



Top Stories

Iran reported to U.N. Security Council

The IAEA has passed a resolution, with a vote of 27 to 3, to report concerns over Iran's nuclear program to the UN Security Council. Iranian officials have said that Iran will respond by downgrading its cooperation with IAEA and resuming full scale uranium enrichment.

Egyptian passenger ferry sinks in Red Sea

Stormy conditions sink ferry traveling from Saudi Arabia to Egypt. At least 1,000 people are still believed missing.

Featured story

Gates pledges \$600 million for Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis

Drive to stop TB's spread gets large donation from software billionaire Gates, and hopes to reverse occurrences of the treatable disease.

Wikipedia Current Events

• Twenty-seven out of 35 countries on the IAEA's Board of Governors vote to refer the nuclear program of Iran to the United Nations Security Council out of concern over Iran's plans to enrich nuclear materials and to refuse IAEA inspection of the process.

• A stampede at a sports stadium in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines, kills 73 and injures

Wikipedia Current Events

more than 320, mostly women. Tens of thousands of people had gathered to watch the anniversary presentation of the popular ABS-CBN early afternoon TV gameshow, Wowowee.

• The Danish, and as a consequence of sharing the same building, the Chilean and Swedish embassies in Damascus, are firebombed by protestors denouncing the publication of what they consider sacriligious cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. The Norwegian embassy is also burned.

Danish and Norwegian embassies set on fire

The Norwegian and Danish embassies in Damascus, Syria, have been set alight by crowds numbering in the thousands. Reports indicate both embassies have been destroyed by fire. The building hosting the Danish embassy also contained the embassies of Chile and Sweden.

The Danish embassy was initially torched, at a time when it was reportedly empty. Officials and staff have been evacuated. Attempts to disperse the protest outside the embassy using tear gas were carried out by Syrian police and it is reported that a number of protestors were taken to hospital.

The attacks on the embassies may have been provoked by text messages which reportedly circulated among Syrians claiming

that Danes would burn copies of the Qur'an in a Copenhagen square. Although there are no reported injuries, those who gathered outside the embassies were changing, "With our blood and souls we defend you, O Prophet of God. There is no god but God and Muhammad is the messenger of God."

Earlier in the week similar text messaging was circulating in Egypt that said; "Denmark wants to burn the sacred Qur'an Saturday in Copenhagen in response to the Muslim boycott". "Send (this message on) and you will be rewarded," the text said.

Despite the circulated text messages, no reports indicate that any copies of the Qur'an have been burned as a result of the boycott.

1,000+ of Saudi Arabia's guest workers feared drowned

An aging ferry deemed unsafe sank in the Red Sea on Friday with about 1,400 souls on board, mostly Egyptians who travel back and forth to Saudi Arabia to work for that monarchy as guest workers.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's spokesman, Suleiman Awadsaid, said there were not enough lifeboats, and questions were raised about the safety of the old ship that had 220 cars on it as well as the passengers. "The speed with which the ship sank and the lack of sufficient lifeboats indicate there was some deficiency," Awad

said.

"It's a roll-on, roll-off ferry, and there is big question mark over the stability of this kind of ship," said David Osler of Lloyds List. "It would only take a bit of water to get on board this ship and it would be all over. ... The percentage of this type of ferry involved in this type of disaster is huge."

Tens of thousands of poor Egyptians work in Persian Gulf countries for years to earn money. They travel by ship as it is a cheaper option than flying.

Manhunt on for gay bar attacker in Massachusetts

Authorities are seeking a man in connection with an attack on patrons of a gay bar in New Bedford, Massachusetts Wednesday night, February 1. Jacob D. Robida, 18, of New Bedford is described by police as armed and dangerous, and is wanted on suspicion of three counts of attempted murder and hate crimes.

Robida entered Puzzles Lounge around 11:30 pm Wednesday night and asked if it was a gay bar. The bartender said yes and served Robida a drink acquired with a fake ID.

After finishing the drink and ordering a second one, Robida moved to the back of the bar where a game of pool was being played and started swinging a hatchet at a customer's head. While the bartender was calling the police, Robida struck a second patron with the hatchet and then pulled out a gun shooting the first victim in the face and the second twice in the head. A third person was also shot.

E-mail filtering by Swiss Federal Authorities raises constitutional concerns

Swiss Federal Authorities unified under the domain admin.ch confirmed rejecting all e-mail sent directly from most dynamically assigned IP addresses. This includes people which are carrying a notebook regularly between home and work between different ISP's and cannot afford paying static IP address. The behaviour raises concerns about possible violation of Swiss Federal Constitution.

"It is correct that we use the SORBS DUL, therefore blocking most dynamic IP addresses. [...] The use of a blacklist is not very resource intensive, a fact that matters more and more if you have to transfer several million emails per month. If we had to pipe all of them through a device such as SpamAssassin we would be in need of a much bigger email infrastructure." wrote Reto Inversini from admin.ch on 2nd February in reply to a complaint sent to Swiss Federal Chancellery.

Swiss Federal Constitution Article 9, titled "Protection against Arbitrariness and Principle of Good Faith", reads: "Every person has the right to be treated by the state organs without arbitrariness and in good faith".

Merriam-Webster definition of arbitrariness includes: "arbitrary 1 : depending on individual discretion (as of a judge) and not fixed by law [...] 3 a : based on or determined by individual preference or convenience rather than by necessity or the intrinsic nature of something"

SpamAssassin is generally regarded as one of the most effective spam filters, especially

when used in combination with spam databases. This free software can be deployed on user's machines or on a central server. A load of million e-mails monthly leaves 2.6 seconds for the server to decide if the e-mail is spam or not. Load of this order is manageable with one or couple contemporary PC's.

This raises a concern whether the filtering is dictated by necessity or rather based on preference or convenience, and thus whether it classifies as arbitrary. In such case, Art. 9 of the Constitution would be violated. Although this concern was expressed in the complaint, the reply from Swiss Federal Chancellery is arguing solely with technical reason and suggests the citizen to adapt.

Another concern regards discrimination, defined by Wikipedia as: "To discriminate is to make a distinction between people on the basis of class or category without regard to individual merit." The behaviour could be understood as discriminatory against category of citizens who are unable to use ISP's mailserver and cannot afford or do not wish to pay for a static IP address. The blockage is not based on individual merit of the citizen, rather kind of collective guilt is applied against all senders from dynamic IP addresses.

Swiss Federal Constitution guarantees freedom from discrimination in Article 8. Quoting point 2: "Nobody shall suffer discrimination, particularly on grounds of origin, race, sex, age, language, social position, lifestyle, religious, philosophical or political convictions, or because of a corporal or mental disability."

Anyone can check whether he is

blocked by running
telnet mailgate1.admin.ch 25
and typing the following sequence
of SMTP commands:
EHLO foo.bar.com
MAIL FROM: foo@bar.com
RCPT TO: webmaster@admin.ch
If the sender is filtered out, the
server replies at this point with
554 Service unavailable; Client host
[A.B.C.D] blocked using dul.dnsbl.sorbs.net;
Dynamic IP Addresses See:
<http://www.sorbs.net/lookup.shtml?A.B.C.D>

Iran reported to U.N. Security Council

The IAEA board has passed a resolution to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council. The decision by the 35-nation board came on Saturday.

The resolution was made without waiting for the director of the IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei, to finish preparing a report on Iran's civilian (and allegedly military) nuclear programs for the regular IAEA meeting scheduled for March 6. According to al-Jazeera, ElBaradei refused to accept pressure from Western states to finish his report in advance of the March 6 meeting. ElBaradei said in written responses to requests by the US and EU member states that he had given Iran until the meeting in March to answer questions to IAEA enquiries, stating, Due process, therefore, must take its course before [we are] able to submit a detailed report. ElBaradei also said that another IAEA verification mission was due in Iran shortly and that he had only in mid-January sent extra questions to Iran based on what diplomats called newly released intelligence.

The text of the resolution, made without the results of the report (which will only be ready in March), requires ElBaradei to report to the Security Council "steps Iran needs to take to dispel

suspicions about its nuclear ambitions."

The resolution states that there are serious concerns about Iran's nuclear program. It also notes, "Iran's many failures and breaches of its obligations," (to the non-proliferation treaty) and expresses "the absence of confidence that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively for peaceful purposes."

The resolution also states that Iran is to:

- re-establish a freeze on uranium enrichment and related activities;
- consider whether to stop construction of a heavy water reactor that could be the source of plutonium for weapons;
- formally ratify an agreement allowing the IAEA greater inspecting authority and continue honoring the agreement before it is ratified; and
- give the IAEA additional power in its investigation of Iran's nuclear program, including "access to individuals" for interviews, as well as to documentation on its black-market nuclear purchases, equipment that could be used for nuclear and non-nuclear purposes and "certain military-owned workshops" where nuclear activities could take place

The resolution calling for the referral was apparently drafted by several members states of the European Union together with the United States. Political analyst Joshua Frank claims that the US is not interested in diplomatic means of limiting Iran's possible shift towards nuclear weapons development and that the major reasons are Iran's oil supplies and plans to open an International Oil Bourse in petroeuros, which would challenge the petrodollar, on March 20, 2006.

The agency vote sets the stage for future action by the top U.N. body. Russia and China insisted, in casting their votes with the majority, that future votes on deliberations should wait until at least March. The outcome could include economic and political sanctions. This process of successive escalation of the tension between Iran and the Western members of the Security Council was described by Hans Blix, responsible for about 700 inspections for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, as spin and momentum. He was in favour of inducing Iran to forego enrichment but also recommended that the United States give a similar commitment not to attack Iran with either conventional or nuclear weapons, just as it apparently has to North Korea.

Twenty-seven of the thirty-five nations on the board, voted for the referral.

Three nations that voted against the resolution: Cuba, Syria and Venezuela. Five other countries Algeria, Belarus, Indonesia, Libya and South Africa, abstained.

Wikipedia has articles about weapons of mass destruction in UK, Iran, Israel and Iraq.

Jack Straw, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, a nuclear weapons state obliged under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to destroy its own, existing nuclear weapons, said that the IAEA vote showed "the international community's determination to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East."

After the decision, Iran said today that it would "immediately" begin the steps to "restart full-scale

uranium enrichment" and "curtail" the powers of the IAEA inspectors.

Javad Vaeedi, deputy Iranian nuclear negotiator, said in a press conference after the vote, "After this decision, Iran has to immediately bring into force its parliamentary law to suspend voluntary implementation of (the watchdog agency's) Additional Protocol (on snap inspections) and (pursue) commercial-scale enrichment which until today was under full suspension." He also said, "this resolution is politically motivated since it is not based on legal or technical grounds."

Iran has also said that a proposed deal by Moscow to enrich Iranian uranium is dead.

"There is no adequate reason to pursue the Russian plan," said Vaeedi. "Commercial scale uranium enrichment will be resumed in Natanz in accordance with the law passed by the parliament."

Iran had said that it will "end cooperation with IAEA", if referred to the Security Council.

As of January 31, 2006, the Deputy Director General for Safeguards of the IAEA had reported that Iran has continued to facilitate access under its Safeguards Agreement as requested by the Agency, and to act as if the Additional Protocol is in force, including by providing in a timely manner the requisite declarations and access to locations.

New Zealand newspapers publish "Mohammad Cartoons"

Two New Zealand newspapers, Fairfax-owned The Dominion Post and The Christchurch Press, today controversially published all 12

cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad, viewable here, which have triggered international outrage. Some of the cartoons were also broadcast on New Zealand television yesterday.

In September 2005, the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten first published the cartoons. The images range from serious to comical in nature; a particularly controversial cartoon portrays Mohammad with a bomb wrapped in his turban.

The Dominion Post editor Tim Pankhurst says the decision today to publish the cartoons was in defense of press freedom and it is important for readers to make up their own minds.

"We do not wish to be deliberately provocative but neither should we allow ourselves to be intimidated...If we allow Christianity and more particularly the Catholic Church and the Pope to be satirised, and we do, should Islam be treated differently?"

Javed Khan, President of the New Zealand Federation of Islamic Associations, says he hopes it will not affect New Zealand's trade, but believes there could be "serious repercussions". "We won't call for a boycott, and we don't want to see one, but news gets around the world pretty quickly. Muslims will make their own decisions and as you know, they've taken drastic action against Denmark". He also said the government should take a stand against the cartoons.

Ethnic Affairs Minister Chris Carter has criticised the newspapers for publishing the cartoons, saying that it undermines New Zealand's reputation as a tolerant country. Prime Minister Helen Clark is

reportedly conferring with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before making any comment on the issue.

Some Muslim religious leaders have called for boycotts against countries that have published the cartoons, and many Danish companies have been targeted. Arla Foods, Denmark's top dairy company, has seen their sales fall to zero in some Middle East nations.

New Zealand's Fonterra Co-operative Group, the world's fifth largest dairy company, has run advertisements saying that the milk in its products do not come from Denmark.

Update, February 5, 2006: Hundreds of people have marched down Auckland's Queen St to protest the publication of the cartoons.

New laws to combat 'endemic' Hong Kong bird flu

Health officials in Hong Kong say that Avian Bird Flu (H5N1) appears to be taking hold in the region - where the deadly virus has surfaced in local poultry. Hong Kong's Health Secretary said in a media conference on Friday that positive tests for H5N1 in a bird brought into Hong Kong from China indicates that the virus is endemic in the region.

Dr York Chow says new laws will be introduced to restrict movement of poultry. "It's not just Hong Kong, he said. "This virus will exist in neighboring areas, southern China as well as Hong Kong," Dr Chow said. "Since different kinds of wild birds and chickens have this virus, we can be quite sure that this virus is endemic in our birds," he said.

Health bureau spokeswoman Sally Kong later clarified Dr Chow's comments, saying the Secretary meant that bird flu was endemic in Asia - but not in Hong Kong specifically. Whilst Bird flu is considered endemic in Vietnam, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand, international standards require that countries be certified as 'endemic' by test results showing a cycle of disease recurrence in an area. Mrs Kong said Hong Kong does not meet such standards.

York Chow said the government intends to ban individual households from raising chickens, ducks, geese, pigeons, turkeys and quails. The legislation to ban private ownership could be in place next week. Current Hong Kong legislation allows private poultry ownership of up to 20 birds. Under the law change, the current exemption will be removed. The unauthorised keeping of poultry will be an offence warranting fines of up to \$100,000, however, those keeping commercial racing pigeons in new towns and villages may be exempt.

Dr Chow encouraged the surrender of backyard poultry to the Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department. Those who want to keep birds before the new legislation comes into effect must have them vaccinated against avian flu. The Government may set a date for the central slaughtering, Dr Chow said.

Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food, Carrie Yau, stated that the risk of a bird flu outbreak still exists even if chickens are vaccinated - as the virus may mutate. She asked private poultry give their birds to the Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation

Department.

She stressed there will not be any compensation.

The department visited 35 villages and 1,500 households in Sha Tau Kok and the North District in the past two days, with 113 chickens collected and another 112 vaccinated. The department's Acting Assistant Director Thomas Sit said most backyard poultry owners do not implement biosecurity measures. He called on owners to surrender their poultry.

The Customs & Excise Department has stepped up patrols to prevent the inflow of smuggled chickens.

Gates pledges \$600 million for Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis does not frequently make headlines, but it kills about two million people each year. In a new effort to fight the disease, the Stop Tuberculosis Partnership on January 27 requested US\$31 billion for a Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis, which the Partnership claims would prevent an estimated 14 million TB deaths during the next ten years.

To kick-off the funding drive, Bill Gates pledged to donate US\$600 million. "Every 15 seconds somebody dies of TB, avoidably, preventably," said UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, who helped launch the Plan at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "I welcome the Gates Foundation's announcement today. For far too long, world leaders have ignored the global tuberculosis epidemic, even as it causes millions of needless deaths each year," said Brown.

"The Global Plan is fundamental for Africa, where tuberculosis was

declared an emergency by 46 countries in 2005," said Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Tuberculosis is a contagious disease caused by bacteria that spread through the air and usually attack the lungs. One-third of the world's population is now infected, and 5-10% of infected people suffer active TB disease sometime during their lives. Left untreated, each person with active TB will infect on average between 10 and 15 people every year.

TB is active worldwide, though most deaths are in Southeast Asia and Africa.

Drugs in use for more than four decades can cure the disease. The World Bank ranked a common TB-treatment strategy, called DOTS, as one of the "most cost-effective of all health interventions".

A childhood vaccine against tuberculosis has been available for more than 75 years.

"This is a disease with a huge impact that is completely treatable and preventable," said Dr. Peter Small, a member of the Stop TB coordinating board. "It's not that we can't do something about it, it's that we've chosen not to."

In addition to limited funding, the fight against TB has also been hampered in recent years by two developments. Because HIV weakens the immune system, people who have the virus that causes AIDS are much more likely to become ill with tuberculosis than those who are HIV-negative. TB is the leading cause of death among people with HIV/AIDS.

The second problem lately has been the evolution of drug resistance among many strains of

the bacteria that cause tuberculosis. Some strains, called multi-drug resistant, are immune to the effects of more than one drug.

Stop TB claims that full funding of the Plan will help achieve the Millennium Development Goal to have "halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of tuberculosis." The Plan aims to provide:

- Improve treatment access--prevent 14 million TB deaths and provide treatment to 50 million people.
- New drugs--develop and distribute the first new TB treatment regimen in nearly 40 years.
- New vaccine--develop a safe, affordable vaccine to improve upon the existing vaccine, which has been in use since the early 1900s.
- New diagnostics--develop efficient, effective, and affordable diagnostic tests for TB--the first in more than a century.

"We have a unique historic opportunity to stop tuberculosis," said Dr. Marcos Espinal, Executive Secretary of the Stop Tuberculosis Partnership. "The challenge now is for people to work together in putting the plan into action, in order to stop one of the oldest and most lethal diseases known to humanity. This plan tells the world exactly what we need to do in order to defeat this global killer."

There has already been significant progress against TB over the past several years. Since 2000, estimated spending on tuberculosis control in the 22 hardest-hit countries has increased from US\$800 million to US\$1.2 billion; as a result, the

number of patients receiving TB treatment in these countries more than doubled.

According to Stop TB, implementing the new Plan will require US\$56 billion over ten years--US\$47 billion for expanding access to treatments already available, and US\$9 billion for research and development of new diagnostic tools, drugs, and vaccines. The total number is US\$31 billion more than the amount Stop TB estimates will be spent if current funding trends continue. The investment, the group insists, would have a profound effect on the number of tuberculosis cases averted and lives saved.

Egyptian passenger ferry sinks in Red Sea

An investigation has been commenced by Egypt into the Friday sinking of one of El Salam's passenger ferries in the Red Sea. M/S al-Salam Boccaccio 89 was carrying 1408, including many Egyptians returning from work in Saudi Arabia. The ship left from the port of Dubah in Saudi Arabia enroute to the port of Safaga in Egypt. On the west coast of Saudi Arabia during the night a sandstorm occurred due to high winds.

David Osler of Lloyd's List has said of the ship that "It's a roll-on, roll-off ferry, and there is big question mark over the stability of this kind of ship," he continued and said that "It would only take a bit of water to get on board this ship and it would be all over. ... The percentage of this type of ferry involved in this type of disaster is huge."

Mamdouh Ismail, head of Al-Salaam Maritime Transport Company, stated that another one

of El Salam's ferries, Saint Catherine received a distress call from one of the lifeboats of the Boccaccio when it arrived in Dubah from Safaga. The Saint Catherine notified its company headquarters, and El Salam reported it to Egyptian authorities.

According to a statement given to the Associated Press by Ismail, the ferry was carrying 96 crew members, 1,200 Egyptians, and 112 other passengers. A Transport Ministry spokesman has stated that 314 people have been rescued. More than 185 bodies have been recovered from the sea according to an Egyptian police official who has requested anonymity.

Four rescue ships from Egypt arrived Friday afternoon, approximately 10 hours after the sinking of the 35-year-old ferry in the night near the Egyptian port of Hurgada. Aid from Britain and the U.S. was initially refused. Later, both the British HMS Bulwark and the US P3-Orion maritime naval patrol aircraft were recalled, but due to its distance at the later time, the request for the return of the Bulwark was called off by Egypt.

Scores killed in Manila game show stampede

At least 79 people, nearly all of them women, were trampled to death and 290 more injured Saturday morning in a stampede outside the Ultra Stadium in Pasig City in Metro Manila. The crowd, estimated at 30,000, had been lined up to get tickets to the Wowowee game show, popular for its prizes. According to reports, the stampede was triggered when someone shouted a bomb threat.

Cialis blog controversy is major war of words

Pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Company is currently engaged in a war of words with John Mack, editor of the monthly newsletter Pharma Marketing News. Mack and Eli Lilly are debating the origin of the Cialis Blog, a long-running Web site containing information about the popular anti-impotence medication Cialis. The Web site features information about Cialis' clinical trials and commentary from Lilly ICOS executives.

Mack has suggested that Eli Lilly and Company sponsors the Cialis Blog. However, Lilly ICOS has asserted that it has nothing to do with the Web site.

Mack disputed Eli Lilly's version of events calling the Cialis Blog "too far-fetched to be believed" and an example of Lilly's "incredible incompetence." Another blog, Envisioning 2.0, notes that the "Cialis blog is not endorsed by the powers that be at Lilly ICOS, according to Lilly spokesperson Kindra Strupp."

Pharmaceutical Executive first mentioned the Cialis blog in an October 2004 article about pharmaceutical blogging. The author of the story assigned responsibility for the blog to Lilly ICOS without attribution.

Other bloggers have posted comments on Envisioning 2.0 and Mack's Pharma Marketing Blog suggesting that the Cialis Web site may be unofficial. They cite evidence from a WHOIS search indicating that Mircea Piturca of Romania apparently registered the blog.

Mack and bloggers commenting on the debate have all urged Eli Lilly to take action against the site. They all believe it is in the company's best interest to have

the site shuttered.

New pre-Iraq war memo leaked

Britain television station Channel 4 News and newspaper The Guardian have reportedly obtained what they believe to be a secret transcript of a meeting between United States President George W. Bush and Britain prime minister Tony Blair on January 31, 2003, two months before the beginning of the Iraq war. The memo has been viewed by Phillipe Sands, a professor of international law at University College London, and by Channel 4 news. Last year, Professor Sands reported on doubts about the legality of the invasion in Iraq voiced by government lawyers, which eventually forced the British government to publish the full legal advice given to him by the attorney general.

According to the two sources, the memo suggests that the invasion of Iraq was already decided at the point of the meeting, and that Bush had stated that "the diplomatic strategy had to be arranged around the military planning". Blair is reportedly quoted as responding that he is "solidly with the president and ready to do whatever it took to disarm Saddam".

The memo from the sources also states that Bush suggested "flying U2 reconnaissance aircraft planes with fighter cover over Iraq, painted in UN colours", so that "if Saddam fired on them, he would be in breach [of UN resolutions]".

According to the memo, President Bush said he "thought it unlikely that there would be internecine warfare between the different religious and ethnic groups".

The British government did not deny the existence of the memo last night, but insisted that "the prime minister only committed UK forces to Iraq after securing the approval of the House of Commons in a vote on March 18, 2003." It added that they "do not comment on the prime minister's conversations with other leaders."

The BBC reported that Chief spokesman for the National Security Council Frederick Jones said that "the White House would not comment on what was said or not said in alleged private conversations between Mr Bush and foreign leaders," and added that the White House "was not going to re-litigate how the nation went to war".

The purported document has not been confirmed as authentic by either governments so far.

About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events.

**Got news and no computer?
Call the Wikinews Hotline**
+1-866-653-4265

License

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Articles published in this Print edition were created by Wikinewsies.

To view a copy of this license, visit:
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>

About Wikinews Print Edition

For more information about Wikinews Print Edition visit:
<http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Wikinews:Print>

Today in History

1859 - Prince Alexander John Cuza merged his two principalities, Wallachia and Moldavia, to form the Kingdom of Romania.

1885 - King Leopold II of Belgium established the Congo Free State as his personal possession in Africa.

1924 - Hourly Greenwich Time Signals from the Royal Greenwich Observatory were first broadcast by the BBC.

1988 - The first Red Nose Day raised £15 million in the United Kingdom for charity.

2004 - The Revolutionary Artibonite Resistance Front captured the city of Gonaïves, starting the 2004 Haiti rebellion.

February 05 is Constitution Day in Mexico (1917)

Quote of the Day

"What counts now is not just what we are against, but what we are for. Who leads us is less important than what leads us — what convictions, what courage, what faith — win or lose." ~ Adlai Stevenson