



### Top Stories

#### Gerald Ford oldest living US President ever

After passing Ronald Reagan on Sunday, Gerald Ford became the oldest living United States President in history at 93 years old. Ford was born on July 14, 1913 in Omaha, Nebraska and has been alive for 93 years and 121 days. Reagan died at 93 years and 120 days in June, 2004.

#### Al Jazeera English news channel to go live today

Al Jazeera marks its tenth birthday by launching Al Jazeera English on cable, satellite, on broadband, IPTV, ADSL, terrestrial and mobile phone platforms in Western Europe, the Middle East, Australia, Malaysia.

### Featured story

#### Alberta premier Ralph Klein joke outrages Liberal MP Belinda Stronach

Alberta premier Ralph Klein poked fun at Liberal MP Belinda Stronach crossing the floor from the Conservatives to the Liberals. "I don't think she ever did have a Conservative bone in her body. Well, maybe one." [Referring to Conservative MP Peter MacKay, her ex boyfriend]. The audience laughed at the joke, but after some people said they felt uncomfortable with it.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- The President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says he expects its

### Wikipedia Current Events

nuclear enrichment program to be ready by February 2007.

- The first babies to have been screened for faulty genes by Preimplantation Genetic Haplotyping (PGH) have been born in London's Guy's Hospital.
- Gunmen wearing Iraqi police uniforms kidnap up to 100 people from a Higher Education Ministry building in Baghdad.
- In Kenya, flash flooding in the Mombasa region claims at least 21 lives. The Kenyan Red Cross claims 60,000 people have been made homeless.
- The European Union has renewed diplomatic sanctions for Uzbekistan. The sanctions, which have been violated repeatedly by the governments of Britain and Germany, prohibit the sale of weapons to the Uzbek government and visits from EU officials to Uzbekistan or vice versa. The sanctions were originally implemented after the Uzbek government would not allow an international investigation into the terrorist uprising in Andijan.
- Australia and Indonesia sign a security treaty on Lombok strengthening cooperation against terrorism, enhancing joint naval border patrols and formalising military exchanges. It also supports Indonesia's sovereignty over its provinces notably Western New Guinea.
- The Parliament of South Africa

### Wikipedia Current Events

passes a law to legalize same-sex marriage. It must now be signed by President Thabo Mbeki to become law. The change was required by a constitutional court, which ruled last year that the current marriage law unconstitutionally discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation.

#### Iranian Radio Revives Papal-Jewish Conspiracy Theories

Iranian state broadcaster Voice of Islamic Republic of Iran has published a report on its English-language web site outlining a theory of an alleged conspiracy involving Pope Benedict XVI and former U.S. secretary of state Dr. Henry Kissinger. The report revives earlier claims of a Papal-Jewish conspiracy reported by some media outlets in Arab and Muslim countries.

Commenting on a recent private audience granted to Dr. Kissinger by Pope Benedict XVI, the Iranian broadcaster described Kissinger as "anti-Christian" presumably because he is Jewish. The Iranian radio stated that "this is not the first time the Vatican, which claims to be champion of Christianity uses foreign, anti-Christian experts."

Citing a report by the Italian daily newspaper La Stampa, the Iranian radio reported that "the Leader of the Catholic sect of Christianity, Pope Benedict XVI has called on former US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, a Jew who does not believe in either Prophet Jesus

(peace upon him) or his Virgin mother, Mary (peace upon her), to become a member of the Vatican's consultative council on foreign policy."

Iranian radio further claimed that the previous Roman-Catholic pontiff, Pope John Paul II, also consulted with foreign anti-Christian experts, in this case the former U.S. national security adviser, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski. Like the previous pope, Dr. Brzezinski is both Polish and Catholic -- the fact acknowledged by the Iranian broadcaster. Dr. Brzezinski's last name was misspelled on the Iranian radio web site as "Berzhinsky." Dr. Kissinger was born in Germany, which is also the birthplace of Pope Benedict XVI. Young Henry Kissinger and his immediate family managed to escape Nazi persecution of Jews by immigrating to the United States in the 1930s.

As a proof that there may be an anti-Muslim conspiracy involving Dr. Kissinger, the Iranian broadcaster asserted that one of the most important topics of his contacts with Pope Benedict XVI "are related to resurgent Islam, which is claiming more and more adherents around the globe." Pope Benedict XVI came earlier under severe criticism in Muslim countries for his comments about the history of Islam made during the visit to his native Germany in September 2006. Some media commentators in the West also criticized the pope for his comments as contributing to religious tensions, while others defended his right to discuss the history of Islam. The Jewish-American Anti Defamation League reported that media outlets in Muslim countries claimed there was a Jewish conspiracy behind

the pope's comments.

In reviving the Jewish-Papal conspiracy theory, the Iranian radio did not explain what makes both Dr. Kissinger and Dr. Brzezinski "anti-Christian" and why the popes would knowingly consult on a regular basis with people holding anti-Christian views.

Commenting on the Iranian broadcast, FreeMediaOnline.org, a California-based nonprofit media watch organization supporting press freedom worldwide, reported that audiences which tend to believe broad propaganda claims are not likely to question logical and factual inconsistencies such as those contained in the Iranian broadcast. Iranian media reports with anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli claims often have factual mistakes and are frequently written in ungrammatical and difficult to understand English.

### **18th International Guitar Festival of Great Britain**

The 18th International Guitar Festival of Great Britain has been running on the Wirral since 10/11/2006 and continues until 30/11/2006

Guitarists covering early and classical periods to jazz, rock, pop and extreme electronics. The concerts take place across Wirral in pubs, theatres, warehouses and concert halls.

Pacific Road Arts Centre,  
Birkenhead, Wirral, Merseyside.

### **Ousted Halton MP Garth Turner resigns membership from Conservative party**

Halton MP Garth Turner announced at a news conference that he has resigned his membership from the Conservative party, a month after he was suspended from the Tory

caucus due to his own posting on his blog.

Turner said Tuesday that he would continue as an Independent. Elizabeth May, Green Party Leader, asked him to join the Green party last month. Turner would be the first member of the party to serve in this capacity. Turner will be in May's London, Ontario riding to campaign with her on Wednesday.

"Party politics, and not just specifically this party, is the problem," said outspoken MP Turner. "People may end up sending MPs to Ottawa who are party supporters through and through, or they may end up sending people who, like me, are a pain in the ass."

His riding association has been told he won't be allowed to run as a Conservative in the next election.

"We have to break this tedious cycle of electing politicians who sell us on change and deliver same old same old," Turner said. "This raises more questions about the role of the average Canadian in the political process and their ability to choose their own representative."

Turner says he will bring in a private member's bill to give independents more opportunity in the House of Commons and allow them to give tax receipts for political contributions.

Turner is known for his outspoken remarks on his popular blog that include criticism of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Tory policies.

### **Al Jazeera English news channel to go live today**

Al Jazeera marks its tenth birthday by launching Al Jazeera English on cable, satellite, on broadband,

IPTV, ADSL, terrestrial and mobile phone platforms in Western Europe, the Middle East, Australia, Malaysia and there will be a live stream to the one billion users of the Internet worldwide. Cable providers will take the signals to 40 million subscribers. This, claims Al Jazeera, is a unique event in terms of the scale of audience already available at the time of launch. Sky, a leading satellite broadcaster will distribute Al Jazeera English.

At the same time, Al Jazeera's English website, [aljazeera.net/English](http://aljazeera.net/English), will have a new look and will provide live streams of the TV channel, RSS feeds, e-mail, newsletters and interactive discussion boards and will allow everyone to "express their opinion freely, encouraging debates, viewpoints and counter viewpoints". Notably, [aljazeera.com](http://aljazeera.com) is an unrelated website publishing inflammatory opinion articles about Middle East issues.

Al Jazeera claims to be impartial and says that its team of journalists "share a common set of attributes: objectivity, accuracy, and a passion for truth". It is supported by the Emir of Qatar, Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani who enabled it to start up with a grant of \$150M and it is said to receive \$30m annually from him.

Nigel Parson, al-Jazeera International's British managing director, said he intended to bring home to British viewers what was being done in their name. He would not hesitate to show dead soldiers in "long shots" and with "pixilated faces", even before their next of kin had been told. The Telegraph reports reactions of two opposition defence spokesmen: "a promotion of brutality" and

"grotesque" said a Tory and "banning such material could result in the public getting a sanitised, cleaned-up version of those realities" voiced by a Liberal Democrat. The Ministry of Defence is reported as saying that the public had a right to know what goes on in operational theatres, but expected media to report with "consideration of the welfare of service families".

The London office has contributors from the BBC including Sir David Frost, Rageh Omaar and Darren Jordon, and from ITN, Shiulie Ghosh.

Al Jazeera is often criticised in the West. On one occasion its offices were bombed by the U.S., when on 13 November 2001, a U.S. missile hit Al Jazeera's office in Kabul, Afghanistan. On 8 April 2003 a U.S. missile hit a generator near the Baghdad office and the subsequent fire killed a reporter. In Spain, Al Jazeera reporter Taysir Allouni was sentenced to seven years for being a financial courier for al-Qaeda. He claims that his only association with that group was an interview with bin Laden after 9/11.

### **Christchurch can host 2011 Rugby World Cup final**

Christchurch, New Zealand's Jade stadium says they can host the 2011 Rugby World Cup final if Auckland can't make a decision on whether or not they should build a new stadium on the waterfront or upgrade Auckland's current stadium, Eden Park, costing NZ\$500 million and \$385 million respectively.

Jade Stadium would be able to host the final if they were to include temporary seating to accommodate 60,000 people, required by the International

Rugby Board (IRB).

Gary Moore, mayor of Christchurch, said that if they were selected to host the final then they will ask the government for \$80 million. The stadium is already planning for an upgrade, worth \$60 million but that money will be funded from private and charitable organisations as well as the local and central governments. The current upgrade will see Jade stadium's seating capacity grow to 43,000 and if they host a quarter-final or semi-final then temporary seating will increase the seats to 55,000.

Trevor Mallard, the Minister of Sport, said that the Auckland City Council and the Auckland Regional Council have both been given about two weeks to tell the government which decision it supports. If they cannot come to a decision then the final will most likely be given to Jade stadium, Christchurch. The least likeliest of all decisions, an upgrade of Carlaw park, but that is designated for a retirement home and on private land.

Mr Moore said that he and "stadium officials had offered Jade Stadium as a back-up final venue at a recent informal meeting with Mallard because of the continuing Auckland divisions over a site. This is about New Zealand Inc, not about Christchurch versus Auckland. What we have said to Trevor Mallard is we are able to put a stadium into Christchurch that would accommodate the numbers they would need as an insurance policy if Auckland cannot get its act together. The Government knows that when Christchurch or Canterbury puts its hand up it delivers with excellence."

Bryan Pearson, chief executive of Vbase, the company which manages Jade Stadium, said: "It was not uncommon for major sporting venues to add temporary seating for big events. London had included temporary seating for some stadiums as part of its successful Olympic hosting bid. It was not a low-rent option, and was a commercially prudent way to marry short-term opportunity with long-term legacy."

Mr Pearson hopes that Jade Stadium will not be used for the final as he understand why the government wants a national stadium, "Let's hope this gets sorted and we can focus our attentions on playing a very major supporting role. We are only a third the size of Auckland, so what we can sustain post-World Cup is nowhere near what Auckland can."

Warwick Taylor, former All Black, said it will be great if Christchurch can host the final even though he played in the 1987 final at Eden Park. Though Mr Taylor does say that an Auckland stadium is a better idea as a 60,000 seat stadium is more viable in such a large population city. Mr Taylor said that he "had great memories playing at Eden Park and in some ways would hate to see it lose the final. But I also like the idea of a national stadium."

The New Zealand Rugby Union said that only a waterfront stadium and an upgrade of Eden Park are the only two options being considered, and no other stadiums are being considered.

A lot of people are confirming that Christchurch will be able to cope with the huge amount of visitors that would arrive for the final as Christchurch has the highest per capita amount of restaurants and

bars in Australasia. The city also features numerous hotels.

If New Zealand cannot deliver a final in a 60,000 seat World Class stadium then the IRB will allocated the final to another country.

### **Son of MNC CEO kidnapped in Noida, India**

The Sector 15A locality in Noida, India, which is considered an elite enclave of rich industrialists, bureaucrats and professionals was in for a shock when Anant Gupta, son of Adobe India CEO Naresh Gupta was abducted in broad daylight by two unidentified men on Monday.

The Noida police was subsequently notified but they were unable to locate the motor-cycle used by the kidnappers as no one was able to take down the registration number of the vehicle. A number of raiding teams have been formed by the police to track down the offenders.

Naresh Gupta, who was in the United States at the time of the incident has implored the media to stop covering this issue so as to avoid sensationalising and prevent any harm to his son.

The kidnapping sent shockwaves throughout the cities of Noida and New Delhi. Some say this is an indicator of the rising crime rate in a city like Noida which was previously considered relatively safe and peaceful.

### **Opposition MPs say Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean should visit Canadian troops in Afghanistan**

Opposition MPs are calling on General Rick Hillier, chief of the Defence Staff of the Canadian Forces, to allow Governor General Michaëlle Jean visit Kandahar, Afghanistan.

The trip still has not yet been arranged due to security concerns.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper went to Afghanistan earlier this year, then followed Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and Foreign Minister Peter MacKay going to Afghanistan in support for the Canadian troops. Former Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson visited the Canadian troops in Afghanistan twice. The security was less of an issue because the soldiers were in Kabul.

Earlier this year, Jean told Hillier that she wanted to visit the troops in Kandahar to witness some of the provincial reconstruction teams at work outside the Canadian base and meet with local citizens.

"If all of them can go at various times, I am certain the military can make arrangements for the commander-in-chief to go," said Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh, official Opposition defence critic. "She's the commander-in-chief... We all know it's a ceremonial position, but it is important for the troops to see the Governor General, the ultimate authority in dismissing the government or not dismissing the government, is there to appreciate what they're doing and lend support."

New Democratic Party defence critic Dawn Black also supports the idea on Jean going to Afghanistan. "It's clear that other people have been able to get in and out. I would think arrangements could be made for the Governor General to get in and out as well. There are entertainers going in!"

She is anxious to visit the Canadian troops, according to her spokesman, Randy Mylyk.

Jean was scheduled to go to the

country during the Operation Medusa in early September, when Canadians waged a major offensive against insurgents.

Jean has been visiting military bases in cities such as Esquimalt, British Columbia, Edmonton, Alberta, and Halifax, Nova Scotia, and also meeting with families of Canada's fallen.

**Today in History**

- 655 - Penda of Mercia was defeated by Oswiu of Northumbria at the Battle of the Winwaed.
- 1889 - A military coup led by Deodoro da Fonseca overthrew Emperor Pedro II and declared Brazil a republic.
- 1920 - The first general assembly of the League of Nations was held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 1971 - Intel released the 4004, the world's first single-chip microprocessor.
- 1988 - The Palestinian National Council declared the independence of the State of Palestine.
- November 15 is Republic Day in Brazil (1889), Shichigosan in Japan.

**Quote of the Day**

He who, when called upon to speak a disagreeable truth, tells it boldly and has done is both bolder and milder than he who nibbles in a low voice and never ceases nibbling.

~ Johann Kaspar Lavater

**Word of the Day**

inebriated; adj

1. Behaving as though affected by alcohol.

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