



Lead Stories

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Chinese fishing boat hijacked off coast of Cameroon

The Chinese embassy in Cameroon said earlier that a fishing boat was hijacked off the coast of Cameroon. Seven Chinese fishermen were kidnapped in the incident, which happened on Friday, and a group called the "Africa Marine Commando" claimed responsibility, according to an embassy official.

"We are working together with the Cameroon authorities on ways and means of seeking their release," the official said. The ship was hijacked "in international waters off Bakassi", a peninsula in southwestern Cameroon.

The Chinese news agency Xinhua quoted the Chinese embassy as saying that the kidnapped fishermen were being fed, and their lives were not in danger.

The Agence France-Presse news agency quotes a source close to the investigation of the incident as saying that authorities from both Cameroon and China "are working jointly to secure their release,"

and that the fishermen were on a trawler when they were kidnapped.

Georgia panicked by fake Russia invasion broadcast

A Georgian television station sparked panic today when it broadcast a report containing a simulation of events that might occur if Russia invaded Georgia in an event similar to a war that took place a year and a half ago.

The fake report came only 18 months after a war between Georgia and Russia, and the broadcast, run by Imedi TV, was composed of footage from that conflict, as well as recorded statements from Russian and Georgian leaders. Such footage included "reports" that Russian forces had bombed Georgian military bases and a civilian airport in the capital of Tbilisi. Additionally, the report claimed that Russian forces had killed Georgian soldiers in South Ossietia, the site of the 2008 war.

According to the network, the intention of the broadcast had been to show what could have happened if Russia had invaded again and killed Georgia's president. To this end, the broadcast was bookended at the beginning and end with a notice that the events were a simulation of possible events. The network did not, however, run such notes during the program itself, and many who watched it became alarmed by the events it covered. According to one local news agency, Georgian emergency services had received a spike in the number of phone calls during the time the broadcast was on air.

Around two hours after the program finished, the network began running scrolling text on further programs, apologizing for the broadcast, and the head of Imedi's parent company issued a statement apologizing for the "distress" that the broadcast had caused. Despite the apologies, which included one from a Georgian official, the reaction to the broadcast was generally one of opposition

and anger. The leader of the Georgian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Ilia II, issued a statement saying that, "This kind of experiment is a crime to our people and to humanity," and an opposition politician labeled the report as "disgusting." One woman who had been affected by the 2008 conflict said that, "it wasn't right of them to do it."

Avalanche in Canadian Rocky Mountains kills two

Two people in the Canadian Rocky Mountains were killed yesterday in an avalanche that struck an informal meeting of 200 snowmobilers. 30 others were hurt, and nineteen people were treated and released at a hospital.

According to reports, the incident occurred on Boulder Mountain near Revelstoke, British Columbia on Saturday at 15.30 local time; officials believe several more people may be trapped beneath the rubble.

"The Canadian Avalanche Centre [CAC] based in Revelstoke has had a warning for the last three weeks expressing extreme caution in the backcountry," commented Revelstoke mayor David Raven, who noted that the gathering had not been authorised. "A fresh snowfall overnight exacerbated that warning. I know people have been cautioned again and again," he said to CTV Newsnet. The CAC reports that there were ten avalanches in the vicinity since Friday.

Local police conducted a room-to-room search of a nearby hotel to establish whether anybody with the group was missing. Mean while, rescue teams dispatched helicopters to the mountain to see if it was safe to launch a more thorough ground search.

UK Wikinews Shorts: March 14, 2010

Wikinews shorts are a collection of short stories. The following three news stories are part of these shorts.

Archaeologists: 51 decapitated Viking skeletons discovered in pit in Dorset, England were Vikings

According to what archaeologists have stated, 51 decapitated skeletons that were discovered in a burial pit in Dorset, England in June 2009, after excavations took place there, belonged to Vikings and are approximately a thousand years old. On closer inspection, analysis of the teeth on ten of the male bodies found that the individuals came from a country with a climate colder than that of the United Kingdom, most likely the Scandinavian region of Europe. Archaeologists from Oxford, Oxfordshire think that the Viking people were possibly given an execution by Anglo-Saxons, who came from a local area, between the years of approximately 910 AD and approximately 1030 AD, according to radiocarbon dating.

David Score, who is the manager of the Oxford Archaeology project, stated: "To find out that the young men executed were Vikings is a thrilling development. Any mass grave is a relatively rare find, but to find one on this scale, from this period of history, is extremely unusual."

Man dies after van and truck crash in Cheshire, England

A man who came from Greater Manchester, England has died after being involved in a two vehicle collision in the county of Cheshire in the same country. The gentleman, who is currently remaining unidentified, was travelling on the A57 road in his Ford Transit when he crashed into a heavy goods vehicle at approximately 0005 GMT on Saturday. A spokesperson for Cheshire Police stated that the 20-year-old man was declared dead at the scene of the collision. The truck driver suffered from minor injuries.

One dead after car collides with bicycle in Tyne and Wear, England

A girl has died after her bicycle collided with a car in Tyne and Wear, in the north-east of England. The 11-year-old has been identified as Kately Weldon. According to police, she came from the local area. She was riding on her bicycle in the city of Sunderland at 2049 GMT on Saturday when a Vauxhall Vectra collided into her, causing her to fall of the bike. She was fatally injured as a result of the

crash, which closed the road the collision occurred on for three hours so as to allow an investigation to take place. No other individuals suffered injuries as a result of the incident.

Taliban militant kills at least thirteen in northwest Pakistan

A suicide bomber has killed at least thirteen people in Swat valley, North-West Frontier Province, Pakistan. The Pakistan Taliban claimed responsibility for this attack. The attack occurred at a security checkpoint in the city of Saidu Sharif.

According to Ibrahim Khan, a policeman in the district, 37 people were injured in the attack. He added that the bomber, who was dropped from a motorized rickshaw, approached a checkpoint which is manned by army men and police officers. When the attack did not stop, the officers opened fire; the attacker blew himself up at this juncture.

"Our men carried out these attacks and more strikes will continue all over the country because the entire Pakistan has become a colony of the United States," said Azam Tariq, a spokesman for the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan via telephone to news agencies. "Our 2,000 suicide bombers, who have already spread across the country, will act against security personnel and government installations."

Major General Ashfaq Nadeem said two soldiers and two policemen had died in the incident. "Such acts cannot demoralise us. I want to assure the people of Swat that we will continue fighting till the last Taliban are eliminated," he said to the media.

Zia-ur-Rehman, 24, a victim, said he was traveling in a different rickshaw when the attacker detonated the bomb and his vehicle was hit. "I thought somebody picked me up and then threw me down. Everybody was crying," claimed the injured man.

The attack came just a day after over 40 died in a series of blasts in the Iqbal Town area of Lahore. After the first, large attack, the same region was hit the same night. Three people were injured in the comparatively small blast, said police officials.

Australia defeats Germany 2-1, wins men's field hockey World Cup

Germany: 1
Australia: 2

Australia won the men's field hockey World Cup for the first time in 24 years, defeating Germany 2-1. Luke Doerner scored the winning penalty only eleven minutes before the match ended. Edward Ockenden of Australia had earlier scored in the sixth minute and Moritz Furste of Germany drew level in the 46th minute.

Germany, the two-time defending champions, had beaten Australia in the final of both the previous Hockey World Cups by one goal. The Germans would have become the first team to win the World Cup three times in a row had they been victorious.

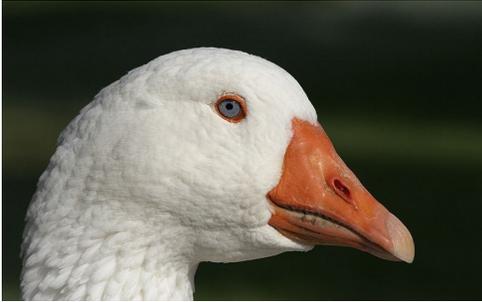
Ric Charlesworth, the Australian coach, who was one of the members of the 1986 victorious team, said, "We're delighted at winning the World Cup. We knew Germany will be a tough opponent. We played a very good game and showed a lot of control and authority. An early goal was also very helpful."

Charlesworth, who watched the match not from the bench but among other spectators, clarified that "[t]here are no superstitions involved." "I get too noisy and excited on the bench, so I always change it with other people," he said.

He added, "I am very, very pleased. We played a good game with a lot of control and authority. Scoring that early goal was very helpful. I am pleased to win both as player and captain. In 1986, the scoreline was the same, but the opponents (England) were different." According to him, the next goal is to win the upcoming London Olympics.

Max Muller, captain of Germany, said the penalty corner turned out to be decisive. "Australia scored the second goal from a penalty corner, and we had a corner at 2-1 but could not score," said he.

He also said that the team was "a young side." "Losing the final is a big disappointment at the moment, but tomorrow morning we may feel proud to have reached this far," he said.

Commons Picture of the Day

*A portrait of an Anser anser domesticus.
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Quote of the Day

We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams,
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,
And sitting by desolate streams; —
World-losers and world-forsakers,
On whom the pale moon gleams:
Yet we are the movers and shakers
Of the world for ever, it seems.

~ Arthur O'Shaughnessy ~

Word of the Day**dissociate** *v*

1. To make unrelated; to sever a connection; to separate.
2. To part; to stop associating.
3. (chemistry) To separate compounds into simpler component parts, usually by applying heat or through electrolysis.

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Word of the Day
http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page

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