



Top Stories

Kata Air AN-32 crashes near the Chisinau Airport

A Kata Air Transport (Sudan) Antonov AN-32 crashed at 19.15



Credit: Petr Kadlec (CC-BY-SA)

GMT on approach to Chisinau International Airport in Moldova, killing all eight (8) aboard.

3000 homeless after fire breaks out in Chad refugee camp

A fire broke out in a refugee camp in eastern Chad Friday, leaving 3,000 people homeless and injuring 10, according to the United Nations refugee agency United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



Refugees have been living in the camp as a result of the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Authorities in Belgium raid Church of Scientology

According to reports, authorities in Belgium have seized documents, financial records and computer equipment form the local branch of the Church of Scientology and then sealed off the building. Authorities are



Credit: Steven Fruitsmaak (CC-BY 3.0)

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investigating the Church for fraud and extortion.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Wikinews interviews Jeremy Hanke, editor of MicroFilmmaker Magazine

Wikinews held an exclusive interview with Jeremy Hanke, editor of MicroFilmmaker Magazine. He told us why he started the magazine, discussed the current state of independent film distribution and even had some tips and advice for amateur moviemakers.

Wikipedia Current Events

Haiti's Parliament has voted to dismiss Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis after deadly protests over rising food prices.

- The President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao meets with the Vice-President-elect of Republic of China Vincent Siew in the highest level talks between the two sides since 1949.
- The Herald (Zimbabwe), a government-run newspaper, reports that Robert Mugabe, the President of Zimbabwe, will boycott the regional crisis meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, to discuss the crisis over the Zimbabwean presidential election, 2008.
- Russia threatens to block Ban Ki Moon from serving a second term as United Nations Secretary-General because of his stance on

Wikipedia Current Events

Kosovo's recent independence. The Kremlin is pressing Mr Ban to ignore, or at least prolong, a proposed 120-day transition period to Kosovo independence from Serbia that expires on 16 June. Renewal of Serbia-Kosovo talks is possible.

Spain's new cabinet has more women than men

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero was today sworn in for his second term as Prime Minister of Spain. He also announced his new cabinet, which for the first time includes more women than men.

Zapatero was sworn in at a brief ceremony in Zarzuela Palace. He took the oath of office with his hand upon a copy of Spain's constitution, which he chose instead of a Bible. "I promise on my conscience and honour to comply faithfully with the obligations of Prime Minister," he said, standing before King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofía.

After winning the election on March 9, parliament officially voted Zapatero into the position on Friday. An initial vote on Wednesday failed to pass, but Friday's vote only required a simple majority. Zapatero's Spanish Socialist Workers' Party won the general election, but they fell 7 seats short of an absolute majority in parliament's lower house.

Later, Zapatero announced the

members of his new cabinet. Nine of the ministers in his new cabinet are women, and eight of them are men. Carme Chacón, formerly the housing minister, was appointed as Spain's first female defense minister.

"It is the first government in which a woman has the defence portfolio and the first government in which there are more women than men," Zapatero said. "I feel very proud that there are more women ministers than men." María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, who became Spain's first female deputy prime minister in 2004, was reappointed to her position.

Two new ministries will now be a part of the cabinet. Bibiana Aído was named head of the new Equality Ministry. At 31 years old, she is the youngest minister in Spain's history. Molecular biologist Cristina Garmendia will head the new Science and Innovation Ministry.

Zapatero hopes the new cabinet will work to boost the nation's economy, which he says will be one of his top priorities as prime minister. "We must continue to boost the economy and do it in a new way, less dependent on construction," Zapatero said. Miguel Sebastián, Zapatero's former chief economic advisor, was named the new industry minister.

Foreign minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos, economy minister Pedro Solbes, interior minister Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba, and justice minister Mariano Fernandez Bermejo all kept their posts, while four other ministers were ousted.

Kata Air AN-32 crashes - all presumed dead

Kata Air Transport (Sudan)

Antonov AN-32 crashed at 19.15 GMT on approach to Chisinau International Airport in Moldova, presumably killing all eight (8) aboard. The aircraft departed the airfield for Khartoum, Sudan at approximately 1902 GMT, but the flightcrew elected to return to the airport citing faulty equipment onboard. The aircraft reportedly exploded during landing when its wing hit navigation objects located next to the runway. As of 0500 GMT today, seven of the eight bodies of those onboard had been recovered. According to the central controller's office at the airport, the plane crew consisted of four Moldovan nationals and four citizens of Ukraine.

The airplane was flying from Chisinau to Antalya and Sudan. Preliminary investigation shows the accident was caused by malfunctions in the engine. The crew decided to return to the airport soon after the takeoff due to malfunctions in the engine. The airplane crashed during the land approach.

The An-32 belonged to one of Sudanese airlines and was registered in Sudan. The prosecutor's office of Moldova has opened the criminal case. A special investigative commission has been created.

Transport plane AN-32 has been developed in 1977, in 1984 came in exploitation. It is created on the basis of plane AN-26 and differs engines of the raised capacity that allows to make flight even on one of them. The pilot-navigating equipment established onboard allows to carry out flight in complex meteorological conditions, day and night. AN-32 can transport up to 42 parachuters. Delivered to India, Afghanistan.

eBay Australia to only permit payment via PayPal

On the back of new restrictions being imposed on eBay users in the UK requiring that sellers offer PayPal payments for all sales, eBay Australia is mandating that only PayPal payments will be acceptable as of June 17. PayPal is a wholly-owned subsidiary of eBay, and charges a 30¢ transaction fee, plus a commission between 1.1% for high volume traders, and 2.4% for low value or low volume traders. These higher costs will be passed onto buyers.

Cash payment on pick up will be the only other payment option, and it may only be offered in conjunction with PayPal.

eBay has brought in this restriction under the guise of improving customer protection, bolstering its "Paypal Buyer Protection" insurance programme to allow claims up to \$20,000 instead of the previous maximum of \$3,000, however as of June 17 many of the items which would exceed \$3,000 are no longer covered by the programme, such as services, vehicles, real estate and businesses.

eBay Trust and Safety director Alastair MacGibbon said this change was not in response to the once-off fund established in March to refund eBay buyers who lost their non-existent holiday accommodation packages from the Melbourne eBay seller Robert Kobis. Mr MacGibbon said "It is part of a much larger initiative".

In addition to these measures, Paypal will be withholding funds from some sellers for 21 days.

".. until the earliest of the following occurs:
the buyer leaves positive

feedback,
3 days after confirmed item
delivery
21 days without a dispute, claim,
chargeback, or reversal filed on
that transaction"

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has held discussion with eBay, but declined to comment. The Australian Consumers Association spokesman Christopher Zinn said the unique use of PayPal could give rise to competition issues, however if the costs charged stayed as they were, they had no further concerns.

Over 60 dead in Kenya cholera outbreak, state issues alert

State health officials in Kenya issued an alert Thursday after an outbreak of cholera killed over 60 people in the last five months. All health personnel have been advised to actively monitor patients with diarrhea, and the government issued a ban on preparing and eating food in public gatherings.

Nyanza Province, with 750 infections and 45 deaths, has felt the brunt of the outbreak. Over 1,200 cases have been reported in the provinces of Nyanza, Rift Valley, North Eastern and Western. According to Agence France-Presse, officials have reported 45 people dead in Nyanza Province, 12 in North Eastern Province and seven in Rift Valley Province. Health officials have stated that the actual number of deaths due to the outbreak could be higher due to under reporting.

"The mass movement of people during the post-election crisis may also have contributed to the outbreak of the disease as people found themselves in areas with

inadequate water and sanitation facilities." —SK Sharif, senior deputy director of health services in Nyanza Province

SK Sharif, senior deputy director of health services in Nyanza, commented on contributing factors to the outbreak: "The mass movement of people during the post-election crisis may also have contributed to the outbreak of the disease as people found themselves in areas with inadequate water and sanitation facilities".

Health workers are working to contain the outbreak, and are focusing efforts on areas affected by violence related to the December elections. Suba, Migori, Homabay, Rongo, Siaya, Kisumu, Bondo, Nyando, Kisii, Wajir, Mandera, Naivasha, Nakuru and Bunyala are among the worst affected districts.

The possibility of a disease outbreak in Kenya was previously raised by health officials, specifically in camps where hundreds of thousands of displaced people reside. Revenge killings, tribal fighting and upheaval following the December elections in Kenya has displaced many in the country.

Titus Mung'ou, spokesman for Kenya Red Cross Society, told Agence France-Presse "We are trying to reduce the prevalence of the mix up that may happen by scrutinising food donations that are brought in the camps, but mostly we are ensuring that all the water is well treated".

In a news conference Thursday in Nairobi, Director of Medical Service Dr. James Nyikal said that if urgent measures were not undertaken to control the

outbreak, it could become much worse. "Most deaths occurred at home or on the way to hospital," said Dr. Nyikal. Medicines worth KSh17.3 million (GBP 2.4 million) and other equipment worth KSh700,000 (GBP 5,700) has been sent to the affected areas. The Kenyan government has allocated KSh38 million (GBP 11.75 million) to contain the outbreak.

"Boiling drinking water or treating water with chlorine and practising good toilet manners are necessary to avoid contamination."

—Dr. David Okello, World Health Organization Country Director

On Friday the Health Ministry requested aid from the United Nations Children's Fund, and Dr. Nyikal stated: "Health workers are a problem and we have written to Unicef, requesting assistance. Already some staff have been dispatched". Dr. Nyikal voiced concerns over high risk areas: "We are particularly concerned by risk areas such as eating premises and bus stops in major towns such as Busia, Kisumu, Kericho, Nakuru, Naivasha, Nairobi, Voi, Mtito Andei and Mombasa".

World Health Organization Country Director Dr. David Okello emphasized the importance of hygiene, stating: "We need to emphasise the importance of water safety and the public needs to adopt the measures of keeping water safe." Dr. Okello stressed that "Boiling drinking water or treating water with chlorine and practising good toilet manners are necessary to avoid contamination".

Cholera is a waterborne disease and causes serious diarrhea and vomiting. The disease can be fatal if it is not treated within 24 hours. Spread of the disease can be prevented by avoiding

contaminated drinking water, and practicing proper hand washing before touching food. Southern Sudan also reported an increase in cholera cases recently.

Large earthquake strikes south of New Zealand

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) a major magnitude 7.3 earthquake has struck 131 kilometers (82 miles) southwest of Macquarie Island, an Australian holding located to the south of New Zealand.

The quake struck at 11:30 a.m. local time and had a depth of 10 k.m. (6.2 miles).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) states that there is no threat of a large tsunami, but that small local waves may be generated close to the quakes epicenter.

The NOAA further said that, "Authorities can assume the danger has passed if no tsunami waves are observed near the epicenter within an hour of the earthquake."

So far, there is no word on injuries or damage.

Authorities in Belgium raid Church of Scientology

According to reports, authorities in Belgium have seized documents, financial records and computer equipment from the local branch of the Church of Scientology (Church) and then sealed off the building.

The reports state that the Church in Belgium is being investigated for extortion and fraud for allegedly posting false job openings in newspapers and then attempting to get those who applied to join the Church. Several ex-members

of the Church have also reportedly approached authorities with accusations of intimidation and extortion.

Police in Belgium have been investigating the Church for nearly ten years which resulted in the raid on Thursday.

In a statement to the press, the Church says that the police "violated their fundamental rights" as a religious organization and accused the police of "malicious justice operations." The Church plans to contest any charges filed against it. They also state that the postings were requests for volunteers and not employees.

So far no arrests have been made, but some employees of the Church were detained and questioned by police.

The building remains closed as of publication.

Today in History

1598 – King Henry IV of France issued the Edict of Nantes, allowing freedom of religion to the Huguenots.

1873 – In the wake of a contested election for local political offices in Colfax, Louisiana, USA, armed white supremacists overpowered freedmen and the African American state militia trying to control the parish courthouse, killing over 100 of them.

1919 – British Indian Army troops opened fire on a peaceful gathering in Amritsar, Punjab in India, killing hundreds of unarmed of men, women and children.

1943 – World War II: Germany announced the discovery of a mass grave of Polish prisoners-of-war executed by Soviet forces in the Katyn Forest Massacre.

1984 – Indian forces launched a preemptive attack on the disputed

Siachen Glacier region of Kashmir, triggering a military conflict with Pakistan.

April 13 is Thai New Year's Day.

Quote of the Day

If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.
~ Thomas Jefferson

Word of the Day

impel v

1. To urge a person; to press on; to incite to action or motion in any way.
2. To drive forward; to propel an object.

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