



Top Stories

Clinton to suspend campaign



The Clinton campaign has announced that Hillary Clinton will suspend her campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination on Saturday.

Credit: Marc Nozell – flickr (cc-by 2.0)

US and UK diplomats detained in Zimbabwe



According to the US ambassador to Zimbabwe, James McGee, diplomats from both the United Kingdom and the United States were temporarily detained by government loyalists.

Indian 'guru' faces charges of fraud, drugs and rape

A spiritual guru known as "Swami Amritachaitanya" is being held in Kerala, India on charges of fraud, rape, and possession of narcotic drugs. Swami Amritachaitanya, whose real name is Santosh Madhavan, was arrested by Interpol in March on criminal charges in a police raid at his 16-suite ashram in Kochi, India following multiple police complaints against him. Indians living in Bahrain have recently come forward and filed a case against Madhavan in India on allegations of fraudulent practices related to his supposed charity activities.

NHL: Detroit wins the 2008 Stanley Cup

The Detroit Red Wings won their 11th Stanley Cup in National Hockey League (NHL) history on Wednesday. The Red Wings won the sixth game of the ice hockey championship finals by a 3-2 score against the Pittsburgh Penguins at Mellon Arena in Pittsburgh. The Conn Smythe Trophy, an individual player award, was presented to Henrik Zetterberg.

Wikipedia Current Events

- A fire destroys major parts of the Rådhuset court house in Stockholm, the architectural landmark designed by Carl Westman.
- Turkey's Constitutional Court reinstates a ban on the hijab in universities, citing the constitution's secular principles.
- Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Olmert says that "the end of Iran's nuclear program is near".
- Burma detains activist and comedian Zarganar who has been involved in private relief efforts for the victims of Cyclone Nargis and seize his computer and banned films including Rambo IV.

Wikipedia Current Events

The United States Secretary of Defence Robert Gates announces the resignation of United States Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne and his Chief of Staff General T. Michael Moseley over the 2007 United States Air Force nuclear weapons incident.

- The USS Essex, USS Juneau, USS Harpers Ferry and USS Mustin finally depart the coast of Burma as the State Peace and Development Council maintains its refusal of the ships' aid in Cyclone Nargis relief.
- Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others are arraigned at Guantanamo Bay detention camp under the Military Commissions Act of 2006, and charged with crimes related to the September 11, 2001 attacks.
- Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo of the International Criminal Court reports that crimes in the War in Darfur "required the sustained mobilization of the entire State apparatus" of Sudan.

Clinton to suspend campaign

The Clinton campaign has announced that Hillary Clinton will suspend her campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination on Saturday.

In an email sent to Clinton supporters, she said that she would like to "extend my congratulations to Senator Obama."

This announcement made by the Clinton team comes as Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee, says that he is 'honored' to be the nominee in the election.

US and UK diplomats detained in Zimbabwe

United States and United Kingdom diplomatic staff were detained in

Zimbabwe, according to US ambassador James D. McGee. They have now been released, say spokespeople from both the British and American embassies.

Ambassador McGee spoke in an interview on CNN: "Police put up a roadblock, stopped the vehicles, slashed the tires, reached in and grabbed telephones from my personnel, and the war veterans threatened to burn the vehicles with my people inside unless they got out and accompanied police to a station nearby."

The ambassador said that the incident was a serious breach of diplomatic protocols. "We do believe this is coming directly from the top," he added.

A driver working for the US embassy was beaten up by the veterans, who are often used by the ZANU-PF (the ruling political party) to intimidate political opponents. They were also used as shock troops in the government's ouster of white farm owners.

Zimbabwe's Deputy Information Minister Bright Matonga told the press that the diplomats were detained because they had tried to flee a roadblock and had refused to comply with police. He also refuted the claims that an embassy employee was beaten and that tires were slashed.

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown's official spokesman has said the Zimbabwean ambassador in London has been asked by the Foreign Office to explain what happened.

US Deputy Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe told reporters in Washington: "We are contacting the Zimbabwean authorities about the matter. It's completely

unacceptable." He labeled the incident "outrageous."

Just yesterday, police temporarily detained opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai (MDC), who is running against President Robert Mugabe in a run-off election on June 27.

Tsvangirai resumed his campaign today. "Our resolve for a new beginning, and a new Zimbabwe remains unshaken," he said. "We are convinced of the justness of our cause, and we will not waver until we restore the dignity of all the people of Zimbabwe."

U.S. Navy forced to give up on Burma relief

The United States Navy was forced to withdraw from its Cyclone Nargis relief efforts in Burma/Myanmar today due to the continued refusal of the ruling State Peace and Development Council government to allow the delivery of aid. Four U.S. naval ships were ordered to depart from the area on Thursday. After 15 failed attempts to convince the ruling military junta to allow U.S. helicopters to deliver much needed supplies to areas such as the Irrawaddy Delta, Admiral Timothy J. Keating, the head of the U.S. Pacific Command, indicated that they were left with no choice but to leave.

"I am both saddened and frustrated to know that we have been in a position to help ease the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people ... but have been unable to do so because of the unrelenting positions of the Burma military junta," Keating said via his headquarters. He said that the U.S. would still be willing to offer help if the junta simply allowed them in.

The British and French navies have also been forced to withdraw due to the junta's unwillingness to allow them to provide assistance to cyclone victims. United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had been previously assured by the ruling Burmese generals that relief workers would be allowed to help, but reports indicate this has still not happened on the ground. The UN, in its latest report on the situation, noted that Burma was faced with a "serious lack of sustained humanitarian assistance for the affected populations."

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Foreign aid agencies already in place and trying to help victims have reported that they continue to face problems in delivering large volumes of relief supplies in the affected regions. The U.S. naval ships had 22 heavy-lift helicopters that would have been ideally suited to the task. "Important heavy-lifting capability in the delta would have been a standard operating procedure for relief agencies in the response," said Paul Risley of the United Nations World Food Program. The UN group has been trying to get ten civilian helicopters to fill the role in the interim, but the Burmese authorities have still not allowed nine of the civilian aircraft to be used in the relief efforts.

To date, the Burmese military has allowed 106 airlifts of foreign supplies to occur, but only into Rangoon, the largest city in the

nation. Those delivered supplies are slated to be forwarded to the areas devastated by the cyclone. However, the ruling junta has refused to allow inland flights of foreign military helicopters to deliver relief aid. The junta believes they have sufficient abilities to deliver the resources but foreign analysts believe that the group does not wish to demonstrate to the Burmese people that it needs outside help. Doctors Without Borders has said that the relief efforts to date are not enough, and that many remote areas have received no assistance.

The UN determined that Burma may need relief efforts for a year. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has found that 495,000 acres of rice production areas have been damaged out of a total of 2.5 million acres. The areas are either still under too much water to sustain crops, or have been contaminated by seawater during Cyclone Nargis. According to Risley, the year-long importing of rice would be required as the damage was done just before the normal planting season. "This year's crop will not meet requirements," Risley said. "The losses to the production of rice are very deep. It would be typical for the WFP to provide food rations through the next harvest, which could be a year away."

Access by foreigners to Burma has been generally restricted since the cyclone. Visas and travel permission to affected areas have been limited by the government. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement reported that "the small number of visas and the short duration of travel permits for access" into the areas in need of aid "continue to impose serious constraints on the

effectiveness of overall operations." The World Health Organization has said that, as of yet, there appears to be no "second wave" of deaths in the wake of the blocked relief efforts, which may be a sign of hope.

78,000 people were killed by the cyclone. To date, another 56,000 remain unaccounted for, according to Burma's government.

Malware from mass SQL injections confirmed by security experts

Nearly 20,000 websites have been attacked by unknown hackers using a technique known as an SQL injection. The hackers have inserted code to install malware onto visitors' computers. The code exploits a newly-discovered weakness in Adobe Flash Player, a very common web-browser plugin. The attacks prompted an investigation by the Taiwanese information security industry into the source of these attacks.

An SQL injection is a common method employed by hackers to attack and deface websites, arising from website mistakes in checking user input. Hackers take advantage of these weaknesses to inject information of their choosing into the website. For example, in June of 2007, Microsoft UK found its webpage changed to a picture of the Saudi Arabia flag, an attack which was carried out using an SQL injection.

According to SecurityFocus, this most recent series of attacks stems from a vulnerability in versions 9.0.115.0 and 9.0.124.0 of Flash Player. It allows hackers to load any code they wish onto a computer running these versions of Flash.

As the vulnerability in Flash is

newly discovered, Adobe has not yet released a newer version which fixes the problem. For the time being, computer security experts recommend that internet users with one of the unprotected versions of Flash disable the plugin on Mozilla Firefox or Internet Explorer to prevent hackers from gaining control over their computers.

NHL: Detroit wins the 2008 Stanley Cup

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Pittsburgh last won the Stanley Cup in 1992 and was seeking its third Cup in the playoffs. The Stanley Cup is the most prominent contest in North American ice hockey.

Detroit's Brian Rafalski scored the only goal in the first period. The Red Wings increased their lead with another goal in the second period by Valtteri Filppula. Pittsburgh's Evgeni Malkin scored Pittsburgh's first goal of the game, also in the second period.

In the third period, Henrik Zetterberg earned Detroit's third goal of the game. In the final two minutes, Pittsburgh's Sergei Gonchar reduced Detroit's lead to 3-2, but the Penguins could not force a tie at the end.

U.S. ISPs to test restricting heavy Internet users

On June 3rd, 2008, two United States Internet service providers

(ISPs) announced they would begin tests to slow web access for their most active customers and charge them for extra speed. Comcast and Time Warner Cable, two of the largest ISPs in North America, both made separate announcements of their plans. The actions come in the wake of an investigation by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), over whether Comcast had restricted some customers from sharing videos, music, and similar files. The FCC investigation led to a US Congress debate over whether and how much control ISPs should have over the flow of customer data.

Public interest groups complained in November 2007 to the FCC that Comcast had specifically targeted customers using applications that made use of the BitTorrent system, a popular form of file sharing. Free Press, an advocacy group that pushes for better oversight of cable operators such as Comcast, stated that Comcast practices were discriminatory towards users of the legal technology. "The cable companies see a hammer hovering above their heads and are scrambling to find ways to reduce the appearance of wrongdoing," said Ben Scott, head of the group.

According to Roger Entner, a senior vice president from Nielsen IAG, that as little as 5 percent of all Internet users may consume as much as 50 percent of all the bandwidth on the Internet. "This is the politically correct version of doing what Comcast had been doing before, though it takes the occasional [peer-to-peer] user off the hook," Entner said. Sena Fitzmaurice, a Comcast spokesperson, said, "This says we won't be looking at what type of traffic that there is, even though

we still need to manage the network."

Comcast's tests are expected to begin in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania and Warrenton, Virginia.

While Comcast will attempt to throttle the speed of all its high-volume users, Time Warner Cable intends to use a different method. They will meter and bill clients, charging more money for faster speeds and larger amounts of transmitted data, functioning more like a traditional public utility, such as an electric company or cell phone service. Their metered billing test will begin on June 5 in Beaumont, Texas for newly enrolled customers. "Instead of raising prices across the board, consumers who are excessive users would pay," said Alex Dudley, a Time Warner Cable spokesman. "It is clearly the fairest way to fund the investment that is going to be required to support that use."

An Associated Press report that Time Warner Cable will bill customers between \$29.95 to \$54.90USD per month has been confirmed by the cable operator, with clients charged an extra \$1 for each gigabyte (GB) by which they exceed their purchased plan. Art Brodsky, communications director of Public Knowledge, a consumer advocacy group in Washington D.C., has expressed concerns about the Time Warner Cable plan. Time Warner Cable's most expensive offering, \$54.90, comes with 15 megabits-per-second of data transfer speed and a 40 gigabyte limit on total data transfer.

"An HD (high-definition) movie is 8GB or so, three movies is more than half your allowance for a

month, and heaven knows what else you might want to watch," Brodsky says. "This is not a relieving congestion scheme as much as it is a rationing scheme. All it does is protect an inadequate infrastructure from the cable company."

Today in History

1523 – Gustav Vasa became King of Sweden, marking the end of the Kalmar Union.

1683 – Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum, the world's first university museum, opened.

1933 – The first ever drive-in theater opened in Camden, New Jersey, United States.

1944 – World War II: The Invasion of Normandy, the largest amphibious military operation in history, began with Allied troops landing on the beaches of Normandy in France.

1982 – A war in Lebanon began when Israeli forces invaded southern Lebanon to root out members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

2005 – The U.S. Supreme Court delivered its landmark legal decision in *Gonzales v. Raich*, allowing the U.S. Congress to ban medical marijuana even in states that approve its use.

June 06 is National holiday of Sweden observed

Quote of the Day

I can be forced to live without happiness, but I will never consent to live without honor.

~ Pierre Corneille

Word of the Day

Ucalegon n

- (dated) A neighbor whose house is on fire or has burned down.

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