed and yielded as much as 15 kilotons of TNT; which was the size of the Hiroshima atomic bomb.

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- A passenger bus plunges into a ravine near the city of Chiantla in northern Guatemala, killing 42 people.
- North Korea was thought to have conducted another nuclear weapons test, according to Japanese NHK, but it was a false alarm after a 6.0 magnitude earthquake hit Japan.
- A fire has broken out at an

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ammunition dump in Baghdad. At least 30 explosions have been reported. There are no reported casualties.

- BP shuts down the Prudhoe Bay oil fields due to losing power as a result of high winds.
- Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei states that the country would pursue its right to develop nuclear technology and will not suspend uranium enrichment as the West demands, declaring: "Our policy is clear, progress with clear logic and insisting on the nation's right without any retreat."

• A chartered Atlantic Airways Flight 670 skids off the runway at Stord Airport in Norway, killing four people.

• Iraqi police announce they have found a total of 60 corpses at locations across Baghdad in the previous 24 hours, thought to be more victims of insurgent death squads. In addition, a bomb planted under a car explodes in the city's southern district of Doura, killing 10 people.

- United States military sources state that a total of 30 militants and 4 US soldiers have been killed since the weekend.
- Twelve people die in a bomb attack on a festival in the town of Makilala in the Philippines.
- A naval base and oil facility in Bayelsa State, Nigeria, are captured by armed attackers who are now thought to be holding 60

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people hostage.

• Hundreds of thousands of people made a protest against President Chen Shui-bian in Taipei, Taiwan, surrounding Office of the President, where Chen took part in ceremony marking Double Tenth Day.

Anonymous North Korean official warns U.S. of possible "unfortunate incident of us firing a nuclear missile"

An unnamed North Korean Military official has said that if the United States does not "resolve its standoff with Pyongyang" that the country may fire a missile loaded with a nuclear warhead, presumably as a test.

"We hope the situation will be resolved before an unfortunate incident of us firing a nuclear missile comes. That depends on how the US acts," the Mumbai Mirrior quoted an unnamed N. Korean military official through the Chinese news agency Yonhap as saying.

The official goes on to say that the test of a nuclear weapon was an "expression of intentions" to get the U.S. to face the country.

"The nuclear test is an expression of our intention to face the United States across the negotiating table," said the official.

The official also said that the sanctions against N. Korea are "not a solution." and "never" will

be a solution.

"We have lost enough. Sanctions can never be a solution. We still have a willingness to give up nuclear weapons and return to six-party talks as well. It's possible whenever the US takes corresponding measures," said the official.

The U.S. has declined an offer by N. Korea to have talks with the country one on one saying that the U.S. will not be "intimidated" by N. Korea.

Gordon Brown announces new powers for UK Treasury

Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced today that an Order in Council will be made tomorrow empowering the British Treasury to prevent the funding of those suspected of planning terror. Use will be made of forensic accounting and of methods similar to those employed by the code breakers at Bletchley Park. With the help of computing power to discover relations between bits of information, they cracked the German Enigma code during WWII. Gordon Brown ranks the impact of forensic accounting at the present time with the use of fingerprinting in the 19th century and of DNA in the late 20th Century.

Speaking to Chatham House, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Brown defined the most dangerous sources of finance for terrorists as being charities, money service businesses and financial transactions such as bureaux de change, cheque cashers and money remitters. There will be a new licensing system requiring firms to keep more detailed records of transactions. Tougher action against non-compliance is

promised. New proposals about money laundering are being prepared.

The new Order will empower the Treasury, for the first time, to use closed source evidence from classified intelligence to freeze the assets of suspects. A special advocate procedure will be put in place to ensure "fair and consistent hearing of cases". If evidence shows it to be necessary, it is Brown's opinion that suspects should be held, without a charge being brought, for more than the present 28 days.

The Government has been defeated once already in Parliament in an attempt, in the Terrorism Act 2006, to increase the present 28 days of detention without charge to 90 days. Public opinion was very divided on that proposal and feelings in Parliament ran high with talk of a police state and of the Government pandering to public opinion.

North Korea away from an international football tournament held in South Korea

The North Korean women's soccer team has pulled out of the inaugural 2006 Peace Queen Cup Korea women's soccer Cup to be held later this month.

Seven teams — the U.S., Brazil, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy and South Korea — and not eight will compete in the first edition of the tournament to be held in six South Korean cities.

A South Korean businessman acting as a North's agent for this 200,000 dollar competition tried to explain organizers Monday about the difficulties arising in this complex situation.

He did not mention once the famous nuclear test and the South's official told the AFP correspondant : "We decided to find a substitute team. The decision reflects our concerns that the safety of North Korean players will not be guaranteed under these circumstances."

Microsoft ends support for Windows XP's first service pack

As Microsoft had previously announced, they will stop supporting the first service pack of their flagship operating system software, Windows XP. The company will not provide any security updates or incident support options for Windows XP Service Pack 1 (SP1) and Service Pack 1a (SP1a).

On October 10, 2006 support and security updates for these two products will end, as part of the Microsoft Lifecycle Policy. In their customer notification about the change, the software giant advises customers to update to the newer Service Pack 2 (SP2), released in 2004.

Windows XP SP1 was released on September 9, 2002, offering more than 300 security updates in one package. Other than the security updates, SP1 also introduced USB 2.0 support and a new utility, Set Program Access and Defaults, which let users to have control over Microsoft's bundled products. On February 3, 2003, the service pack was re-released as Service Pack 1a which, as a result of a lawsuit with Sun Microsystems, removed the Microsoft virtual machine (VM), which provided support for Java programs.

The support end date for SP1 was originally September 17, 2006.

Explosions rock 'Green Zone' inside Baghdad

At least 30 explosions have gone off inside the "Green Zone" in Baghdad, Iraq where the United States Embassy is located and where many Iraqi Government buildings are housed. Iraqi military officials said no evacuations of residents were ordered from the Dora area.

The explosions are believed to be the result of a fire which broke out inside the Forward Operating Base Falcon, a U.S. ammunitions depot inside the zone, but it is not known if the fire was started due to an attack.

"An ammunition holding area caught on fire. It's in our operating base in the Rasheed area of the city. The ammunition holding area contains tank and artillery rounds as well as small arms ammunition," said Lieutenant Colonel of the 4th Infantry Division, Jonathan Withington.

"The cause of the fire is not immediately known. The explosions are from ammunition 'cooking off.' [We are] trying to determine the cause or any threat to the population," said U.S. military spokesman, Lt. Col, Christopher C. Garver.

Reports say that flares and helicopters could be seen coming from and into the zone.

So far, there are no reports of any deaths or injuries.

The explosions began around 4:00 p.m. EDT.

Clashes between Shiv Sena, MNS in Mumbai

Shiv Sena party workers clashed with their counterparts from the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena in

Mumbai, leaving four people injured. The trouble began when MNS activists allegedly tore down a poster of Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray outside the SIES college. The Shiv Sainiks retaliated by bringing down a poster featuring Raj Thackeray (Bal Thackeray's nephew and founder of the MNS) outside Raj Bhavan. The two groups faced off outside the Sena Bhavan in Central Mumbai and soon began pelting stones at each other.

The police had to resort to lathi-charges and the use of tear-gas to dispel the crowds. The situation calmed down after the appearance of Shiv Sena Executive-President Udhav Thackeray and his cousin Raj at the scene. Udhav even appealed to his followers to return to their homes, saying, "The police will take necessary action. This is happening because many people are joining us from MNS. The defections have started and that is why they are resorting to such actions,".

Nonetheless, shops in Dadar remained closed and traffic was diverted away from the area. The Rapid Action Force has been deployed to control the situation, and has asked for reinforcements. Four riot control units have also been dispatched to maintain the peace.

Pablo Montoya from ARCA to NASCAR at Talladega

Juan Pablo Montoya, who retired from Formula One before the 2006 French Grand Prix, drove his first laps in a NASCAR stockcar yesterday owned by Chip Ganassi whom he is to race for in the 2007 NASCAR Nextel Cup season.

The test occurred at the Talladega Super Speedway where on Saturday he competed in an ARCA

race in which he finished third.

The Monday test also allowed NASCAR to test the COT ("Car of Tomorrow") which will be raced next year in select events.

Montoya was the 1999 CART FedEx Championship Series champion. In 2000 he won the Indianapolis 500 as a rookie driving for the same Chip Ganassi Team.

Interview with Derek Begley, Regional Council candidate for Wards 9 & 10 in Brampton, Canada

The upcoming 2006 Brampton municipal election, to be held November 13, features an array of candidates looking to represent their wards in city council or the council of the Peel Region.

Wikinews contributor Nick Moreau contacted many of the candidates, including Derek Begley, asking them to answer common questions sent in an email. This ward's incumbent is John Sprovieri; also challenging Sprovieri is Sherdaljit Dhillon, Mahen Gupta, Satpaul Johal, Dalbir S. Kathuria, and Vahid Saadati-Khanshir.

Q: List the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Getting Brampton to a better balance between Residential and Commercial interests within the city, to help create a greater corporate tax base and more sustainable civic model. A transportation and road system that works, allowing shorter commutes, less environmental impact and greater opportunities for families to share time together. Facilities and recreational services more in line with demands in our area, particularly Ward 10.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward

in this election?

A: Holding the line on property tax increases. The city has already declared 2007 to be a difficult budget year and we must be very aggressive in finding ways to curb our ballooning tax bill.

Q: What qualities or experiences do you possess, that make you more desirable than the incumbent?

A: My international experience has allowed me a greater understanding of how different cultures deal with the day to day and universal challenges all people face. This has allowed me to become a very flexible and open minded thinker, and I believe I have great strength in being able to communicate and build bridges between differing beliefs and ideas. Also I will be committed to public service and my constituents full time, and have a passion and energy for helping people reach positive, effective resolutions to their concerns.

Q: Why do you want to represent your ward on council?

A: I was born and raised in Bramalea, and remember the land my home stands on as open farmers fields and rivers. At the same time I remember a city that had a plan of controlled, managed growth, a huge sense of community and bursting with civic pride. I believe we can return to this, despite our rapid expansion, by injecting our council with new vision and passion for our city while remembering that from the past which makes our city great.

Q: Of the decisions made by council since the last election, which one would you have changed, and why?

A: The Master plan to develop Ching Park has been delayed and rewritten several times, and each

succeeded report and consultation costs taxpayers hundreds of thousands in wasted time and construction costs. An investment in this park with a bit of progressive thinking towards the activities that can take place there and the way in which the park is managed is of huge benefit to the entire east side of Brampton, and additional delays and toe-dragging on the issue is only adding expense and problems to the issue.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I am very active in youth activities and sports in the community, mostly through the Matmen wrestling club, where I am a head coach. One of the biggest challenges facing our community is channeling our youth into positive and life skills building endeavours. I have been involved in the development of community driven recreation choices, such as skateboard parks and lit, well managed outdoor areas that encourage not only youth physical participation, but gives them opportunities to create their own grassroots organizations and events. Youth involvement and a sense of ownership in their community is crucial in their development into engaged, well rounded citizens.

Q: Much of Brampton's existing council is quite seasoned in the civic political process. What could you bring to the table as a "rookie", above and beyond the current roster of councillors?

A: I feel that I can offer the best of both worlds- someone who is energetic and full of fresh ideas, while also still having the experience and knowledge of the process to be an effective public servant right from the beginning. I grew up around the council (my

mother being council secretary before serving five terms herself) and have worked at several part time and seasonal positions over the years within the city. This has given me considerable insight into the overall operation of the city of Brampton and a solid understanding of that which works and those areas I am eager to work to improve once elected.

Q: The Rose Theatre recently launched. What are your thoughts on this facility? Have you had a chance to tour it yet?

A: I have toured the facility, and it is a beautiful structure, but I am concerned about the additional investment needed to bring the surrounding area more in line with the municipalities vision for the Four Corners area, and how much of the burden is expected to be shouldered by the taxpayers still. I am also concerned by our large commitment to a type of facility that have proven to be less than successful both financially and culturally to cities such as North York, Mississauga and Markham. Future councils must take tremendous care to ensure this facility lives up to its promise for our community.

Q: The province has strongly encouraged the development of high-density residences near the downtown. Do these buildings fit in with your vision of the downtown? How much say should other levels of government have in urban planning?

A: The development of high density, mixed usage buildings are an important part of the Brampton revitalization projects, but I believe that efforts must be taken to ensure this development is in a position to be of the greatest benefit of all Bramptonians, not just the "traditional " four corners section of old Brampton. When

Brampton and Bramalea amalgamated, the centre of the city shifted to the Queen and 410 area, and access, land availability and geography would suggest that this is a more appropriate area to focus development in the Central Brampton Area. Our city must work jointly with regional, provincial and federal government institutions as well as the private sector to develop a plan of action that is clear, concise and of maximum benefit to Brampton's tax payers.

Q: How do you feel about Brampton's rate of expansion?

Council recently capped the annual amount of new development; do you agree completely with this decision, would you have slowed development even further, or not have imposed a cap at all?

A:

Q: What are your opinions on Brampton's congestion and the level of public transit funding?

A: Traffic congestion in Brampton has spiralled to unimagined levels in recent years. The answer to this problem is two fold. On one hand, we must create a better "live-work" community in Brampton, seeking to develop more high paying sustainable employment within the city borders to reduce overall commute times and travel lengths.

At the same time, we must come up with a GTA wide, multi-governmental tiered plan to deal with this situation before it becomes completely unmanageable. We must create a transit system that is logical enough, efficient enough and economical enough that it becomes a viable first option for work, school and travel anywhere within the GTA. This is not going to be easy and is the greatest challenge facing this and

subsequent councils, requiring a council unafraid to make tough decisions that will benefit the long, rather than short term future of our city.

Q: Why should businesses be attracted to locating in Brampton?

A: Brampton is a hub of access for all forms of transport and as our city continues to develop, more and more corporate interests will be attracted by our skilled, driven workforce, excellent family based communities and natural beauty just steps from the heart of the city.

Q: How could Brampton further itself in attracting corporate investment?

A: Brampton needs to build upon our existing corporate base and seek out educational and support industries to these industries that can help Brampton develop a corporate identity in a core sector. We must identify those skills and attributes that Brampton business and citizens excel at, then work to support and develop these skills and industries so Brampton can emerge as a world leader in these fields. Innovation and skill are the best assurances of the economic vitality of our community for the future.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: Our city has grown in leaps and bounds in the past decade, yet in many ways, the city is still managed like it was 30 years and 300,000 citizens ago. The time has come for a more progressive, transparent system to be implemented so our city can move forward. I believe that I have the knowledge, integrity and conviction to be an integral part of this process.

Q: What does Brampton mean to

you?

A: Brampton means first and foremost to me, home. It means a city bursting with potential. A city waking up to itself and its size, diversity and energy and beginning to understand that with vision and effort, it is a community capable of forging a limitless future both within Canada and the world.

Security Council recommends Ban Ki-moon for UN Secretary-General

The United Nations Security Council has recommended the South Korean foreign minister Ban Ki-Moon for appointment as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations. The UN General Assembly now has to decide on the appointment. Ban Ki-Moon placed ahead of India's Shashi Tharoor, currently UN Under-Secretary-General, in informal voting by the Security Council members.

Ban Ki-Moon's recommendation will be presented to the UN General Assembly.

The current Secretary-General, Kofi Annan said, in a statement, that he has the "highest respect for Mr. Ban, having had the pleasure of working with him both in his present capacity and when he was Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly".

Kenzo Oshima, Japan Ambassador to the United Nations expressed a hope that the Assembly presidency will act rapidly to elect him.

Vodafone New Zealand buys Internet provider ihug

In an NZ\$41 million deal announced Monday night, the New Zealand telecommunications company, Vodafone has bought Internet service provider (ISP) ihug New Zealand Ltd. Ihug will

remain a separate company however.

Vodafone said that one of the reasons that they bought ihug was because of their strength in fixed line broadband. Vodafone say that this purchase will give them a much better access to broadband technology.

However when ihug was put up for sale by Australian owner, iiNet, Vodafone denied in July that they were interested in buying ihug.

Paul Budde, telecommunication analyst, said that the buy was excellent. "The unique combination of a mobile and fixed based operator makes sense considering both their futures lie in broadband. The deal is writing new history and will be watched around the world. It really sets the direction Vodafone wants to go for services, new applications and new content."

Russell Stanners, CEO for Vodafone, said they are "looking to consolidate their broadband plans as they increase their 3G output. Over the next two years Vodafone is looking to double their 3G output and will double it again. On top of that there is 4G technology and there is growing confidence in the wireless network to deliver real broadband."

Stanners is very confident that their company will be able to exceed their customers expectations and needs. And that this purchase is an important step in evolving Vodafone.

"It's a perfect fit. Right now, we are the leaders in mobile, however we only have 20% share of the telecommunications market. When combined with ihug's strength in fixed line broadband and calling,

we can develop and deliver even more compelling propositions for our customers. It's a very exciting time, with two strong challengers coming together to take on the competition," he said.

CEO for ihug, Mark Rushworth said: "We're thrilled with this news. A strong and dynamic parent company like Vodafone is just what we need at this stage of our growth."

Google purchases YouTube for \$1.65 billion

On Monday, October 9, 2006, Google Inc. announced its decision to purchase YouTube, the popular video-sharing site, for \$1.65 billion in stock. Following the closure of the deal, YouTube will operate independently, "to preserve" its user community and its brand, the announcement said.

Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google stated "The YouTube team has built an exciting and powerful media platform that complements Google's mission to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. Our companies share similar values; we both always put our users first and are committed to innovating to improve their experience. Together, we are natural partners to offer a compelling media entertainment service to users, content owners and advertisers."

"We are excited to have the resources to move faster than ever before," co-founder Chad Hurley, YouTube's 29-year-old CEO, told the Associated Press during a Monday interview.

100 million videos are watched on the YouTube site every day, the service utilizes Adobe Flash technology, the content includes

movie and TV clips and music videos, as well as amateur content such as videoblogging.

Municipal elections in Belgium: Flemish Interest halted in Antwerp but advancing elsewhere

In the 2006 municipal elections in Belgium, the political party Vlaams Belang ("Flemish Cause") advanced in almost all municipalities, just like the last elections. But its rise was brought to a halt in the cities Mechelen and also in its stronghold Antwerp.

Vlaams Belang is considered by observers and opponents as a far right party, supporting Flemish independence from Belgium and restricted immigration.

Just one week before the elections, Antwerp was the scene of the 0110 concerts, organised against racism, extremism and gratuitous violence. However, Vlaams Belang asked many musicians to boycott the event, because it "only targets Vlaams Belang". The party considered the concerts as a direct attack by the political establishment. Since 1989, the other parties have instituted a cordon sanitaire against Vlaams Belang, forcing them into the opposition, notwithstanding their increasing electoral success.

In 2004, three organisations that were at the heart of the Vlaams Blok party were condemned for incitement to hate and discrimination, and the party reformed consequently and changed their name to Vlaams Belang, although the party top remained unchanged.

During the last poll in 2000, Vlaams Belang became the largest political fraction in Antwerp, with

33% of votes. However, the other parties, calling themselves the "democratic parties", adhering to the cordon sanitaire, joined together to prevent Vlaams Belang from entering into power.

On Sunday, the political cartel SP.A-Spirit obtained 35,5% of votes in Antwerp, which was 15,5% more than in the 2000 elections, while the cartel Vlaams Belang - VLOTT got 33,5% of votes. Before the elections, Vlaams Belang had set the target for Antwerp at 35% of the votes.

The electoral success of SP.A-Spirit was accompanied by a loss of votes for the coalition partners in Antwerp. Filip Dewinter, the leader of Vlaams Belang, called SP.A leader and mayor of Antwerp Patrick Janssens a cannibal, because his party seemed to have consumed the other members of the majority. Patrick Janssens received 71 289 personal votes (71% of the party's total), while Dewinter, last year's champion of personal votes in Antwerp, got 62 642 votes on his name.

In many countryside towns, Vlaams Belang participated in the elections for the first time, and immediately scored around 10%. In Schoten, Lier (both not far from Antwerp) and other places, Vlaams Belang became the largest fraction, and the question remains if the cordon sanitaire will be upheld in these communes.

Today in History

- 1865 - The Morant Bay rebellion, led by Paul Bogle and George William Gordon, began in Jamaica. It was brutally suppressed by Governor Edward John Eyre.
- 1899 - The Second Boer War erupted in South Africa between the United Kingdom and the Boers.
- 1954 - Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh took control of North Vietnam.
- 1962 - Pope John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council, the first Roman Catholic ecumenical council in 92 years.
- 1968 - NASA launched Apollo 7, the first manned mission of the Apollo program.
- October 11 is General Pulaski Memorial Day and National Coming Out Day in the United States.

Quote of the Day

It takes courage to love, but pain through love is the purifying fire which those who love generously know. We all know people who are so much afraid of pain that they shut themselves up like clams in a shell and, giving out nothing, receive nothing and therefore shrink until life is a mere living death.

~ Eleanor Roosevelt

Word of the Day

- mountebank; n
- 1. One who sells by deception; a con artist; a charlatan.

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