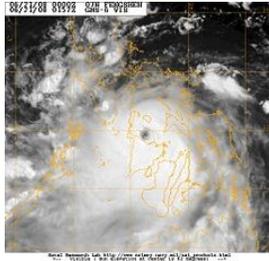




Top Stories

Over 700 feared dead after ferry hit by typhoon



It is feared that over 700 people have died after a ferry near the Philippines capsized after being hit by Typhoon

Fengshen. Only four people from the ferry have been found alive.

Ban Ki-moon calls for Zimbabwe elections to be postponed



Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations, has said that the elections in Zimbabwe should be postponed due to the fact that Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Zimbabwe's main opposition party, has said that he will pull out of the race to become the president of Zimbabwe.

Phoenix lander confirms presence of water ice on Mars

For the first time ever, NASA has confirmed the presence of water ice on Mars. The Phoenix lander which landed on Mars on May 25, has confirmed to scientists that the white substance it found while digging a trench on June 15, is water ice.



Jason-2 satellite launched to measure sea levels

The Ocean Surface Topography Mission (OSTM), or Jason-2, satellite, has been launched into low Earth orbit. A Delta II rocket carrying the satellite lifted off from Space Launch Complex 2W at the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, United States, at 07:46 GMT this morning. Spacecraft separation occurred around an hour later, and the solar panels on the satellite have deployed.



Wikipedia Current Events

- Malaysia releases Buhary Syed Abu Tahir, a leading business associate of Pakistani nuclear scientist A. Q. Khan.
- The 2008 meeting of the International Whaling Commission begins in Santiago, Chile.
- Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister of Pakistan and leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (N), is found ineligible by a court to stand in upcoming by-elections.
- In Serbia, the Milošević-founded Socialist Party is to join the coalition led by the pro-Western Democratic Party which came to power in 2007 elections.
- China fires twelve officials for misconduct in the Sichuan earthquake relief effort.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The Supreme Court of the United States refuses to hear an appeal of eminent domain eviction notices in connection with the Atlantic Yards development in Brooklyn, New York City.
- The Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rules that Hozaifa Parhat, a Chinese Uyghur militant currently detained at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, cannot be ruled an "enemy combatant" because he never took up arms against the United States.
- The European Union agrees to new sanctions against Iran including a freeze on the assets of Bank Melli, Iran's largest bank, over the refusal to curb its nuclear program.

Outgoing Australian Democrats leader predicts new party amidst double dissolution

In the 2007 Australian Federal election, the Australian Democrats party lost the last of its Senate seats, and as of June 30 will no longer be represented in parliament. However, its leader, Lyn Allison, has confirmed talks with other small political parties such as the Climate Change Coalition with the aim of forming a new political entity.

The Democrats have held seats in the Senate for 31 years, and operated under the mission statement "to keep the bastards honest" as coined by former leader Don Chipp in 1980. Its loss of

three Senate seats in 2004 was instrumental in giving the Liberal/National Coalition an absolute Senate majority in addition to their existing majority in the House of Representatives, which allowed them to pass legislation without the need of minority or Independent Senate votes. In the 2007 election, two of the four remaining Democrat senators chose not to stand for re-election, and the other two lost their seat. However, a swing against the Coalition gives the balance of power to minorities - the Greens, Family First, and Independent senator Nick Xenophon.

Senator Allison predicted that tensions between the Labor Party - who won a majority in the House of Representatives in the election - and the Greens would result in a double dissolution election. Under Section 57 of the Australian Constitution, if the Senate rejects the same legislation passed up from the House of Representatives twice under certain conditions, the Governor-General may dissolve both Houses, resulting in elections for all seats. There have been six double dissolutions in Australian parliament, with the most recent in 1987.

Senator Allison said "any Bill which the opposition opposes will require the votes of all five Greens, plus the new senator Xenophon and [Family First] Senator Fielding. Now that's quite a disparate bunch." Of the possibility of forming a new minority party, she said that she thinks "there is a place for the Australian Democrats or a party just like it and we want to still be part of that." A double dissolution "would of course be an ideal election to contest as a new entity," she said, but noted that it would probably not retain the Democrats name, since it "has not

attracted any votes."

The new party would not include the Greens, but its leader, Bob Brown, was supportive of plans for a new political entity in Federal politics, as more voices in the Senate would be better for democracy. "I think it's a great idea", he said.

Ban Ki-moon calls for Zimbabwe elections to be postponed

Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations, has said that the elections in Zimbabwe should be postponed due to the fact that Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Zimbabwe's main opposition party, has said that he will pull out of the race to become the president of Zimbabwe.

Ban released a statement highlighting his concerns. "The Secretary-General deeply regrets that, despite the repeated appeals of the international community, the Government of Zimbabwe has failed to put in place the conditions necessary for free and fair run-off elections," he said.

"The circumstances that led to the withdrawal of opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai today from the presidential elections represents a deeply distressing development that does not bode well for the future of democracy in Zimbabwe. The campaign of violence and intimidation that has marred this election has done a great disservice to the people of the country and must end immediately," continued the Secretary general.

He finished by saying that "the Secretary-General has discussed the situation with various leaders, including those of the African

Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). He strongly supports the statement of the Chairman of SADC that conditions do not exist for a run-off election to be held at this time and that they should be postponed."

This move by Ban Ki-moon comes after Morgan Tsvangirai called for the international community to intervene to improve the situation in Zimbabwe.

Air safety group says airport was operating illegally without license when Garuda Indonesia Flight 200 crashed

An Australian air safety group claims that Yogyakarta International Airport was operating illegally with no license when Garuda Indonesia Flight 200, a Boeing 737, crashed at the airport, killing 16 Indonesians and five Australians.

Flight Safety Pty Ltd had been asked to carry out an independent investigation by an anonymous client after the March 2007 disaster, which occurred when the aircraft landed at excessive speed and shot off the end of the runway. Flight Safety has now announced that they have found Yogyakarta International had been granted a five year license but this would be withdrawn after twelve months if several conditions were not met. Since these conditions remained unchanged, the license effectively voided six months before the disaster, claim Flight Safety. One of the conditions was extension of the runway and provision of an adequate Runway End Safety Area (RESA).

The group adds that it also conducted checks on Solo International Airport and Semarang International Airport,

and that these airports also had invalid Airport Operating Certificates. The final report was not released at the time as the client in question felt it 'too sensitive', and Flight Safety says that it was rapidly covered up three months later when it leaked in Indonesia.

The group says it notified the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), and that they in turn said the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) - who assisted in the crash investigation - was in control of the situation. However, Flight Safety claim that when approached, the ATSB denied knowing about it. Allegedly, the ATSB had missed the licensing discrepancy because they only checked the front page of the airport's licence and did not conduct a detailed analysis of the small print.

Flight Safety claim that the Indonesian Director of Aviation Safety told them that the situation had been rectified. However, the group have now conducted a re-audit and say Solo and Yogyakarta airports both remain illegal. They go on to accuse the ICAO, ATSB and Indonesian Director of Aviation Safety of "keeping quiet" and described them as 'compromised'.

Flight Safety go on to claim that the survivors of the crash and relatives of the deceased have not been informed either, and say that this will have a serious effect on the compensation process and on any insurance claims. Crikey, an Australian news service, also suggested that AU\$12 million of aid promised by Australia to help Indonesia improve air safety is also being misused. All Indonesia's air carriers are currently on the list

of air carriers banned in the EU.

An official statement by Flight Safety head Chris Weir concluded "It [the group's findings] should now be exposed as the safety issues remain unresolved."

Mardjono Siswo Suwarno of the National Transport Safety Committee, the body responsible for investigating the disaster, denied that Yogyakarta Airport was illegal, saying "At that time [the licence] was still valid, but the RESA was not long enough... But still in the [Garuda] case, even if the RESA length was adequate, the plane would have still overrun because the speed was 1.8 times normal speed."

The final report found that the pilot-in-command, who has been arrested and charged over the crash, attempted to land after fifteen Ground Proximity Warning System activations to tell him he was landing too fast, and says that although a longer runway and full-sized RESA wouldn't have stopped an airliner travelling at such excessive speed it could have reduced the toll of deaths and injuries.

The directors of Yogyakarta and Solo airports claim that since the re-audit they have taken steps to improve safety and rectify any problems, but have not actually admitted their airports were illegal. Indonesian director general of air transportation Budi Mulyawan Suyitno said that although local budget limitations have prevented some airports from being improved there are no problems currently at Yogyakarta, with improvements including declaration of a RESA for 140 metres of the 2,250 metre runway and stationing Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting trucks at the airport.

2008 COMPUTEX Taipei: Three awards, One target

2008 COMPUTEX Taipei, the largest trade fair since its inception in 1982, featured several seminars and forums, expansions on show spaces to TWTC Nangang, great transformations for theme pavilions, and WiMAX Taipei Expo, mainly promoted by Taipei Computer Association (TCA). Besides of ICT industry, "design" progressively became the critical factor for the future of the other industries. To promote innovative "Made In Taiwan" products, pavilions from "Best Choice of COMPUTEX", "Taiwan Excellence Awards", and newly-set "Design and Innovation (d & i) Award of COMPUTEX", demonstrated the power of Taiwan's designs in 2008 COMPUTEX Taipei.

Best Choice of COMPUTEX: Arrangements without fair judgments?

"Best Choice of COMPUTEX", designed to encourage technological innovation in the ICT industry and help companies expand their export markets, is the 7th-annual holding by TCA since 2002. Different than past years, not only the professional juries will decide the best thirty-nines (including Special Award from Juries, Best Choices of the Year from Overseas and Domestic Enterprises) from nominated 125 products in the second runoffs.

Finally, thirty-eight winning products including three products from Jury's Special Award and one from Best Choice of the Year from Domestic Enterprise, but winner from Best Choice of the Year from Overseas Enterprise wasn't awarded. With this incident, some overseas exhibitors disputed the profession of this class and appealed the organizer to do necessary modifications for

different classes next year.

d & i Award, first-ever award to promote "Design"

"d & i Award of COMPUTEX", a newly-created award by Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) and International Forum Design (iF) to discover innovative, applicative, and creative products, showcased a significant differences than the "Best Choice of COMPUTEX".

According to TAITRA, professional juries including Christoph Böniger (brains4design GmbH), Duck Hsieh (Duck Image Corporation), James Irvine (James Irvine S.r.l.), Kris Verstockt (Cre8 design studio), and Roger Pin-Si Lin (Nova Design Co., Ltd.), adjudicated the final seventeens (including the final four gold awards) from 139 entries submitted by 67 contestants from 5 countries based on the criteria of "Degree of innovation", "Design quality", "Workmanship", "Choice of materials", "Environmental friendliness", "Functionality", "Ergonomics", "Utility value", "Safety", "Universal design", and "Brand value/Branding".

Besides the Design and Innovation Award, whose rich achievements were established from several international design awards by companies in Taiwan, the Taiwan Design Center, set to promote the design and cultural industries in Taiwan, held the "2008 Design Think Forum" entitled "Design for next Billion Customers" to prospect the future of the design industry world-wide.

"Taiwan Excellence Awards": MIT products shining in the world. "Taiwan Excellence Awards", created to promote products made in Taiwan, announced its winners from Gold and Silver Award classes prior to the show on May

22. This year, 388 ICT products participated in this competition and the ICT industry scored a better performance with 6 Golds and 14 Silvers in the final jury. It not only showcased a significant improvement but also symbolized the ICT industry in Taiwan as a stable industrial position in the presence.

Best Choice of COMPUTEX

Best Choice of the Year - Domestic Enterprise: MSI GX620 Notebook Computer.

Car Electronics: Globalsat GTV-580 Communication & VoIP: ASUS Lamborghini ZX1, E-TEN Glofiish DX900.

Data Storage: iStarUSA and Netstor PCI-e Raid, Maxtronic SS-8811R, Infortrend EonStor B12F-R1430.

Digital Home: HoneyWLD HD-301, ASUS 42RW1 LCD TV, Gigabyte Glee Cube IP-TV Box.

Embedded System: Korenix JetBox, Collevo GoFinger.

Green IT: ASUS RS160-E5 Server, Gigabyte GA-EP45-DS5.

Industrial PC: DT Research WebDT 310

LSI / VLSI: VIA Media System Processor II

Motherboards: Gigabyte GA-EP45-DQ6, MSI P45 Diamond

PC / Server systems / Notebook / Tablet PC: Gigabyte M700, MSI GX620

Peripherals / Accessories: ASUS MK241H, AverMedia AVerTV Volar GPS 805, Realtek RTD-2485D

Advanced LCD Monitor Controller Personal Entertainment: Gigabyte MID M528, Aiptek PocketDV AHD Z600 PRO

Product Design Awards

Industrial Design: ASUS Ares CG6155, Acer Aspire Gemstone Blue Series

Innovation Idea Design: Beauty Up 75" IT-Board, Penpower WorldCard Ultra, dmedia WiMAX Car-Navi

G5W.

Security: Fineart Total Security Fort (X-FORT), Softwell Wit-Eye Linux-based DVR, Face-Tek Reader Software: Inventec Portable Dr.eye on USB Drives

WLAN Communication: ASUS WUSB25E2V2 USB Doggle, AXIMCom P2P Gear PG-116N

Jury's Special Award: Four Channel USB Amplifier, AiData LAPstation, Iinjoy DMC Series - Bouree (Solar Mobile Power Pack for NB)

[edit]

Design & Innovation Awards (Gold Award Products in italic text).

VIA OpenBook

AnMo Dino-Lite Digital Microscope

ASUS UF735 Digital Photo Frame

Starline International Swing Duo

USB Flash Drive

Mio Leap G50

Mio Moov 380

Mio Leap K1

Cooler Master V8 CPU cooler

Patriot PC DDR3 Memory Modules

PVS32G1866LLK

Acer Aspire Gemstone Blue

ASUS Ares CG6155

ASUS U2E Notebook

VIA CloudBook Max

Sonnenschein Twist-a-cable

Thermaltake iXoft Notebook

Cooling Pad

A-DATA Nobility Series N702

iStarUSA - SSI SI-7908 / 7928

SATA HDD docking station

Comedian George Carlin dead at age 71

American comedian George Carlin has died at the age of 71 after suffering heart failure.

Carlin was taken to the Saint John's Health Center located in Santa Monica, California after he experienced chest pains and died in the early evening.

Carlin has made several HBO specials and nearly two dozen comedy albums. He appeared in several movies such as Dogma, and was also the first host for the television show Saturday Night Live which premiered in 1975.

Carlin suffered from a cocaine addiction throughout his life and was self-admitted to a rehab clinic in 2004.

Phoenix lander confirms presence of water ice on Mars

For the first time ever, NASA has confirmed the presence of water ice on Mars. The Phoenix lander, which landed on Mars on May 25, has confirmed to NASA scientists that the white substance it found while digging a trench on June 15 is water ice.

In the lower left corner of the left image, a group of lumps is visible. In the right image, the lumps have disappeared, similar to the process of evaporation.
Image: NASA/JPL.

"It is with great pride and a lot of joy that I announce today that we have found proof that this hard bright material is really water ice and not some other substance," said Peter Smith, the primary investigator for Phoenix, at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona.

The chunks were left at the bottom of a trench informally called "Dodo-Goldilocks" when Phoenix's Robotic Arm enlarged that trench on June 15, during the 20th Martian day, or sol, since landing. Several were gone when Phoenix looked at the trench days later. The chunks were visible on June 16, but when Phoenix looked at the trench again on June 19, some of the material had disappeared, implying that it may have

evaporated or melted.

Scientists are planning to examine the substance and the soil surrounding it more closely. They plan to test it for signs of organic material and minerals, and hope to find out if the ice was ever a liquid which could have supported microbial life.

In December of 2006, scientists announced that the Mars Global Surveyor captured images of deposits in gullies on the surface of the planet Mars which have been created since the areas were photographed nine years ago. These deposits were believed to be the residue of liquid water breaking out of cliffs and crater walls, carrying sediment downhill through the gullies, and later evaporating. The gullies are located inside the Terra Sirenum crater and the Centauri Montes regions.

In June 2007 the ESA's Mars Express spacecraft discovered ice deposits in the South Pole of Mars that are larger than the state of Texas. Scientists say that there is enough water in the deposits to cover the entire planet with up to 36 feet of water if the ice was to melt.

Wikipedia Current Events
Zimbabwean Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai seeks refuge in Dutch Embassy.
•The United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice questions the legitimacy of the upcoming presidential election and calls for relevant bodies such as the African Union and the United Nations Security Council to consider the issue.
•The United Nations Security

Wikipedia Current Events
Council condemns the Government of Zimbabwe for a "campaign of violence".
•The 2008 Wimbledon Championships begins in London.
•An additional 28 survivors from the MV Princess of the Stars are found but there are still more than 800 missing from the vessel that sunk during Typhoon Fengshen.
•An Australian air safety group claims that Yogyakarta International Airport was operating illegally with no valid license at the time Garuda Indonesia Flight 200 crashed, killing 21. They also accuse two other airports of similar violations and three official bodies of keeping it from public knowledge.

Today in History

1314 – In the decisive battle in the First War of Scottish Independence, Scottish forces led by Robert the Bruce defeated English troops under Edward II in Bannockburn, Scotland.

1894 – Italian anarchist Sante Geronimo Caserio assassinated Marie François Sadi Carnot, President of the French Third Republic, after Carnot delivered a speech at a public banquet in Lyon, France.

1948 – Cold War: The Soviet Union blocked access to the American, British, and French sectors of Berlin, cutting off all rail and road routes going into Soviet-controlled territory in Germany.

1981 – The Humber Bridge, at the time the longest single-span suspension bridge, connecting the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire in England, opened.

1994 – A United States Air Force B-52 Stratofortress based at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane

County, Washington, USA crashed, killing all four crew members, and providing a case study on the importance of compliance with safety regulations.

June 25 is Battle of Carabobo Day in Venezuela (1821); Midsummer Day in Northern Europe; Fête nationale du Québec (Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day) in Quebec, Canada

Quote of the Day

All I do is done in love; all I suffer, I suffer in the sweetness of love. ~ John of the Cross

Word of the Day

quay n

1. (nautical) A wharf, a stone or concrete structure on navigable water used for loading and unloading vessels.

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