



Top Stories

Airplane hijacker surrenders in Turkey

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Florida and Puerto Rican manatees may be removed from 'endangered species list'

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service or USFWS has announced that the Florida and Puerto Rican manatee will most likely be removed from the Endangered Species List and have their status upgraded to "threatened."



Featured story

Jimbo Wales to create 'code of conduct' for bloggers and the Wikimedia Foundation

Jimbo Wales, the founder of Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Foundation, is teaming up with book publisher Tim O'Reilly to create a "code of conduct" for bloggers and the Wikimedia Foundation..



Wikipedia Current Events

- The United States authorises \$59 million worth of aid for the Palestinian Authority.
- Sudan claims that an attack from Chad on its territory led to the loss of 17 Sudanese soldiers. Chad denies the allegations but claims that it repulsed an attack from Sudan.
- Iraq War: United States and Iraqi forces backed by attack helicopters fight gunmen in Baghdad in the heaviest fighting since the launch of a security crackdown in February 2007.
- Seven French doctors will face charges related to the deaths of 110 patients who developed Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease after taking growth hormones in the 1980s.
- India's largest private airline, Jet Airways, has restarted talks to purchase Air Sahara.
- Serbia's war crimes court has jailed four Serb paramilitaries who were filmed as they shot dead six captured young Bosnian Muslims.
- Ethiopia acknowledges that it has detained 41 suspected international terrorists from 17 countries and claims that foreign investigators were given permission to interrogate them.
- Two suspected militants die in a security operation in Casablanca, Morocco.
- At least 17 people die in Sri Lanka as a bus collides with a truck 80km south of Colombo.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The government of Japan extends economic sanctions against the North Korea government by an additional six months, citing a lack of progress in resolving kidnapping cases of Japanese citizens.
- Australian Prime Minister John Howard announces that 300 soldiers from the Australian Special Air Service Regiment will be sent to Orūzgān Province, Afghanistan to combat the Taliban.

Football: Fulham FC sacks coach Chris Coleman

Fulham FC coach Chris Coleman was sacked Tuesday, the day after a disappointing 3-1 loss to Manchester City.

Fulham's form has been poor as of late, with the team not winning in their past seven games. The Easter weekend was especially harsh for the Cottagers, as they leaked seven goals, only scoring two themselves in games against Everton and Manchester City. The drop in form has put Fulham dangerously near relegation, and with the bottom teams currently stepping up their form, Fulham management decided it was time for a change.

Assistant coach Steve Kean has also been released from the club, and Fulham has made an agreement with the Irish FA for Northern Ireland boss Lawrie Sanchez to take control of the team in a caretaker position for the remainder of the season.

Coleman has been with Fulham for ten years, four as the manager. He coached the team for 176 games, winning 61, drawing 44, and losing 71.

Sanchez's first match in charge will come against Reading on the 14th of April. Other games remaining in the season for Fulham include matches against Arsenal and Liverpool.

Football: Manchester United thrash Roma 7 - 1

Manchester United advanced to the semi-finals of the Champions League after a thumping of Italian club AS Roma Tuesday night. Holding a 2-1 advantage after the first leg, Roma travelled to Old Trafford in hopes of knocking Manchester United out of the competition, ruining their hopes of a treble. The winning goal scorer from the first leg, Marko Vucinic, had to replace the ill Rodrigo Taddei for Roma, and he was paired with Roma's talisman striker Francesco Totti. Louis Saha was still out through injury for United, so Alan Smith started his fourth match of the season with strike partner Wayne Rooney.

Roma started the match quite strongly with several attempts early. David Pizarro first blasted a long drive wide before Totti came close with a 25-yard shot. Michael Carrick then opened the scoring for United as he was supplied the ball by Ronaldo, and the Englishman's shot curled by Doni. Some quick counterattacking football then earned United their second goal as Brown, Rooney, Carrick, and Heinze all combined to get the ball out to Giggs. His pass into Smith left Doni exposed, and the striker scored his first goal since returning from injury. A third goal was scored only minutes later after play from Ronaldo and Smith released Giggs

on the right, and his cross was turned in by Rooney off the post. Roma finally had a chance to respond through De Rossi, but his header from Pizarro's cross was sent over the bar. Ronaldo was then knocking on the door for Uniteds fourth, as he fizzled a shot just wide, and had a free kick blocked by a stretching Doni. The Portuguese winger would score just before the break however, as more good work by Giggs gave Ronaldo room to maneuver, and he sprinted in before firing a low shot into the corner. Van Der Sar was then called into action to bat away a hard free kick by Totti, but the scoreline stayed 4-0 into the break.

Totti started off the chances in the second half with a free kick that went just wide, but United would score again only four minutes in. Giggs was again the supplier as his low cross was knocked in by a lunging Ronaldo, his twentieth goal of the season. Roma looked for a consolation goal, but it looked as if United would not even concede that as Darren Fletcher cleared Allesandro Mancini's header off the line. Carrick then earned himself a brace on the night, as he blasted home a 25 yard drive into the top corner. Giggs was then replaced by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and the Norweigen nearly added another goal as he lofted the ball on to the top of the net. Roma finally got their goal in the 69th minute through Daniel De Rossi as his fine cushioned volley from Totti's cross was beyond Van Der Sar. Substitute Patrice Evra then rounded out the scoring in the 81'st minute after a nice interchange of play between himself, Solskjaer, and Rooney, the defender hit in a low shot off the post. Ronaldo, in search of a hat-trick, pushed forward near the end of the game, but his low drive was saved well by Doni.

Manchester United will now move on to face either AC Milan or Bayern Munich in the next round of the Champions League, and their next match is the FA Cup semi-final against Watford. Roma meanwhile take on Sampdoria next in the Serie A, though they no longer have a chance to catch leaders Internazionale.

2007 Cricket World Cup: South Africa vs West Indies

South Africa beat West Indies by 67 runs in the Super 8 phase of the World Cup at the Cricket National Stadium, St. George's, Grenada.

This defeat all but eliminates hosts the West Indies, meaning the record of a host nation never winning the tournament continues.

Toss: West Indies won, and elected to field first.

New South Wales anti-drug campaign to target teens

The Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) launched its latest anti-cannabis campaign in Sydney today. The campaign, which specifically targets 14 to 19 year-olds aims to reduce the number of young people experimenting with the drug. The advertisements follow a tightening of cannabis laws in NSW last year.

The campaign, which NSW Health has cost at AUD\$600,000 will use a variety of print ads placed at bus stops and in youth magazines in addition to advertisements on websites such as MySpace and MSN. Print ads use a tag line saying "Pot. It mightn't kill you, but it could turn you into a dickhead".

The advertisements show a person staring from a black and white photo with quotes like "You've got great eyes, when they're not bloodshot" and "I'd lend you

money, but you still owe me from last time".

The director of drug and alcohol programs with NSW Health, David McGrath said many young people believed that cannabis was safe and its use was normal. "There is still a significant cohort of people who think, particularly with the young person's age group, that cannabis is normal," Mr McGrath said.

Mr McGrath said despite the number of young cannabis users had halved from forty percent to twenty percent, but claimed more needed to be done. "We want to prevent people who are thinking about taking cannabis up from taking it up and also encouraging those people that are using cannabis to cease," he said.

Mr McGrath said young people had to be warned about the possible consequences of smoking cannabis, such as the alleged link with mental illness and how it may affect social interaction and physical health.

NSW Health Minister, Reba Meagher said a recent study indicated that while cannabis use among young people is in decline, almost one third of teenagers have tried cannabis. She also claimed that cannabis remained common within the community. "Cannabis is a drug that is readily available in our community and it does come with serious risk," she said.

Airplane hijacker surrenders in Turkey

A Pegasus Airline flight carrying 178 passengers was hijacked today by a man named Mehmet Gökşin Göl. The plane took off from the town of Diyarbakir and headed toward Istanbul, Turkey's most populated city.

Göl later gave himself up and surrendered to authorities at Ankara international airport in Turkey. Reports say he was attempting to divert the flight to Iran and that he is suffering from a mental illness.

All passengers are safe and have been removed from the plane and there are no reports of injuries.

This incident occurred six months after a man hijacked a flight en route to Istanbul in October 2006. The man, identified as Mehmet Goksen Gol, entered the cockpit and threatened to blow up the plane, claiming to have an explosive device on board, Ankara Deputy Governor Hayati Soylu said. The man was not armed and did not have explosives.

He was detained at Ankara's Esenboga airport where pilots landed the Pegasus airline flight, which was going from Diyarbakir to Istanbul.

There were 178 passengers on board, including three babies, the airline said. None of the passengers were hurt.

There was no information as to why the man wanted to divert the plane to Iran.

Firat Keles, a passenger on board, told a Turkish television network that the man could be seen reading the Koran during the flight. There was no panic on board, he said.

Florida and Puerto Rican manatees may be removed from 'endangered species list'

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service or USFWS has announced that the Florida and Puerto Rican manatee will most likely be removed from the Endangered Species List and have their status

upgraded to "threatened."

The announcement was made in the USFWS's 5-year review of the manatee. In the review, the manatees were found to have "increased in numbers" over the last 40 years and that there were no new threats posed to the mammals.

In the section of the report that is called the 1996 Distinct Population Segment or [DPS], the review states "the species under review" is "not listed as a DPS" and that "there [is no] relevant new information that would lead us to consider listing manatees in Florida as a DPS in accordance with the 1996 policy."

"If there isn't any other message in this report, it's that recovery is attainable. We just believe it fits the definition of threatened better than it fits the definition of endangered," said the Fish and Wildlife Service's supervisor for the field, Dave Hankla.

"Based on the science, it is clear that manatees are no longer facing extinction in all or a significant portion of its range," added Hankla.

An endangered species is usually considered a species which are very likely to become extinct immediately. Threatened species can usually be saved if large measures to protect them are immediately taken.

Scientists were also able to get a close count to the exact numbers of manatees that are currently living off Florida's coast and in the waterways of Florida to 2,812. Only 1,267 were found to be living in Florida's waters in 1991.

Australia to send more troops to Afghanistan

Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard said he will send an extra 300 ground troops and 75 air force personnel to Afghanistan to help the NATO-run International Security Assistance Force counter Taliban insurgents. The deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan has necessitated we send this additional commitment, he said.

"It is difficult, it is dangerous work and that should not in any way be underestimated. But there is a lot at stake if terrorism acquires a safe haven again in Afghanistan. That will be of direct consequence for this country and for countries in the region." — John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia

Moroccan police raid has deadly end

Early Tuesday morning, Moroccan police raided a house in a Casablanca slum looking for a gang of militants that had been wanted for a March 11 suicide bombing at a cybercafe. During the raid, two suspects detonated a suicide belts, killing themselves. Two others led police on a rooftop chase that eventually ended with one suspect being shot by police and another blowing himself up when cornered.

Police said they believed the bombers had started wearing the belts full-time to prevent being taken alive. Two police and a child were injured in the explosions.

Russia expresses doubt about Iranian "industrial scale" claims

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, "We are not aware of any technological breakthroughs in the Iranian nuclear program recently which would change the nature of work on enrichment being

carried out in the country,"

Analysts have said that past claims by Iran about progress, while glossing over technical glitches, have served to strengthen its bargaining hand with the West, while it is probably several years from being able to make a bomb.

Today in History

1241 - Mongols led by Batu Khan and Subutai crushed the Hungarian army of King Béla IV in the Battle of Mohi.

1945 - World War II: The Buchenwald concentration camp was liberated.

1965 - Fifty-one tornadoes struck six states in the Midwestern United States during the Palm Sunday tornado outbreak.

1979 - Uganda-Tanzania War: The Uganda National Liberation Army and Tanzanian forces captured Kampala, forcing Ugandan President for Life Idi Amin to flee.

2002 - President Hugo Chávez was forced to resign during a military coup attempt in Venezuela.

April 11 is Juan Santamaría Day in Costa Rica.

Quote of the Day

Extremists think "communication" means agreeing with them.
~ Leo Rosten

Word of the Day

rugose; adj
1. Wrinkled; covered with creases or ridges.

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