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At least 25 killed in Syria jail riot

A riot in a prison located in the Syrian city of Damascus has resulted in 25 deaths, according to reports provided by human-rights groups. Military police fired into the rioters, who were protesting against alleged violence against prisoners.

Chinese Wikipedia unblocked by government

According to reports, the government of China has stopped restricting access to the Chinese Wikipedia in some parts of the country. The report originated on the Wikimedia



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Foundation's mailing list, although other sites have now covered the development.

Train cars derail into the Thompson River, chemicals spilled

Chemicals in the Thompson River were said to be found after four Canadian Pacific Railway cars containing chemicals derailed near Lytton, British Columbia, Canada on Tuesday night. The cars were reportedly carrying ethylene glycol, commonly found in products such as antifreeze

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and windshield washer fluid.

South African president wrongly announces death of Zambian counterpart

South African president Thabo Mbeki has been asked for an explanation from Zambia after announcing wrongly that the nation's leader Levy Mwanawasa had died. Mbeki had asked for a minute's silence for Mwanawasa during a ceremony.

Wikipedia Current Events

Gunmen kill a United Nations official in Mogadishu as he leaves a mosque and injure two others.

•Rafael Nadal of Spain wins the 2008 Wimbledon Championships for the first time defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland in an epic match, winning 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-7 (8), 9-7.

•NBC agrees to buy the Weather Channel.

•The United Arab Emirates forgives the 7 billion dollars (USD) of foreign debt Iraq owes it.

•World leaders arrive in Japan for the G8 summit to be held in Tōyako, Hokkaidō.

•An explosion near the Red Mosque in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad killed at least 10 people. The attack came on the first anniversary of the deadly siege and storming of the Red Mosque

Syrian jail riot kills at least 25

A riot in a prison located in the Syrian city of Damascus has resulted in 25 deaths, according to reports provided by human-rights groups. Military police fired into the rioters, who were protesting against alleged violence against prisoners.

Prisoners have claimed that they were routinely beaten by officers. One said that "they [the guards] shackled our hands behind us, confiscated our clothes and possessions, and beat us. And they insulted the Koran, they trod on the Koran."

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights strongly criticized the Syrian government's reaction to the incident. This was made clear in a statement released yesterday. "The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights demands that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad intervenes immediately to stop this massacre," it said.

Some of the prisoners have claimed that they have taken hundreds of hostages. They say that they did this to increase the pressure placed on the Syrian government.

Triathlon national championship held in Belgium

Today, the open national championship Olympic distance triathlon has been held in Belgium in the city of Kortrijk, West Flanders. The 1.5 km swim (0.93 mi), 40 km bicycle race (24.8 mi) and 10 km run (6.2 mi) turned out

to be a thriller event in both the men's and the ladies' event.

Simon De Cuyper, proud to be the new Belgian champion.

The new Belgian champion Simon Decuyper was only 13th out of the water but was the fastest to complete the 4 bicycle laps, with still energy left to catch up with and run away from Stijn Goris halfway the second of three laps. Lander Dircken finished third, beating Marc Geerts by only a few meters in the final spurt. Geerts, who won last year in Kortrijk, may have lost a precious 30 seconds when he fell with his bike upon entering the transition area -fortunately not sustaining any serious injuries. Local athlete Bart Colpaert came in fifth.

In the women's race, a group of eight women came out of the water within a minute of each other, among them winner Joke Coysman and Katrien Verstuyft who finished third. In this drafting race, Coysman soon took the lead in the cycling in a group of four. Behind them, Sofie Goos managed to close in with the help of Marjolein Truyers. Goos managed to run past everyone except Coysman, and Truyers managed to take fourth place before Christel Van Eesbeek.

In the category up to 18 years old, Gilles Cottyn and Jolien Lewyllie took the gold medal. In the age group 40 and older, Gert Goedhart and Christel Van Eesbeek won. In the category 50+, Luc Geerts (Marc Geerts' father) fulfilled his favorite's role.

Weather conditions were favourable with only a few rainshowers during the footrace. Mayor Stefaan De Clerck handed out the medals.

Prisoner abuse, serious corruption may have occurred in Turks and Caicos Islands

A new report released by the UK Government's Select Committee on Foreign Affairs has carried "serious allegations of corruption" in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which are UK territories.

The report also mentioned possible abuse of prisoners on the island. The report said that the UK government should take a greater role in monitoring the conditions of prisoners to prevent abuse in the future.

The report also claimed that there was an overly high amount of illegal immigration into the islands, and called for the British government to help in cracking down on illegal immigrants in the islands.

The report concluded "that the Government has acted decisively in some Overseas Territories, for example in the investigations and prosecutions that took place on the Pitcairn Islands." It continued by saying that "However, in other cases which should also cause grave concern, in particular, allegations of corruption on the Turks and Caicos Islands, its approach has been too hands off. "

The islands have a British governor, but most of the governance is done internally by citizens of the islands.

New York man shot in head, run over by shooter's car

Buffalo, New York – Police are investigating a shooting on Buffalo's East Side late Saturday night which left one person in critical condition at a local hospital.

According to Buffalo police communications, at approximately

11:00 p.m. (eastern time) a young male in his late teens was shot at least once in the head near 118 East Utica Street. Police say that witness reports state the shooter then ran over him with his car and sped off Westbound on E. Utica.

Currently police are searching for a "small white car." No other details on the suspect or his vehicle were given.

The victim was taken to Erie County Medical Center where he is undergoing treatment. The extent of his injuries are not yet known, but he is listed in stable condition.

Lewis Hamilton wins 2008 British Grand Prix

Vodafone McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton has won the FIA Formula-1 2008 Santander British Grand Prix on the Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire, England. It became the first home win in the 23 year old Briton's career in F1. Last year, he finished in third place after his former teammate Fernando Alonso. In this race Alonso finished on a 6th place in his Renault car, one lap after the winner. The last British winner here was David Coulthard in 2000 driving for McLaren.

Hamilton was active from the start, rushing from 4th to the second place behind his teammate and a pole-sitter Heikki Kovalainen. Heikki couldn't held Lewis behind and let him pass on a starting laps of the race. From this time Hamilton was in full control of the race.

As the rainy race went on a wet track it seemed that only Hamilton had no problems at all - swinging around became the most common mistake.

Mark Webber, who took the first front row start for Red Bull in F1 history, spun on the starting laps and found himself last.

Nick Heidfeld (BMW Sauber) and Rubens Barrichello (Honda) finished in more than a minute behind Hamilton, taking second and third podium places. All the other drivers lose more than a lap.

Two Finns Kimi Räikkönen (Ferrari) and Heikki Kovalainen managed to pass Alonso on the dying laps of the race and gained one place. The Spaniard came 6th for Renault, same place as he took the start from.

Kazuki Nakajima (Williams) could not hold behind Jarno Trulli (Toyota) who passed him at the near end, Kaz finishing in front of his teammate Nico Rosberg scoring 1 point.

In the Drivers' championship standings Hamilton, Massa and Räikkönen now own the equal 48 points with Kubica 2 points behind. Constructors' is still headed by Ferrari chalked up 96 points total, 14 ahead of BMW and 24 ahead McLaren.

At least eight dead as building collapses during construction in China

At least eight construction workers have died and thirteen more are injured after a building collapsed during construction in Qiuzhigou Village, a suburb of China's Wuhan City. It is unclear how many more if any are trapped as the project's coordinator fled and is being sought by police.

The collapse occurred at 5 p.m. local time yesterday and reduced the four-story structure to a five-metre pile of rubble. The building was a private residence and was

illegal as authorities had not been informed of it. Its location in an area accessible only via narrow alleys is hampering search and rescue efforts as heavy equipment such as cranes is having difficulty reaching the scene.

Around 100 rescuers continue to pick through the rubble in the rain. An investigation has been launched.

Honduran capital's main airport reopens six weeks after jetliner crash

Toncontin International Airport, serving the Honduran capital Tegucigalpa, has reopened fully to air traffic six weeks after a deadly jetliner crash. TACA Flight 390, an Airbus A320 carrying 124 people, overshot the runway in poor weather and ran across a busy street, killing five, two of whom were on the ground. The accident occurred on May 30.

Since the crash the airport has refused to allow aircraft with more than 42 passengers on board to operate from the airport due to safety fears. Only domestic flights were allowed to land. Air traffic that did not conform to these rules instead landed at San Pedro Sula's Ramón Villeda Morales International Airport, which is 112 miles North of Tegucigalpa.

Manuel Zelaya, President of Honduras, announced the reopening after spending three hours in a meeting with businessmen who demanded the airport return to full operations. He also said that future plans are to route all commercial traffic to a new airport under construction at a nearby US air base, which is scheduled to enter service next year.

So far, American Airlines,

Continental Airlines, Panama's Copa Airlines and TACA have all confirmed intent to resume flights to Toncontin International next week, by which time they will have reprogrammed their routing schedules accordingly.

The airport is considered one of the most dangerous in the world and for years people have called for its replacement. The airport features an inadequately short runway, outdated navigational equipment and is surrounded by hills.

Man rips off Hitler waxwork's head in Berlin

A man ripped off Hitler's wax model's head in the opening ceremony of a museum in Berlin, Germany.

An unknown 41-year old German, reported to be the second one in line at the opening of the Madame Tussauds museum in Berlin, pushed aside 2 officers, then went to the exhibit depicting Hitler and ripped his head off, a few minutes after the museum opened.

Police arrested the man, charging him for assault and damaging property, said spokesman Uwe Kozelnik. He is currently in custody.

In the weeks preceding the opening, critics argued that it was inappropriate to show Hitler with other famous figures, while others say that Hitler's role in German history justifies his placement within the exhibition.

Today in History

1585 – The Treaty of Nemours was first signed, forcing Henry III of France to give in to the demands of the Catholic League and revoking all edicts granting concessions to the Huguenots.

1807 – Tsar Alexander I of Russia and Napoleon I of France signed the first agreement of the Treaties of Tilsit, ending the War of the Fourth Coalition.

1937 – The Imperial Japanese Army defeated the Republic of China's National Revolutionary Army on Beijing's Marco Polo Bridge, marking the beginning of the Second Sino-Japanese War.

2005 – Motivated by the 2003 invasion of Iraq, suicide bombers killed 52 people in a series of four explosions in London's public transport system.

2007 – Pope Benedict XVI issued the Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pontificum*, removing restrictions on celebrating the old Latin Mass. July 07 is Independence Day in the Solomon Islands (1978); Tanabata in Japan; Ivan Kupala Day in Russia and Ukraine

Quote of the Day

Do not confuse "duty" with what other people expect of you; they are utterly different. Duty is a debt you owe to yourself to fulfill obligations you have assumed voluntarily. Paying that debt can entail anything from years of patient work to instant willingness to die. Difficult it may be, but the reward is self-respect. ~ Robert A. Heinlein

Word of the Day

hightail v

1. To retreat quickly; to flee.

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