



Top Stories

Heat protection system on Space Shuttle Atlantis damaged during liftoff

The Space Shuttle Atlantis has received at least a 4 to 5 inch tear on its Thermal Protection System (TPS) on one of the Orbital Maneuvering System (OMS) pods near the thrusters after it took off on June 8.

US President George W. Bush falls ill during G8 Summit

U.S. President George W. Bush has fallen ill with a stomach bug and missed the morning session of the G-8 Summit, but has returned to the days events.

Featured story

Minnesota World War II Memorial dedicated

In Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA, more than 12,000 people attended the dedication of the Minnesota World War II Veterans Memorial on Saturday.

Wikipedia Current Events

•The Palestinian Journalist Syndicate criticizes Islamic Jihad militants for using a vehicle marked with a "TV" sign to approach Gaza's frontier border with Israel, and attempt to kidnap an Israel Defense Forces soldier from a position across the border.

•France holds a parliamentary election. Early projections indicate that President Nicolas Sarkozy's UMP party will secure a

Wikipedia Current Events

comfortable victory.

•Belgium holds a general election in which the Liberal Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt is expected to lose power to the Christian Democrats of Yves Leterme.

•Five people are killed in a ferry fire in the Phillipines.

Six dead, one injured in Wisconsin, USA shooting

Six people have been killed and one wounded in a shooting incident inside a home in Delavan, Wisconsin. The injured girl, 2, was shot in the chest, and is currently being treated at University of Wisconsin in Madison. Police have not released the names of those shot.

A Walworth County SWAT team spokeswoman stated, "[We] entered the residence where six gunshot victims were found dead. The Delavan Rescue Squad assessed all the victims. Six were confirmed dead and a seventh victim is currently in a critical condition."

At about 10:30 p.m. (eastern time) on Saturday night, police received a 911 call of a report of several shots fired.

No suspects have been arrested.

Delavan is located in southern Wisconsin 45 miles (70 km) southwest of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1871 "The Greatest

Show on Earth," also known as the P.T. Barnum Circus, was founded in Delavan.

A press conference is scheduled for this morning.

Light plane flips over during landing at air show in Worcester, UK

A father and his son escaped serious injury yesterday when their plane flipped over on landing at an air show at Defford Airfield, near Worcester, England. The crash occurred during Defford Air Day at 2:30pm local time, at a charitable event to raise money for the Mission Aviation Fellowship and the Warwickshire and Northants Air Ambulance. The plane involved was one of a range of both vintage and modern aircraft being showcased in front of hundreds of spectators at the event.

The accident occurred at low speed as the plane landed. The forward wheel suddenly dug into the soft ground and stopped dead, causing the plane to flip forwards onto its back. The 56-year-old pilot and his son escaped from the plane unaided.

A land ambulance, a rapid response vehicle and the Warwickshire and Northants Air Ambulance provided emergency response at the scene. The older man was taken by land ambulance to hospital for an x-ray on his shoulder, but the younger man did not require hospital treatment. However, the air ambulance doctor could not rule out the possibility of

spinal injuries.

An investigation has begun to determine the cause of the accident.

Lewis Hamilton wins 2007 Canadian Grand Prix

McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won from pole position his first FIA Formula-1 2007 Canadian Grand Prix at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montréal, Canada.

Fernando Alonso, his teammate, made a mistake in the first chicane right after the start and Nick Heidfeld, BMW, slipped to the second place. Alonso fought hard to stay on the third place, but the pace car, which appeared four times today, spoiled his attempts. The double World Champion was penalized by 10 seconds stop-and-go together with Nico Rosberg from Williams-Toyota for the pit-stop error while safety car on the track. Still Alonso continued to battle for points finishing on the 7th place, 21.9 seconds behind his teammate winner. While Rosberg placed tenth as a result of this penalty, his teammate Alexander Wurz closed the podium third.

It seemed that some of the Formula One drivers forgot how to drive under the safety car conditions, resulted in the black flag (disqualification) for Felipe Massa, Ferrari and Giancarlo Fisichella, Renault.

Two Finns, teammates for Fisichella and Massa, Heikki Kovalainen and Kimi Räikkönen placed 4th and 5th. Takuma Sato, Super Aguri-Honda driver placed 6th.

The race showed a catastrophic accident with Poland Robert Kubica, who crashed his BMW on

the entry to the hairpin. There was nothing left of his car except the driver's monocoque which flew a considerable distance constantly spinning from one concrete wall to another on the other side of the track. Kubica broke his leg in this accident, but is in stable condition.

Three other causes of the safety car appearance were Vitantonio Liuzzi and Scott Speed from Toro Rosso-Ferrari and Adrian Sutil, from Spyker-Ferrari.

He became the first Formula One victory for Lewis, after he won four consecutive second places in the previous races, with six consecutive podium finishes. He now leads the drivers' championship with 48 points, 8 ahead Alonso. Team McLaren leads the constructors' championship with 88 points, 28 ahead of Ferrari.

Italian senators lobby for ice cream

Two Italian senators, Rocco Buttiglione (UDC) and Albertina Soliani, (L'Ulivo), on behalf of many other colleagues, forwarded a request to Senate's administrators on June 8th for ice cream in the Senate's cafeteria.

The text of the request is very concise: "We forward you a request to improve the quality of life in Senate. The cafeteria is not supplied with ice-cream. We believe it would be useful to have and we think to interpret the desire of senators. Is it possible to provide that? You would adapt Senate's service to people's everyday life's needs. Best regards."

Three of the senators are administrators who will decide about the request: senator Gianni Nieddu, Ulivo; senator Romano

Comincioli, Forza Italia and South Tyrol senator Helga Thaler.

Last March, Senate's president, Franco Marini, allowed senators to hold a wine sommelier course in Palazzo Madama, Senate's seat, and previously senators got regional (and then provincial too) speciality during "special gastronomic weeks".

Nicaragua's Ortega visits Imam Khamenei in Iran

In Iran on Sunday, Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega met Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei where both leaders criticised American "imperialism" and shared the opinion that the United States government is "hated" and "isolated". "The Bush administration is now the most disgraced government," Mehr News Agency quoted Khamenei.

Ortega stated that that the current United States administration is embroiled "in Iraq and Afghanistan and has lost the support of its own nation. Under such circumstances, unity among anti-American nations is essential."

Ortega had said that he was going to travel to Iran on a jet lent to him by the Islamic socialist Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

Khamenei and Ortega seemed very much in tune in terms of their opposition to the United States coupled with the belief in the necessity of cultivating the relations of anti-American nations to create "a fair international political system"—as Khamenei put it—and establish a new world order to supplant "capitalism and imperialism"—as Ortega couched it.

Prior to visiting Imam Khamenei, Daniel Ortega met with Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad whereat they concurred with regard to the antithetical position of Iran and Nicaragua towards the United States.

Ortega's visit to Iran came as a surprise to Washington. This is in light to the Islamic Republic's staunch opposition to socialism and Marxism. However, Ortega said he did not have to seek permission to court the Islamic Republic.

Aeroflot negotiates purchase of 22 new Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft

Russian flag carrier Aeroflot has negotiated the purchase of 22 new Boeing 787 Dreamliners, an aircraft Boeing currently has under development. The first jets will be delivered in 2014. The Dreamliner will be the first commercial jet to be manufactured mainly with carbon-fiber composites instead of the aluminium previously used.

The deal was announced during a large business forum that President Vladimir Putin had set up to showcase his country's role in the international market. The deal was the centrepiece of the event.

The sale is the result of a deal begun between Aeroflot and Chicago-based Boeing last year, but negotiations had stalled due to worsening relations between the US and Russia. Aeroflot has suffered as a result of the delay. If had the sale gone through last year, the aircraft would have been delivered by 2011.

The aircraft have a pre-modification catalogue value of US\$3.5 billion, although neither of the companies involved would reveal the actual agreement reached between the two firms.

When asked whether the deal should be seen as a step towards a resolution of the rift between Russia and the US, Boeing Executive Vice President Scott Carson replied, "It represents a business relationship between our Company and Aeroflot, and I'm really proud of it,". Boeing has had a policy of Russian involvement dating back to the early 1990s. More recently, Boeing has entered into an agreement with Russian manufacturer Sukhoi for worldwide marketing and after-sales support for their regional aircraft, the Superjet, and have reached a deal with Kremlin-owned Unified Aircraft for general co-operation. They also have a Moscow design centre that has 1,400 employees and a 30-year contract for supply of titanium parts with Russia's VSMPO-Avisma, which Boeing estimates to be worth \$18 million.

It has been reported that the deal between Boeing and Aeroflot was revived after Boeing promised that technical assistance would be provided to Aeroflot for the new aircraft. Aeroflot's current fleet of Boeing and Airbus aircraft was built during the Soviet era. Aeroflot say that the deal does not affect plans to purchase new Airbuses at a later date for later delivery.

5 killed, 255 rescued as ferry catches fire in Philippines

Five people were killed today and several more injured when a ferry carrying 260 passengers caught fire off Mindoro island's Paluan Bay in rough seas. One of those killed was a five-year-old girl. The bodies of the deceased were taken to Pasay City. The wooden-hulled ferry was completely destroyed by the fire and sank as a result.

Rear Admiral Damian Carlos of the Philippine Coast Guard told

reporters that the fire started in the cargo hold of MV Cataleen-D about 5 a.m., and the first distress signal was received by authorities at aproximatly 8 a.m. He went on to speculate that a cigarette or spontaneous combustion may have caused the blaze.

When the captain realised firefighters were unable to contain the blaze he steered the vessel towards the Mindoro shoreline.

Most of the passengers and crew jumped into the safety of the sea when they saw that other parts of the ship had been engulfed by flames. The majority of them suffered burns to their faces. The first Coast Guard ship that responded was BRP Pampanga, with local fishing vessels saving around a hundred of those in the water. Carlos said of the Coast Guard "It was a good thing that the rescuers were on a mission in Corregidor,".

The ship was owned by Manilla-based San Nicolas Shipping Lines and captained by Danilo Faeldog. It had departed from Pier 2 at the Manila North Harbor around 7 p.m. Saturday, and was destined for Coron, Palawan.

It is the second disaster to strike San Nicolas Shipping Lines. In 2004 the MV San Nicolas sank after a collision with a WGA Super Ferry vessel. The San Nicolas was carrying 203 passengers, of which 25 were fatally injured.

The Coast Guard has initiated a full investigation into the cause of today's disaster. The Maritime Industry Authority is expected to conduct its own investigation via the Board of Marine Inquiry. Carlos said the vessel's owner, identified as Samuel Nicolas, and anyone else found responsible could be

charged with "reckless imprudence resulting in possible homicide."

Bollywood cricket victory in Yorkshire charity match

A cricket team made up of Bollywood celebrities has beaten a Yorkshire opposition in a charity cricket match at Headingley, held as part of the International Indian Film Academy ("IIFA") Weekend in Yorkshire, England, celebrating Indian cinema and its stars.

The "Bolly 11" team, consisting of Indian actors and cricketers, took on the Yorkshire 11 which featured former English cricketers, British TV stars and musicians and two members of Parliament.

Amitabh Bachchan, film legend and IIFA Brand Ambassador inaugurated the event, followed by actor Salman Khan, and Shilpa Shetty who greeted excited fans. Shetty supervised the toss and then conducted a walkabout of the grounds, signing autographs.

The A-list Bolly team was made up of Saif Ali Khan (captain), Arjun Rampal, Dino Moreo, Fardeen Khan, Aftab Shivadasani, Ritesh Deshmukh, Sohail Khan, Arshad Warsi, Boman Irani, Upen Patel, Arbaaz Khan, Vishal Bhardwaj, Kapil Dev and Mohammed Azharuddin.

The Yorkshire team displayed the talents of Nick Knowles, Rosalie Birch, Gladstone Small, Devon Malcolm, Jay Sean, Sherwin Campbell, Chris Lewis, Danny McGuire, Harry Gration, Greg Wise, Manish Bhasin, Ajmal Shahzad, Andrew Gale, Colin Salmon, Oliver Milburn and MPs Keith Vaz and Shahid Malik.

The match also saw the return to the square of the ever popular and highly respected Yorkshireman,

(Harold) "Dickie" Bird, who umpired with Jack Hampshire.

The game was a light-hearted affair with fans and supporters cheering on the players for both teams.

The overall mood was festive with Mexican waves, song and dance and Indian and Pakistani flags being waved. In cricketing spirit, banners featuring slogans "Bollywood Team to Win" and "4" filled the Headingley Carnegie Stadium as the game went on.

The IIFA XI won the match after former Indian captain Kapil Dev hit a boundary off the last ball to score the winning runs. The Yorkshire XI had scored 142 in 20 overs. The Bollywood team scored 143.

Other celebrities in attendance were Aishwarya Rai, Bipasha Basu, Govinda, Kabir Bedi, Randhir Kapoor, Rakesh Roshan, and director J.P. Dutta along with Myleene Klass and Brit-Asian female rapper Hard Kaur.

Money raised from the match is to be donated to the IIFA Foundation.

German man invents 'cat cam'

Do you own a cat? Do you ever wonder what it's up to when you are not around? Well German-American Jürgen Perthold, an inventor, has created the "cat cam."

"I wanted to find out what he gets up to, where he spends his days. He goes out the whole day, sometimes he returns hungry sometimes not, sometimes with traces of fights, sometimes he also stays out all night. It gave me the idea to equip the cat with a camera," said Perthold.

The camera, which is operated by batteries and weighs 70 grams (including the batteries), is hooked onto the cat's collar and records their journeys. Operating for a maximum of two days, the camera takes a picture every minute. Perthold used his cat as a test subject and discovered his cat was visiting the neighbor's female cat on a regular basis. Perthold even wrote his own program to operate and control the camera.

The product is currently only available in the U.S. for about (US)\$30.00.

Minnesota World War II Memorial dedicated

Saint Paul, Minnesota – The Minnesota World War II Veterans Memorial was dedicated Saturday in front of the State Capitol. The memorial features ten glass panels etched with text and scenes from World War II, within a plaza area at the foot of a mall leading to the front entrance to the Capitol. The glass panels are three feet wide, eight feet tall, and mounted on Minnesota granite. Well over twelve thousand people attended.

A roll call of the 6,000 state WW II casualties began the events and continued during the day.

Vintage aircraft flew over the site during the event and military vehicles of the era were on display. The ceremony began with a flyover by twenty-four WW II aircraft, including three Mustangs and three two-engine bombers.

Stan Turner was the Master of Ceremonies during the dedication. The keynote speaker was retired general John Vessey. Among the many veterans honored were Stan Kowalski and "Chuck" Lindberg; the latter was one of those who raised the first flag over Iwo Jima.

Governor Tim Pawlenty formally dedicated the site to the over 326,000 Minnesotans who served during the war.

A flyover in the Missing Man formation was scheduled to end the ceremonies.

Construction was authorized by the State Legislature in 2000.

A related monument on the mall is the gun from the USS Ward which fired the U.S.'s first shot of World War II, during an encounter with a submarine before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Today in History

1770 - Captain James Cook ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef.

1892 - The Salvation Army's Limelight Department, one of the world's earliest film studios, was officially established in Melbourne, Australia.

1937 - Marshal Mikhail Tukhachevsky and several senior officers of the Red Army were convicted in the Case of Trotskyist Anti-Soviet Military Organization, a secret trial during the Great Purge in the Soviet Union.

1955 - More than 80 people were killed after Pierre Levegh and Lance Macklin collided at the 24 Hours of Le Mans race.

1963 - The University of Alabama was desegregated as Governor George Wallace stepped aside after a stand in the schoolhouse door. June 11 is Kamehameha Day in Hawaii

Quote of the Day

What is this thing called love?
This funny thing called love?
~ Cole Porter ~

Word of the Day

snuggle; v

- To lie close to another person or thing, hugging or being cosy.

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