



Top Stories

Over 120 killed by suicide bomb in Iraq

Conflicting media reports say that at least 128 people have been killed and over 220, possibly over 350, were injured in Baghdad, Iraq after a truck packed with at least a ton of explosives blew up inside the Sadriyah market.

Scholar says Jehovah's Witnesses wrong about blood transfusions

Bible scholar Professor Michael Duggan, who teaches biblical literature at St. Mary's University College in Calgary, Alberta, says the Jehovah's Witnesses have taken a bible reading out of context. Duggan says they are about animals blood when they are killed. He also argues the "way the Jehovah's Witnesses read the biblical text is simply wrong."

Featured story

Seven bushfires near Perth, Western Australia

Fourteen houses have been destroyed and another 3 damaged by a bush fire burning in Jarra forests and farmland near the historical timber town of Dwellingup 70km south east of Perth, Western Australia.

Wikipedia Current Events

- In American football, Super Bowl XLI is held at Dolphin Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida between the Chicago Bears and the Indianapolis Colts.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Palestinian factional violence: Hamas and its rival Fatah pull their gunmen off the streets and free some hostages while the shaky ceasefire seems to be taking hold.
- At least 20 people are killed and 340,000 are made homeless by floods in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.
- Global spread of bird flu: UK authorities incinerate more than 50,000 turkeys as they are working to contain the bird flu.
- Three former high-ranking American military officers have warned against any military attack on Iran.
- Chinese President Hu Jintao continues his eight-nation tour in Africa as he arrives in Lusaka and hold talks with Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa. Hu launched a copper mining partnership with Zambia and promised more in aid.
- The US military admits publicly for the first time that four US helicopters were downed by ground fire in Iraq.

Scholar says Jehovah's Witnesses wrong about blood transfusions

Bible scholar Professor Michael Duggan, who teaches biblical literature at St. Mary's University College in Calgary, Alberta, says the Jehovah's Witnesses have taken a bible reading out of context which the parents of Canada's first sextuplets used to back up their belief.

His comment is regarding the following text from Leviticus 17:10-14:

"And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people."

Duggan says they are about animals blood when they are killed. He also argues the "way the Jehovah's Witnesses read the biblical text is simply wrong."

"The point that I make to the physicians is none of these texts has to do with human blood," said Duggan. "Certainly, they never had to do with transfusions."

"What they have to do with is the handling of animals that are slaughtered and the cooking and the procedures in cooking the meat so as to be free of contamination and disease."

The parents of the sextuplets tried to stop the hospital from giving their babies a blood transfusion. The Government of British Columbia gave four of them transfusions. It only became public on Friday.

There are only four babies left after two of them died earlier.

The parents are now asking the B.C. government for an apology.

British Columbia could get an earthquake, survey warns

The Canadian Geological Survey is reporting that there is a higher probability that a major earthquake could strike the south coast of British Columbia within the next week. This comes after seismologists began monitoring a grouping of small tremors moving north along the cascadia subduction zone from nearby Washington State.

The phenomenon is called Episodic Tremor and Slip (ETS), and it occurs on average every 14 months. ETS is causing the fault to begin moving in the opposite direction, in this case, Vancouver Island is actually shifting to the west, instead of to the east. This causes an added pressure on the strained fault line, and leads to the higher probability that a major earthquake could occur.

The Cascadia Subduction zone is one of the most volatile fault lines in the world. Unlike the well known San Andreas fault, which has the potential of generating earthquakes in the 7–8 range, the Cascadia fault line has the potential of releasing mega quakes in the magnitude 9 range. Around the size of the Sumatra Quake which struck on December 26, 2004 and killed over 250,000 people (including the tsunami). A quake of that magnitude could devastate a wide area, including Vancouver, British Columbia, Victoria, British Columbia, and Seattle, Washington, a dense total population of close to 6 million residents.

The Canadian Geological Survey points out, however, that this is only a higher probability, and the chances of a cataclysmic earthquake in the next week is still relatively low.

Vancouverites often are unaware of the potential risk right below their feet.

"Living in Los Angeles, we always got those little reminders every time the ground rumbled. We are indeed living in Earthquake Country. Up here, though, we don't get them as often, so I think people really forget that we live in an earthquake zone. And because we don't get those little shocks from time to time, that stress is just building and building, and who knows, these little tremors we're getting now, might be the straw that breaks the camel's back."

Seven bushfires near Perth, Western Australia

Fourteen houses have been destroyed and another 3 damaged by a bush fire burning in Jarra forests and farmland near the historical timber town of Dwellingup 70km south east of Perth, Western Australia.

The fire has also destroyed approximately 100 power poles, leading to a loss of telecommunication services to the town and affecting water supplies. Mobile generators had to be installed for emergency power.

Steve Slavin, spokesman for Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), said that 250 fire-fighters are containing the fire with crews concentrating on the southern front, which is now within 3 km of the town.

Mr Slaven said "Our concern is that winds this afternoon will be swinging around to the south and increasing in intensity." "It's making us nervous. The advice we're giving to people in Dwellingup is if they've decided that they will leave, this would be a good time to do it"

In separate fires near North Yunderup, Greenfields and Parkland have affected transmission lines supplying power to approximately 56,000 properties.

Additional fires are burning near Toodyay 85km north east of Perth, Another fire is burning near Williams approximately 160 south east of Perth and 90Km east of Dwellingup. And in the southern rural suburb of Forrestdale. These fires are reported to be under control.

Western Australian Police Arson squad are investigating these fires as some appear to be deliberately lit. The Police are also investigating the death of a women in her mid 20's who died on Saturday after her car rolled while fleeing the fire near Toodyay.

Today in History

1862 - Domnitor Alexander John Cuza merged his two principalities, Wallachia and Moldavia, to form 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 coup d'État.

February 05 is Constitution Day in Mexico (1917)

Quote of the Day

God needeth not the help of a material sword of steel to assist the sword of the Spirit in the affairs of conscience.

~ Roger Williams

Word of the Day

flibbertigibbet; n

1. An offbeat, skittish person, especially of a young woman

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