



Top Stories

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Featured story

Canada contributes weather station to NASA Mars mission



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Wikipedia Current Events

- A bus carrying primary school students crashes with a truck on the Aksaray-Konya highway in central Turkey resulting in the death of 32 people.
- Garry Kasparov, Russian chess champion and opposition activist, is arrested with over 100 others while attempting to hold a protest march in Moscow.
- At least 200,000 secularist and anti-imperialist Turks march in Ankara to warn the Islamist Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan or a candidate associated with him from standing to become the President of Turkey.
- A car bomb explodes in a bus station in Karbala city killing or injuring at least 56 people and injuring at least 70. At least 10 people die after a suicide bomber explodes a bomb at the Jadiriya bridge in Baghdad.
- Bill Richardson, a US special envoy, predicts that North Korea will not meet a deadline of today set by the Six-Party Talks to shut down its nuclear reactor but will meet their obligations a few days after.
- Nigerian general election: Nigerian voters go to the polls for state governor and legislative elections. Security is tight in the northern city of Kano following the murder of militant Islamic cleric Ustaz Ja'afar Adam.

Two suicide bombers attack US targets in Casablanca

Two bombs went off today in

Boulevard Moulay Youssef in central Casablanca, Morocco. Two men, reported to be brothers, blew themselves up outside and the United States Consulate and its culture center, respectively. The bombers both died and a woman, who was passing by, was injured.

An eyewitness told BBC News: "I saw a man talking to a policeman, trying to distract him I guess, while another man walked by to the consulate and blew himself up over there."

Police sources say that the men were part of the same terror cell that police has been trying to track down since a March 11 bombing at an Internet cafe. On April 10, four suspects died after a police raid on the same group.

In the hours following the bombings, police arrested three people, and recovered another explosives belt near Kandara Hotel. A man seen throwing down the belt was among those arrested. Moroccan authorities have been downplaying a possible connection with Wednesday's bombings in neighboring Algeria.

2007 Cricket World Cup: New Zealand vs South Africa

New Zealand beat South Africa by 5 wickets in the Super 8 phase of the World Cup at the Cricket National Stadium, St. George's, Grenada, securing their place in the semi-finals, along with Australia, Sri Lanka and a currently unknown team. South Africa will have to beat England in their upcoming game in

order to secure their progression.

Toss: New Zealand won, and elected to bowl first.

French presidential candidate Sarkozy accuses left parties of betraying left values

Nicolas Sarkozy, the right-wing political party UMP's candidate for the upcoming Presidential elections in France, which enters its first round next week, held a campaign meeting in Toulouse last Thursday, where he accused the left side political parties of betraying the ideals of Jaurès, Blum and other key socialist politicians. He compared the "left of old times" with the left nowadays, and said he wanted to "bring back to the heart of politics the values that the left side parties have betrayed."

Former mayor of Toulouse Philippe Douste-Blazy welcomed more than 14 000 attendees to the city's Parc des Expositions and warmly introduced 'Sarko'. He summarized the candidates political program by saying: "The Republic [of France, red.] is not about defending laxity and impunity for the agitators, it's about guaranteeing the security and freedom of all through the respect of the laws and Justice." Sarkozy was Minister of Interior Affairs during the 2005 suburban riots in France, when he instituted a zero-tolerance policy. Of one of Sarkozy's rivals, François Bayrou, Douste-Blazy said that France didn't need a President who "undergoes and refuses to make choices."

In his speech of more than one hour, Sarkozy claimed the historical heritage of the founders of socialism and their values of right to work, payed holidays, social security, unemployment benefits, education, liberty of conscience, and of moral rights and the rights

of the individual: "These values, I've wanted the Republican right side to reclaim them at a moment when the left side abandons them." According to him, François Hollande, chairman of the French Socialist Party, and with him his wife and the socialist candidate for the Presidential elections, Ségolène Royal, because Hollande "has forgotten Blum and Camus, and doesn't know Jaurès."

Horse racing: Silver Birch wins the 2007 Grand National

Silver Birch has won the 2007 Grand National at Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool. Ridden by Robbie Power and trained by Gordon Elliott, the 33-1 outsider won the 4 mile 4 furlong (7.2 km) race by three-quarters of a length, becoming the sixth Irish winner in the past nine years.

Thirteen horses finished the race out of 40 starters. Slim Pickings, leading the race at the penultimate fence, was overtaken by Silver Birch on the last jump. Silver Birch then held off a late challenge by McKelvey in a close finish.

McKelvey came in second at 12-1, while Slim Pickings finished third at 33-1 and Philson Run fourth at 100-1. Numbersixvalverde, winner of the 2006 race, finished sixth while the 2005 winner Hedgehunter finished ninth. The 8-1 joint favourites Point Barrow, Joes Edge and Monkerhostin failed to finish, with Point Barrow falling at the first fence.

Results	Position	Horse	Starting Prices
1	Silver Birch	33-1	
2	McKelvey	12-1	
3	Slim Pickings	33-1	
4	Philson Run	100-1	
5	Liberthine	40-1	
6	Numbersixvalverde	14-1	
7	Longshanks	14-1	

8	Puntal	80-1
9	Hedgehunter	9-1
10	L'Ami	14-1
11	Clan Royal	33-1
12	Gallant Approach	33-1
13	Kelami	33-1

Canadian activist June Callwood dies at 82

June Callwood, Canadian Journalist, humanitarian, and activist, died today of cancer at age 82.

"The Casey House community is deeply appreciative to the Frayne family for sharing their precious mother and wife with us for so many years. "We send them our love and deepest condolences." — Jaime Watt, the chair of the hospice's board of directors.

Callwood, born June 2, 1924 in Chatham-Kent, Ontario, first became a journalist for Brantford Expositor and later for The Globe and Mail, she began doing freelance journalism for magazines including Maclean's, hosted several television shows for the CBC and Vision TV, and wrote 30 books. In 2003, she was diagnosed with cancer and refused treatment so she could continue her activism, but just this month the disease began to worsen until her death this morning at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital. Just last month a biography entitled June Callwood: A Life of Action was written by author Anne Dublin.

Callwood left a significant legacy of activism and community service. She helped to found the Toronto AIDS hospice Casey House, the youth hostel Digger House, Nellie's hostel for women, PEN Canada, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation. Callwood was also a past spokesperson for the Campaign Against Child Poverty.

Casey House (June Callwood) is

named after her son, Casey Frayne, who was killed in a motorcycle accident involving a drunk driver, in 1982 at the age of 20.

In 1978, she was made a member of the Order of Canada, she became an Officer with the Order of Canada in 1985, and became Companion in the year 2000. In 1988, the Order of Ontario was awarded to her and in 2004 a street in Toronto was named after her. Her last interview was on CBC's The Hour hosted by George Stroumboulopoulos in 2005.

Callwood is survived by her husband, Trent Frayne, her two daughters, Jessie Frayne, Jill Frayne, her two sons, Brant Frayne.

NASA: Series of errors led to loss of Mars Global Surveyor

A complex series of events, including a five month-old computer error was responsible for the battery failure that led to the loss of NASA's Mars Global Surveyor last year, an internal review board says. Findings from a preliminary report released on Friday say that while NASA controllers followed procedures while operating the craft, the procedures did not cover the types of errors that occurred.

According to NASA, on November 2, 2006, the Global Surveyor was ordered to perform a routine adjustment of its solar panels. However, the Global Surveyor reoriented to an angle that exposed one of its two batteries to direct sunlight. The battery overheated, which led to the depletion of both batteries. An incorrect setting in antenna orientation prevented Global Surveyor from relaying its status to NASA controllers. Its preprogrammed systems did not take into account the need to maintain a thermally safe

orientation.

That was the last communication that NASA controllers had with the spacecraft.

The Global Surveyor was the first US mission to Mars in twenty years. For ten years, the craft returned detailed information to NASA scientists providing new insights, including evidence that appeared to show the presence of water on Mars and identification of deposits of water-related minerals, which led to selection of a Mars rover landing site.

"The loss of the spacecraft was the result of a series of events linked to a computer error made five months before the likely battery failure," said Dolly Perkins, board chairperson and deputy director-technical of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

The board concluded that NASA controllers had followed procedures, but that the procedures did not adequately cover the type of errors that occurred. In its final report, the board will offer recommendations applicable to future missions.

"We are making an end-to-end review of all our missions to be sure that we apply the lessons learned from Mars Global Surveyor to all our ongoing missions," said Fuk Li, Mars Exploration Program manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The Global Surveyor was the longest operating spacecraft at Mars and had lasted four times longer than expected.

Canada contributes weather station to NASA Mars mission

Canada has contributed a significant component to NASA's

Phoenix mission to Mars, announced Maxime Bernier, Canada's Minister of Industry. In a news release on Thursday, Bernier, who is also responsible for the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), indicated that Canada had provided a meteorological station, named MET.

The Phoenix Lander, with several on-board instruments, is to launch in August 2007 and touch down on Mars in May 2008. It will gather information on the Martian climate and weather, and will search for habitable zones.

The MET is to play a significant role in NASA's mission by providing information on the Mars atmosphere. The MET is comprised of a pressure sensor, three temperature sensors located on a mast, and a lidar. A lidar is similar to radar but employs laser light rather than microwaves.

The MET instruments were designed by Canadian scientists and private industry, which had received CA\$37 million in funding from the CSA. "Our contribution to the Phoenix mission will inspire young Canadians to take their place as part of the next space generation," said Bernier.

Canada has provided astronauts and technology to international space programs. Examples of technological contributions include the Canadarm and Canadarm2 on the Space Shuttle and International Space Station.

With the experience gained from the Phoenix mission, NASA hopes to provide a foundation for future robotic missions and, one day, human exploration of Mars.

Google buys DoubleClick for \$3.1 billion

Google has announced its intention of taking over the Internet advertising agency DoubleClick in a deal worth \$3.1 billion. DoubleClick has also confirmed the deal and hopes it shall be completed before the end of 2007.

Rumours of a takeover offer for DoubleClick had been circulating, with Microsoft, Time Warner and Yahoo! all reportedly interested in making an offer for the company.

Six months ago, Google bought YouTube for \$1.65 billion. The current takeover is the largest in Google's history. In a press release, Google says the acquisition "will enable Google to extend our ad network and develop deeper relationships with our partners. This new partnership represents a tremendous opportunity for us at Google to broaden and deepen our inventory of available ads and to better serve both our publishers and users."

DoubleClick provides software for Internet advertising and brings together advertisers, advertisement agencies and website developers. DoubleClick is currently owned by the majority share-holders Hellman & Friedman, a private equity firm, with JMI Management also having a large stake in the company.

2007 Cricket World Cup: Ireland vs Australia

Australia beat Ireland by 9 wickets in the Super 8 phase in the World Cup at the Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Australia are now assured of a place in the semi-finals of the World Cup, the first team to achieve as such in this year's competition, having bowled Ireland out in just 3 hours, and swiftly hit

the 92 required in under an hour: finishing the match before the lunch break.

The out of form Mike Hussey was pushed up the order in place of Matthew Hayden to get some time at the crease, and posted his highest score of the World Cup with 30*.

Toss: Australia won, and elected to field first.

Banned rally leads to Kasparov arrest

Russian opposition leader and former World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov was among 170 people detained by Russian authorities during a security operation against a rally organised by The Other Russia. The Other Russia is an umbrella coalition that gathers opponents of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Today the regime showed its true colours, its true face," said Kasparov. "We were arrested when we were doing nothing. There was no action. We were just walking along," he told reporters.

Nuclear deadline passes for North Korea.

A key deadline with respect to North Korea's nuclear programme has passed. North Korea said it remained committed to closing the reactor at Yongbyon.

North Korea has insisted that some US\$25 million be unfrozen at a Macau bank. The United States says the funds have been released, but that North Korea has yet to withdraw any of it.

US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill was quoted as saying, "It's certainly worrisome to all of us to see them approaching this date rather lethargically." Hill

continued, "The Chinese wanted us to show some patience for a couple of more days. There's a sense that the communication lines are open and the North Koreans understand the fact that these accounts are accessible to them."

UK mental health charity says 'young' need more protection

United Kingdom mental health charity, Young Minds, has called on the UK government for mental healthcare reforms to give vulnerable children more protection. The charity also claims that at least a third of young people under psychiatric care are detained against their will.

The charity's comments come in response to the proposed Mental Health Bill which Parliament is set to debate next week.

Deadly bus crash in Mexico

A bus and a truck collided and burst into flames in Chihuahua, Mexico. The accident occurred near Ciudad Juárez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. Police sources tell Reuters that at least 21 were killed and most of the victims were passengers on the bus. El Universal puts the toll at 23.

Today in History

1755 - A Dictionary of the English Language by Samuel Johnson was first published.

1912 - The passenger liner RMS Titanic sank two hours and forty minutes after colliding with an iceberg.

1947 - Jackie Robinson, the first African American to break the baseball color line, played his first game in Major League Baseball.

1986 - U.S. armed forces launched Operation El Dorado Canyon against Libya.

1989 - The Hillsborough disaster, one of the biggest tragedies of European football, occurred.

April 15 is Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel (2007); Father Damien Day in Hawaii; Birthday of the Great Leader in North Korea; 300th birthday of Leonhard Euler

Quote of the Day

We work in the dark — we do what we can — we give what we have. Our doubt is our passion and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art. ~ Henry James

Word of the Day

germane; adj

1. Relevant to the topic being discussed or considered.

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