



Top Stories

Author claims Al Qaeda planned to gas New York's subway system

Ron Suskind, author of *The One Percent Doctrine*, claims that Al-Qaeda had planned to gas the New York subway system in 2003.

Rallies in Greece as Universities' strike continues

University students in Greece continue their opposition to a new law - which mainly has to do with the foundation of private universities in Greece - through organizing new rallies in Athens and Thessaloniki as well as through the occupancy of many University departments across the country."

Featured story

"Living fossil" found in Laos

A retired biologist from Florida State University has captured photos of a rodent in Laos which scientists thought was extinct for 11 million years.

Wikipedia Current Events

- According to an investigative report by Ron Suskind, Al-Qaeda was 45 days from launching a gas attack on the New York City subway when it was called off by Osama bin Laden in 2003.
- The people of Catalonia accept the proposed changes to the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia, notably a change that would define Catalonia as a nation.

Wikipedia Current Events

• The Israeli town of Sderot shuts down for 24 hours in protest of continuing Qassam rocket attacks. More than six hundred Qassam rockets were launched against Israeli towns since Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip, a hundred of which in the past week. One rocket left parts of Sderot without electricity for several hours this morning.

Brazil beats Australia with two second half goals in Group F

Brazil beat Australia 2-0 in a competitive encounter that got better as the game progressed in Munich, Sunday.

The game had started slowly as Australia, playing defensively, kept many players near the edge of their penalty area. But a goal by Adriano four minutes after half time changed that and made for a more attacking game.

After nine minutes Vince Grella set the tone for the first half when he raked his studs on Ronaldo's calf. While the referee did not give a caution for this bad foul, four of the five cautions issued by German referee Markus Merk came in the first half. Two went to Australian players.

Brazil were closed down quickly and suffered 25 fouls in the game. When they had the ball Australia, who wore a dark blue strip instead of their traditional yellow and green, used their ball possession effectively and got forward with

neat passes.

The Brazilians in contrast did not start well. On an elusive run into the penalty box Ronaldinho had used fine skill to elude his markers but then trod on the ball and fell over. Ronaldo then had an embarrassing moment when he created a good opening to shoot only to kick at fresh air.

And when Roberto Carlos had broken free unmarked the attacking left-sided defender jumped up and down in frustration when Ronaldo over hit his pass.

Brazil's goal came four minutes after half time.

Ronaldo rolled the ball across the edge of the box to Adriano. The striker moved quickly to his left and passed a firm shot through Scott Chipperfield's legs. The ball hugged the grass and beat Mark Schwarzer's out-stretched left hand.

Australia in an effort to get an equaliser replaced a defender with an attacker. But they found it hard to get past Brazil's defence; Ze Roberto made two key tackles to stop Marco Bresciano and Harry Kewell.

On 56 minutes Harry Kewell missed Australia's best chance. The ball came loose to his feet and the goal beckoned. But Dida dived at feet his feet and Kewell skied his effort over the bar.

While Australia made good forward

moves Brazil attacked into the space they left behind. Kaka flicked a Ronaldinho corner on to the crossbar and in injury time missed wide when he only had Schwarzer to beat.

The exciting second half was rounded off when on 89 minutes Robinho, who was a lively substitute for Ronaldo, hit a powerful shot off the inside of Schwarzer's left post. Fred tapped in the rebound.

The result meant Brazil qualified for the knock-out stage of the Fifa World Cup while Australia would need to get a least a draw against Croatia in their final Group F game to extend their stay in Germany.

U.S. production of new books declining

The World Cup is not the only international competition going on this summer. With vacation and beach reading season in full swing, American readers find themselves trailing their reading counterparts across the pond.

For the first time in five years, American production of new book titles trails that of Great Britain, a country of one-fifth the population of the USA, the Kansas City Star recently reported. Last year, production of new titles in the UK surpassed 206,000, compared with 172,000 in America.

Bowker, a consulting firm following the publishing industry, suspects that as America's wealth increases, more entertainment options compete with books for Americans' leisure time. The figure does not necessarily reflect whether Americans read books less than Brits, and does not, for example, track the comparative reading of reprints and classics.

Al Qaeda planned to gas New York's subway system

A new book claims that Al-Qaeda made plans to gas the New York subway system in 2003. According to extracts due to be published in next week's Time magazine, the author of The One Percent Doctrine, Ron Suskind, asserts that Al-Qaeda's number 2 cancelled the attack 45 days before it was due.

Suskind's book states "U.S. intelligence learned of the plot from a laptop computer belonging to a Bahraini jihadist captured in Saudi Arabia in early 2003."

The book continues, "The computer contained plans for an easily constructed and concealed device that releases deadly hydrogen-cyanide gas using a remote trigger."

The CIA built a prototype of those designs shown on the computer and then showed it to the United States President, George W. Bush. The President then ordered an alert to all levels of the US government.

Al-Qaeda had planned to put them in the subway cars and other strategic places.

France held to 1-1 draw with Korea Republic in Group G

For 80 minutes France barely broke sweat as they slowly coasted to a 1-0 win in what seemed to be dreary mismatch in Leipzig, Sunday.

On 81 minutes France were punished for their complacency by a Korea Republic team that had never given up and that ended the last minutes of a strange match arguably the stronger side.

For most of the game Korea

Republic, in an almost luminous red outfit were not in the game. Their three forwards hardly got a touch; in fact they didn't have a single shot in the first half and had only two on target in 90 minutes.

By contrast the French had three times as many shots as the Koreans but managed only four accurate attempts on Lee Woon-Jae's goal - two more than the Koreans managed. A poor showing for a side so at ease it played mostly in its opposition's half of the pitch and did not concede a shot until the 54th minute.

All looked good when Henry had scored after nine minutes. The ball got through the defence via a deflection; and with a touch from his right foot the Arsenal striker put the ball into the perfect position to pass it in with his left.

With the French in the crowd in full throat singing La Marseillaise, and a great throng of red Koreans bouncing up and down there was a great atmosphere in the Zentralstadion.

A Patrick Viera header followed from a corner and was saved by Lee Woon-Jae. There was no great French appeal but the television replay clearly showed the ball had crossed the line.

After half time the French kept to their slow passing game which made Dick Advocaat's hustling team exceptionally tired without killing them off. With ten minutes left the Korean game sprang to life and deckchairs were brought out to witness a mugging.

Eric Abidal brought down Lee Young-Pyo' and got a yellow card. Quick Korean passes found their target and the French suddenly looked a little disorganised.

A cross from deep near the right corner flag from Seol Ki-Hyeon found Cho Jin-Jae. Beyond the far post, the substitute headed back into the path of Park Ji-sung who from five yards helped the ball over both Fabian Barthez and William Gallas.

The slowness by which the ball went over a grasping Barthez and the French centre half was tantalising and made the score seem more painful.

Now there was a ripping end-to-end contest. Three minutes later Thierry Henry got a chance to make it 2-1 but Lee Woon-Jae jammed his arm hard on the ground for a magnificent left-handed save. In the final minute Ahn Jung-Hwan screamed a free kick past Barthez's right post.

The result meant France, who still had not won a game since the 1998 World Cup final, probably had to win their last match against Togo for a chance to reach the knock-out stage of the 2006 World Cup. Their captain Zinedine Zidane, who got a caution in the game, would be ruled out for that tie.

Korea Republic now led Group G with 4 points and would certainly advance as group winner if they won their last game against Switzerland.

Paris Court of Appeals overturns restrictions on Maryam Rajavi, NCRI officials

On the eve of the third anniversary of the June 17 raid on the central office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran and homes of dozens of Iranian political refugees and dissidents, Paris Court of Appeals in separate rulings revoked all restrictions on Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the Iranian

Resistance's President-elect, and all those arrested on June 17, 2003. The rulings came while the investigative magistrates were insisting on continuing the restrictions.

For the past three years, Mrs. Rajavi and 16 members and supporters of the Iranian Resistance had been under judicial restrictions including the denial of the right to travel, entry to the headquarters of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in Auvers-sur-Oise, and the right to have contact with each other.

Mrs. Rajavi welcomed the verdict and said, "The case was conceived at the request of the fascist theocracy ruling Iran and was solely based on lies churned out by this regime. With the latest ruling, the time has come for this dossier to be brought to an end and all proceedings halted.", "The shameful June 17, 2003 raid was a futile attempt to destroy Iran's democratic opposition and aid the Iranian regime. If resistance against religious despotism for freedom is considered a crime, then I and all members and supporters of the Resistance proudly accept this crime. We are determined to establish democracy in Iran. Nothing can save the clerical regime from its inevitable fall and nothing can stop the Iranian nation from attaining freedom and democracy," she added.

Following the court ruling, dozens of Iranian and French sympathizers of the Resistance went to Mrs. Rajavi's residence in Auvers-sur-Oise, to congratulate her. Mayors of Auvers-sur-Oise and Cergy, in the northern Paris province of Val d'Oise also joined the celebrations.

NCRI Lawyers statement

Lawyers involved in the case welcomed the decision by the Paris court of appeals to remove all restrictions imposed on Mrs. Rajavi in a press release issued on Friday. They described the reasons presented by the investigative magistrates to reject the appeal as baseless, "The whole case was based on one sided and biased claims and extremely suspicious witnesses who were obviously in contact with Iran's secret services," said the statement.

The lawyers stressed that the investigative magistrates should now draw the necessary conclusions and admit to the emptiness of the file against members of the Resistance and remove prosecution orders. "This was done three years ago to please Tehran," the statement added, "and it is now clear that it was aimed to win commercial contracts."

"Today, no appeasement is acceptable especially after the worrying trend taken by the clerical regime over this period which was largely envisaged by Mrs. Rajavi," concluded the statement. Full text of Maryam Rajavi's Speech

Background

Shortly after 6AM on Tuesday, June 17, 2003, 1,300 hooded and heavily-armed French policemen and Special Forces from a dozen security and intelligence agencies, equipped with armored cars, helicopters and boats, launched the largest police operation in three decades to raid 13 offices and homes of Iranian refugees. The main target was the office of the National Council at Auvers-sur-Oise. Police arrested Rajavi, the NCRI's President-elect and 164 Iranian political refugees and

activists.

Hours after the raids, three leading human rights organizations in France - The Human Rights League, France Liberte foundation and the International Federation of Human Rights - issued a strongly-worded joint statement condemning the action.

Crackdown on Iranian Resistance in France turns into a scandal

Croatia and Japan share point in Group F

Japan and Croatia have drew 0-0 in in the heat of Nuremburg, Sunday.

Both teams worked hard and had clear chances to score but lacked the necessary ruthlessness in front of goal. On a hot field and under the blue sky in the Frankenstadion the conditions won as the match petered out at a walking pace.

In the first period Japan's goal keeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi kept Japan in the game. Kawaguchi dived low to his left to save Darijo Srna's driven penalty after Dado Prso had been knocked down from behind by Tsuneyasu Miyamoto.

The yellow card for the central defender and captain of the Japan team meant he would miss Japan's next match against Brazil.

The Japanese keeper was centre of the action again when the Croatian coach's son Niko Kranjcar turned brilliantly and rattled the crossbar from 25 yards.

With half an hour gone Kawaguchi got a shock - a bouncing back pass bobbled one meter in front of him. Fortunately for Japan though it evaded his control the ball trickled just wide of the post.

Croatia had the better opportunities. Overall, their physical presence meant they were dangerous from their 11 corner kicks and were capable of making space to shoot from the edge of the area.

If Zlatko Kranjcar might have wished for more luck in front of goal, Japan coach Zico might also rue the lack of finishing from his team. Atsushi Yanagisawa missed an open goal on 50 minutes.

Both sides gave their best in the heat and deserved their first Fifa World Cup point. The result did not play either team out of the Fifa World Cup but the advantage in Group F remained with Brazil and Australia who had three points after the first games.

Legality of NSW traffic and parking fines to be tested in court

The legality of speeding and parking fines in New South Wales, Australia is set to be tested in court this week. A lawyer from Sydney will challenge the authority of the state's infringement processing bureau to issue fines for speeding and parking offences.

The lawyer claims that when the NSW government moved control of the bureau from the NSW Police to the Office of State Revenue in October 2001, the government failed to make correct legislative changes. He claims that all fines issued since the move are invalid.

The basis of the case revolve around whether or not the infringement processing bureau has powers to issue penalty notices (fines) under NSW law.

The bureau said that the case would only be relevant to fines

which are disputed by a person in court. The bureau said that only five per cent of fines are challenged.

"People who did not elect to go to court and have paid their infringement notice will not be affected by any decision, so the issue of refunds does not arise," a statement by the Office of State Revenue said.

For the 2004/2005 financial year, the infringement processing bureau recorded revenues of AUD\$158.7 million from fines.

NSW Opposition leader Peter Debnam said the government has once again failed to write legislation correctly. "The bottom line with this thing is that the Government simply hasn't done its homework. We see this time and time again, legislation going through parliament, and it ends up costing tax payers a fortune," he said.

Romania lose 62-14 to France in rugby

France defeated Romania 62 points to 14 in a rugby test match on Saturday at Cotroceni Stadium in Bucharest. French centre Yannick Jauzion scored a try in the early stages of the match that saw France take the lead. Damien Traille converted the try as well as kicking a subsequent penalty goal that took France to a 10 to nil lead over Romania. Romanian full-back Florin Vlaicu was successful with two penalty goals, however, France then ran in a number of subsequent tries. Remy Martin scored for France as well as tries going to Thierry Dusautoir and Damien Traille. France entered half-time with a commanding 31 to six lead over Romania.

Sylvain Marconne scored for

France in the second half which was subsequently converted by Traille to take the game to 38 to six. Catalin Fercu scored Romania's first try in the 59th minute. Thomas Castaignede scored for France, and with Traille being successful with the conversion, France moved to a 45 to 11 lead over Romania. French tries then followed to Dimitri Szarzewski, Julien Laharrague and David Marty. The final score was 62 to 14 to France. France now head to Capetown to play South Africa who have just come off a two game series win over Scotland.

Argentina defeat Wales 45-27 in rugby

Argentina defeated Wales on Saturday in the second of two rugby test matches between the two nations. The final score was 45 to 27, with the match being played at Velez Sarsfield in Buenos Aires. The Pumas also took the first match, 27-25, played in the previous week in Puerto Madryn. Argentina's Federico Todeschini ended the match with 30 points.

Argentine Martin Durand almost scored a try in the 15th minute, but the television match official disallowed it. However, Gonzalo Tiesi was over for Argentina soon after. Penalty goals to Todeschini saw Argentina accumulate 16 points in the first half, though James Hook kicked two penalty goals for Wales, the nations went into half-time with Argentina leading 16 to six.

Argentina scored early in the second half through Juan Martin Fernandez Lobbe, and with subsequent penalty goals, Argentina moved to a 32 to six lead over Wales. Gareth Delve posted Wales' first try of the match, scoring after 60 minutes,

in the second half. Two late tries by Shane Williams and Lee Byrne reduced the scoreline in the end. The score at full-time was 45 to 27, which saw Argentina take the series between the nations 2 to nil. Argentina now await the All Blacks who play them in Argentina next week.

South Africa defeat Scotland in second rugby test

South Africa defeated Scotland in the second of two rugby tests between the two nations, with the Springboks also winning the test in Durban the previous week. The match was played in Port Elizabeth at the EPRU Stadium.

Percy Montgomery got the first points of the match as he kicked an early penalty goal for South Africa to put them out in front three to nil within the first couple of minutes. Montgomery kicked another penalty for South Africa in the fourth minute, taking South Africa out to an early six to nil lead, as well as taking his own international points tally to 600 points, becoming the first Springbok to do so. Scotland's Simon Webster scores the first try of the match. Although Chris Paterson misses the conversion, Scotland are now just a point behind, the score now six to five. The Springboks furthered their lead with another successful penalty kick from Montgomery in the 16th minute, as well as Jaco van der Westhuyzen kicking another around the 25 minute mark, taking the score to 12 to five. A late try was disallowed by the television match official to Scotland's Webster, so the sides entered half-time at 12 to five.

Montgomery opened up the scoring in the second half, kicking a penalty goal five minutes in. Subsequent penalties to Scotland's

Paterson, as well as another to Montgomery saw the score move to 18 to 8 with over 25 minutes remaining. South Africa score their first try through Fourie du Preez and although Montgomery misses the conversion, the Springboks now move ahead to a 23 to eight lead. With around ten minutes remaining the match, Donnie Macfadyen scores a try for Scotland, and with Paterson's conversion, the score moved to 23 to 15 with the Springboks still in front. Montgomery got the final points of the match, with another two successful penalty goals. The final score was 29 to 15.

Today in History

1846 - The first baseball game (using modern rules) was played in Hoboken, New Jersey.

1865 - The Emancipation Proclamation reached Galveston, Texas, beginning the tradition of Juneteenth celebrations.

1867 - Maximilian I of the Second Mexican Empire was executed by firing squad in Queretaro.

1953 - Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed as Soviet spies.

1961 - Kuwait declared independence from the United Kingdom.

1978 - Garfield made his debut in a comic strip.

Quote of the Day

"It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it.

~ Aung San Suu Kyi

Word of the Day

fissiparous; adj

1. Fictious, fragmenting, or tending to break into pieces.
2. (biology): Of cells that reproduce through fission, splitting into two.

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