



Top Stories

Confrontation at APEC



18 arrested, police injured after Sydney protest

Two confirmed dead after Typhoon Fitow strikes Japan

Typhoon Fitow has struck Japan, leaving two people dead and a third missing. The storm moved through Tokyo yesterday.



Featured story



85 Hindu pilgrims killed in India lorry crash

At least 85 people on an annual pilgrimage were killed when their lorry and trailer careered out-of-control down a gorge. At least 64 more were injured.

Wikipedia Current Events

Israeli police arrest eight men originally from the former Soviet Union accused of forming a neo-

Wikipedia Current Events

Nazi cell.

- 2007 U.S. Open: Roger Federer of Switzerland defeats Novak Đoković in the final of the men's singles in straight sets 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-2), 6-4.
- Five thousand Algerians protest in Algiers after two recent suicide bomb attacks.
- Voters in Guatemala go to the polls in the Guatemalan general election, 2007.
- Jamaican Asafa Powell set a new men's world 100 meters record of 9.74 seconds at the IAAF Grand Prix at Rieti, Italy.
- The President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai is forced to cut short a speech in Kabul after gunfire is heard outside.
- A landslide in West Bengal, India kills seven people; over 500 houses buried or damaged.

- Pakistan's airports are placed on the highest alert due to concerns over an imminent terrorist threat.
- Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif boards a Pakistan International Airlines flight from London to Islamabad with his return likely to provoke a confrontation with the President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf.
- Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League claims that 2,000 of its members have been arrested prior to his return.

- Tropical Storm Gabrielle makes landfall near the Cape Lookout National Seashore in North

Wikipedia Current Events

Carolina, United States.

- The APEC summit draws to a close with most leaders preparing to leave and the President of the United States George W. Bush having left.
- The Prime Minister of Australia John Howard meets with the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe to discuss security and climate change.

2007 Rugby World Cup: South Africa, Wales, Scotland and Ireland win

In the pool stage of the 2007 Rugby World Cup, Wales came from behind to defeat Canada. South Africa defeated Samoa, while Ireland beat Namibia and Scotland beat world cup debutants Portugal.

In Pool B, Wales took an early lead against Canada with three penalties from James Hook. However Wales struggled throughout the first half, and tries from Canadians Jamie Cudmore, Craig Culpan and Morgan Williams meant that Canada led 17-9 early in the second half.

Wales improved in the last half hour of the match. Tries from Alun Wyn Jones, Colin Charvis and a double from Shane Williams regained the lead for Wales.

In a very physical encounter in Pool A, South Africa comfortably defeated Samoa. The South Africans led 9-0 after fifteen

minutes with Percy Montgomery kicking three penalties. Samoa scored their only points of the match soon afterwards when Gavin Williams scored and converted a try.

South Africa led 21-7 at half time after tries from Bryan Habana and Percy Montgomery. They controlled the second half, and tries from Jaque Fourie, J P Pietersen, a second from Percy Montgomery and a second half hat-trick from Bryan Habana completed South Africa's victory.

Portugal, making their first ever appearance in the world cup, faced Scotland in Pool C. Rory Lamont scored two quick tries for Scotland followed by a try from Scott Lawson to give Scotland a 21-0 lead. Pedro Carvalho scored Portugal's first world cup try, and Duarte Cardoso Pinto converted as well as scoring a penalty. However Scotland were too strong and Rob Dewey, Kelly Brown, Dan Parks, Hugo Southwell and Ross Ford all scored tries for Scotland. Dan Parks scored 15 points from his try and five conversions.

Pool D saw Ireland take on Namibia. Despite a messy performance from Ireland, they led at half time thanks to tries from Brian O'Driscoll, Andrew Trimble and Simon Easterby. Early in the second half, Ireland were awarded a penalty try when two scrums collapsed, but Namibia responded with tries from Jacques Nieuwenhuis and Piet van Zyl. Towards the end of the match Jerry Flannery scored Ireland's fifth try to secure the win.

New doubt over Shakespeare's authorship

A debate has been launched by almost 300 people, seeking further

research into William Shakespeare and the many masterpieces attributed to him. The group, named the Shakespeare Authorship Coalition, are reluctant to believe that the Bard wrote all of the plays that make him internationally famous, and are keen to unravel the mysteries surrounding his life and work.

Although it is widely accepted that Shakespeare existed and penned many works, the group question why all records of Shakespeare are non-literary, and how so many high-quality plays could be written by someone born into an illiterate household. The Coalition also asks why none of his plays mention his home town of Stratford-upon-Avon, and also a 16th Century commoner could have such extensive and accurate knowledge of the worldwide settings in which they take place.

Conspiracy theories since the 18th century have claimed that the works could have been written by authors using the pen name Shakespeare, particularly Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe and Edward de Vere. Sir Derek Jacobi, actor and member of the Shakespeare Authorship Coalition, believes that the famous plays could have been written by more than one writer. "I subscribe to the group theory," Sir Derek said. "I don't think anybody could do it on their own."

A "declaration of reasonable doubt" was presented to Dr William Leahy, Head of English at London's Brunel University. Speaking about the conspiracies, he said, "It's a legitimate question, it has a mystery at its centre and intellectual discussion will bring us closer to that centre."

The Coalition has set up a website,

inviting people to sign the declaration and keep up-to-date with new research.

Fernando Alonso wins 2007 Italian Grand Prix

Fernando Alonso wins the 2007 FIA Formula-1 Italian Grand Prix at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Monza, Italy, with his teammate, Vodafone McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton second. The pair won the top two places of the 78th Grand Prix held in Monza, starting from the front line. This win became the first for Fernando Alonso on this track and his another hat-trick.

During most of the free practice and the qualification McLaren seem to be clearly ahead of their rivals from Ferrari, resulting in that Alonso easily took the pole position. Since the start the defending World Champion performed extremely well and stayed in full control of the race. Hamilton's position was not as stable, however, when Felipe Massa overtook him on the start, but the Londoner took back his position on the first chicane.

After ten laps Massa drove his car to the pits, possibly too soon, then suddenly slowed down on the track. It became clear that the race was spoiled for Ferrari team, with only the red car of Kimi Räikkönen, doing his best not to fall too far behind Hamilton, remaining in the race. His risky single pit-stop strategy allowed him to stay ahead of Hamilton for a couple of laps, but the fresh tyres of McLaren after their second pit-stop left no additional chances to Raikonen who suffered a crash into the wall of tyres in the Friday practice session.

Both BMW Saubers of Nick Heidfeld and Robert Kubica took

4th and 5th places.

Top eight closed by Nico Rosberg's Williams-Toyota, Heikki Kovalainen's Renault and Jenson Button's Honda.

As a result, McLaren strengthen the lead over Ferrari to 23 points, with 166 points total. Alonso is now only 3 points close to Hamilton, who have 92 points.

20 dead in Hyderabad, India flyover collapse

At least 20 people have died and 20 more are injured after a partially constructed flyover (overpass) in Hyderabad, India collapsed onto traffic.

The disaster occurred at the Panjagutta junction, near Nagarjuna Circle. Two large concrete sections dropped onto oncoming cars and motorised rickshaws, damaging several severely.

A large emergency effort was immediately activated, but experienced severe difficulties in reaching the site due to congested traffic resulting from the collapse. Ambulances from the 108 EMRI Service and Appollo Hospitals attended the scene, and rushed the injured to a variety of nearby hospitals. All the region's major hospitals, particularly the nearby Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, have placed their medical staff on emergency alert. Rescuers are now using cranes and cutting equipment in an effort to reach anyone who may still be trapped. It is expected that the death toll could rise further as many vehicles remain trapped under tons of debris.

Various politicians also attended the scene, including the local district collector, Chief Minister of

Andhra Pradesh Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy, Senior Congress Leader and MLA from Khairathabad P Janardhan Reddy and several other ministers.

Police have asked both the public and the press to keep away from the area, in order to prevent further collapse of the unstable structure. Preliminary investigations suggest the flyover had been poorly constructed. The construction project had been carried out by leading contractor Gammon India Limited. It had been delayed, the original foundations having been built in 2005. After a successful request by the company to have the deadline for the project extended, work was slated to cease in November of this year, with the flyover entering operation by December. It is believed heavy rains in the area a few hours prior to the collapse may have contributed to the disaster.

100m record beaten in Rieti

Asafa Powell has broken the world 100m record at the IAAF Grand Prix Rieti. The Jamaican set the record of 9.74 seconds in one of two heats, after setting the previous record in Athens in June 2005, and meeting it twice in Gateshead and Zurich. Competitors were faced with a strong following wind but the race went ahead within International Association of Athletics Federations standards.

Speaking about the heat, Powell said 'It's just to remind my fans that Asafa Powell is still here. I came here and executed properly and did what I was supposed to do.' Powell was followed by Michael Frater, also Jamaican, who came second, and Norway's Jaysuma Saidu Ndure. They ran 10.03 seconds and 10.10 seconds

respectively.

Powell recently gained a bronze medal at the World Championships, after admitting he had given up during the final when he realised he was out of gold medal contention. It was a major disappointment for Powell, who has never scored a world title despite breaking the record four times.

Pope appeals for respectful Sundays

Pope Benedict XVI, speaking on the third final day of a visit to Vienna, Austria, has appealed for renewed respect for Sundays.

In the Roman Catholic Church, Sundays are called the Hebrew word Shābath (now called the Sabbath), meaning "to rest". Originally on Saturdays, which is still retained in the Jewish faith, it was changed to Sunday by some Catholics as God rested from creating the earth on Sunday and the commemoration of the resurrection of Christ was on Sunday. Although this is still argued.

During a Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral, the Pope promoted leisure time as 'something good and necessary amid the mad rush of a modern world,' but warned that leisure without a focus (on faith) could be wasted time. As part of his sermon, he also encouraged the congregation to 'give the soul its Sunday - give Sunday its soul,' quoting a 20th Century bishop from Germany.

The Pope is in Austria to mark the 850th anniversary of the foundation of the Shrine of Mariazell. Today, he will also take part in a recitation of the Angelus Domini, and visit Heiligenkreuz Abbey before a farewell ceremony

at the international airport of Vienna/Schwechat.

Sydney thanked for its patience during APEC

Australian Prime Minister John Howard has thanked residents of host city Sydney for their patience during the APEC summit. Sydney was subject to the largest and tightest security operation ever seen in Australia.

Those in the city were subject to restricted areas in the central business district, which were fenced off, closures of some of the city's iconic sights, road closures and traffic congestion. "I do want to thank the people of Sydney for their forbearance in the face of the normal restrictions, security wise, that are involved in conducting these international gatherings," Mr Howard said.

Some Sydney residents have complained that the security measures were disproportionate to the actual requirements and costly. Tourism and Transport Forum Australia (TTF) head Christopher Brown complained of the excessive costs and police presence. "I'm so embarrassed and annoyed," said Brown. "Where was the sense of proportion? We replaced Olympic volunteers with riot squads." The TTF is an industry group representing tourism, transport and infrastructure sectors and a self-described "leading CEO network", which had supported the APEC summit coming to Sydney.

Mr Howard also thanked police officers involved in the security operation. "I particularly extend my thanks to the officers and the men and women of the NSW and Australian Federal Police," said Mr Howard.

APEC closes in Sydney

APEC Australia 2007 has officially closed in Sydney, with Australian Prime Minister John Howard delivering APEC's final declaration. The final leader's declaration said that APEC member economies will support the Doha trade talks and that the leaders examined a series of measures to deal with terrorism, pandemics, contaminated food, energy security and natural disasters.

Mr Howard said that the APEC members had decided to make "An urgent request to all countries involved in the Doha process to renew their efforts to achieve an outcome, emphasizing that agriculture and industrial products are the two priority areas".

The leaders wish for Doha to enter its final phase this year. Talks have been stalled due to disagreements between the European Union and United States over subsidies and tariffs for the agricultural sector.

A plan by the United States to establish an APEC free trade zone received a mixed reception with some members believing that such a move would weaken the group's commitment to the Doha round. They did agree that if the WTO's Doha talks were not completed by the end of the year, the APEC zone would be examined.

Speaking to CNBC, the head of the World Trade Organisation, Pascal Lamy said that negotiations taking place in Geneva were making progress.

"There is a strong sense that it is a make-or-break moment. It may take a few weeks, but my sense is that there is a lot of focus and energy," Mr Lamy said.

In the area of health, the final

declaration also promised to share influenza samples and provide equitable access to vaccines. Security related issues were a commitment to rooting out terrorism and a recognition of the danger proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses to the region.

Despite interest from India and Pakistan in joining the group, it was announced that additional members will be considered in 2010.

The final declaration also reaffirmed the Sydney Declaration on climate change, which had been agreed upon on Saturday.

Transcript of bin Laden message released by ABC

ABC News has obtained and released a transcript of a taped message from Osama Bin Laden.

Osama bin Laden's first video in almost three years has surfaced but has mixed reviews in the Arab world. Al Queda supporters are enthused by the video coinciding with the 6th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, but other parts of the Muslim world seemed worried that the video may spawn new attacks creating more instability than there already is.

Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to release "Memoirs: 1939-1993"

On Sunday Memoirs: 1939-1993 a memoir written by former Prime Minister of Canada Brian Mulroney will be released. The 1,152 page tome outlines Mulroney's version of events during his time as prime minister.

CTV will broadcast a documentary on Brian Mulroney on the eve of his book launch. In addition, the

network plans to air *Triumph & Treachery: The Brian Mulroney Story on Sunday*, CTV says the 90-minute special will be the most complete interview the former prime minister has ever given and his first comprehensive interview since leaving office in 1993. The Quebec French language TVA network will air a similar documentary exclusively in French later that night.

Mulroney allocates a fair amount of text commenting on his antagonist the late and former Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Mulroney believes that Trudeau lacked the moral fibre to be Prime Minister for not serving in the Canadian Forces during World War II.

"Pierre Trudeau was not among them. That's a decision he made. He's entitled to make that kind of decision. But it doesn't qualify him for any position of moral leadership in our society."

— Mulroney

Mulroney insinuates that the young Trudeau had anti-Semitic beliefs at that time, "This is a man who questioned the Allies when the Jews were being sacrificed and when the great extermination program was on, he was marching around Outremont, Quebec on the other side of the issue."

Mulroney also blames Trudeau for scuttling the Meech Lake Accord, the 1990 pact aimed at securing Quebec's signature on the Constitution of Canada.

The current Prime Minister Stephen Harper supported Mulroney's right to comment on Trudeau, "I think it's well known Mr. Mulroney was an opponent of Mr. Trudeau," Harper said. "He was his opposition leader and, as you

know, came to power at the end of the Trudeau period when people wanted to make a change. I'll leave it to people who were there then to fight those battles. I think it's perfectly reasonable that they would comment. I think these are debates that are best left to some of the people who were around then and academics."

Trudeau's former peers and friends have rallied behind his legacy and made public comments to dampen Mulroney's accusations.

Stephane Dion responded to Mulroney critiques with a five paragraph statement posted on the Liberal Party website, "It is regrettable that, after attending prime minister Trudeau's state funeral and praising him as 'an exceptional individual who served his country effectively and well ... a gallant political warrior who loved his country,' Mr. Mulroney would seem to be at such odds with his own views."

Tom Axworthy's, response to Mulroney was that Trudeau should be judged by his actions once his values matured and he entered public life, not by "ridiculous" thoughts he entertained briefly in his teens and early twenties.

John R. English stated, Trudeau's youthful views must be put in the context of the times, when most Quebecers were so virulently anti-British and opposed to what they saw as a British war that they were blinded to the evils of Hitler's Nazism.

Immigrant's Festival begins in Argentina

Oberá, Argentina – The 28th annual Immigrant's Festival began in the Argentinean city of Oberá, located in the centre of Misiones. On September 6th, the inaugural

parade began in the civic center of the city, and more than 15 collectivities crossed Oberá's principal streets showing their traditional wardrobe to visitors.

The parade culminated in the "Parque de las Naciones" with the current candidate for governor of Misiones, Maurice Closs, present. After 6pm, the national queen and the others authorities completed the traditional ribbon cutting ceremony, officially inaugurating the 28th Immigrant's Festival.

"We try to honor our forbears, their history, their culture, their music, their food; and also transmit to the young men who join every collectivity" declared Ewaldo Rinsfleisch, the mayor of Oberá. "We hope that each person that visits us today and in the course of these days find and discover a corner of their past in the Parque de las Naciones", added the mayor.

On September 15th, La Mancha de Rolando, La 25 y Lourdes will do their presentation. On the next day, the national immigrant's queen will be chosen.

Ford offers US\$78 million for Romanian auto plant

Ford Motor Company, the U.S. car maker, will reportedly pay €57 million (US\$78 million) for a 72.4 percent stake in the Romanian assembly plant Automobile Craiova, a Romanian official said Friday.

"The offer of Ford Motor Company for a 72.4 percent stake is €4.1556 per share or €57 million overall," said Sebastian Vladescu, head of the State Property Agency (AVAS), after opening Ford's improved offer. Vladescu added that the contract may be signed on September 12, during the auto

show in Frankfurt.

The Romanian government bought back the Craiova-based car maker from Daewoo Motors, in late 2006 for US\$51 million. As the Korean company was bankrupt, the government had to pay another \$10 million for debts stemming from past loans. Ford is the only bidder for the purchase of the factory.

According to Washington Post, many auto-part makers have set up in the new European Union member country, attracted by cheap labor, favourable tax rates and the rising output of Renault's Dacia plant. The vice president of Dacia, Constantin Stroe, said that the price Ford offers is not important. "It's important to have the factory working as soon as possible", he added. "With this production facility, Romania will become an important auto production center in Europe", concluded Stroe, cited by HotNews.

Students Promote Thailand's Tourism with their Paintbrushes - and Give Proceeds to Poor Kids

An innovative "Children helping Children" project has been launched by local volunteers and students of a school in Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand. Named the Chiang Mai Charity Calendar 2008 <http://chiangmaicalendar.googlepages.com> it serves the dual purpose of promoting their 700-year-old city, and supporting disadvantaged children.

Self-financed with no advertising, and produced by schoolchildren for a charitable cause, it is probably the first of its kind to surface in the travel industry, and something normally only in the domain of National Tourism Organizations.

The objectives are:

-Initially, to encourage well-off children to help poor kids in a 'create and donate' concept, using art pieces instead of money.

-To put Chiang Mai on the world map as a prime destination in its own right for leisure, conferences, medical tourism, high quality purchases, sports, education, studies, and not a stopover, as many perceive it to be.

-To raise funds for disadvantaged Thai children through sales of the calendar.

-To further motivate the kids who donated the paintings to continue doing worthwhile things - by letting them experience their own success, first hand.

The students, all from Prem Tinsulanonda International School, were invited to create original paintings depicting why "Chiang Mai is a Wonderful Place to Live" This resulted in 93 entries from all ages and nationalities, thirteen of which were selected for inclusion in the not-for-profit 40-page 14-month full colour desk calendar. The production contains around 2000 words of original text, highlighting the city's rich history, and relative inaccessibility for centuries, e.g.:

"The railway line did not reach the city until 1921, and the last stretch of paved road was not completed until 1972 ... extraordinary to think that in the previous year the Apollo 15 crew had already driven vehicles on the moon"

It points out that in 2005, Travel+Leisure readers voted Chiang Mai into fifth place in the list of world's best cities,

acknowledges that the Asian economic building boom has had a negative impact, but adds:

"High buildings, highways and supermarkets bow deferentially to antiquity, and in many cases their clumsy presence only serves to intensify the beauty of the city's historical monuments - ancient chedis or graceful spires gloriously upstaging trendy modern architecture"

This colourful and useful product will carry its promotional message into homes and offices all around the world, and has been welcomed by the Tourism Authority of Thailand Director Northern Office Region 1, Mr. Junnapong Saranak, who in his introductory message in the calendar, remarks that it is unique, and 'may even become a collector's item'

Tropical Storm Gabrielle eyes US east coast

Gabrielle became a tropical storm this evening, according to the National Hurricane Center (NHC). And, forecasters call for some additional strengthening as it churns toward North Carolina.

At 5 p.m. EST, the storm was located 185 miles southeast of Cape Lookout, N.C., moving northwest at 9 mph. Gabrielle is currently packing winds of 40 mph.

Gabrielle is forecasted to make landfall around the Outer Banks area on Sunday, with maximum sustained winds around 65 mph, before moving back into the Atlantic.

Sharon Peele Kennedy, an Outer Banks resident, said, "It's going to get a little gnarly...We're securing, but not too fast. There's no evacuation issue at all. This is just

a little breeze."

North Carolina Governor Mike Easley said, "The greatest danger will be flooding in low lying areas and on roads, such as Highway 12 on the Outer Banks...The most deaths during tropical storms occur when people drive into flood waters and drown. Rip currents will be strong in the ocean. The safest place to be will be indoors."

Tropical storm warnings have been issued from Surf City, North Carolina, and a few areas northward.

Coastal areas around North Carolina could see between 1 and 3 inches of rain, with 5 inches possible in a few isolated areas.

Forecasters do not believe Gabrielle will reach Hurricane strength.

Today in History

1813 – War of 1812: An American fleet led by Oliver Hazard Perry scored a decisive victory over Great Britain's Royal Navy at the Battle of Lake Erie in Lake Erie near Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

1897 – A peaceful labor demonstration made up of mostly Polish and Slovak anthracite coal miners in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, USA, was fired upon by a sheriff's posse comitatus in the Lattimer Massacre.

1898 – In an act of "propaganda of the deed", Italian anarchist Luigi Lucheni fatally stabbed Empress Elisabeth of Austria in Geneva, Switzerland.

1977 – Murderer Hamida Djandoubi became the last person to be guillotined in France, the official method of execution in that country. France would later abolish the death penalty in 1981.

1990 – Pope John Paul II consecrated the Basilica of Our

Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, one of the largest churches in the world.

September 10 is National Day in Gibraltar (1967).

Quote of the Day

The river of truth is always splitting up into arms that reunite. Islanded between them, the inhabitants argue for a lifetime as to which is the mainstream.
~ Cyril Connolly

Word of the Day

humble; v

1. To bring low; to reduce the power, independence, or exaltation of; to humiliate.
2. To make meek or lowly in mind; to make submissive.

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