



Top Stories

351 dead after Burma cyclone

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Multifaith council commends Malaysian politician's comments on conversion to Islam

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism issued a statement Friday praising comments made Wednesday by Malaysian politician Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan on conversion to Islam. Malaysian Consultative Council president Datuk A. Vaithilingam said that Ong's views are shared by Malaysians from all religious faiths in the country.

Microsoft drops bid for Yahoo

Microsoft has announced it is dropping its bid to acquire one of their Internet competitors, Yahoo, after a three-month courting effort by Microsoft.

ORIGINAL REPORT

Music Month 2008 by playing a concert at the Cathedral Square in the centre of Christchurch. A reporter for Wikinews sat down and talked to the members of Spyte after watching their gig.

Wikipedia Current Events

Cyclone Nargis: Myanmar's State Peace and Development Council declares that five states in the Irrawaddy River delta are a disaster area following the cyclone with at least 351 deaths.

•12 people are dead and dozens others missing after a boat carrying 110 passengers sinks on the Solimões River in the Brazilian Amazon.

351 dead after Burma cyclone

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A diplomat in the area spoke to the Reuters news agency, giving them a description of the scene. He said that the area around him looked like a 'war zone' as a result of the cyclone.

An official from the United Nations also commented on the situation. "It's a bad situation. Almost all the houses are smashed. People are in a terrible situation," he said.

Another UN representative also spoke on the incident. He reported

that "The Irrawaddy delta was hit extremely hard not only because of the wind and rain but because of the storm surge."

The Daily Telegraph, a UK newspaper, reported that the food price in Burma could be affected by this incident.

Rescuers hunt Brazilian plane carrying four UK passengers

Rescuers in Brazil are seeking a plane that disappeared Friday carrying six people, two local pilots and four British investors interested in a possible new housing development.

The dual-engined Cessna 310, operated by Aero Star, lost contact with Air Traffic Control (ATC) eight miles (13km) off the coast near Ilheus, where it was intending to land in nine minutes time and was making a visual approach to Ilhéus Jorge Amado Airport. The flight had originated in Salvador and made last contact at 5:43 p.m. local time (2043 GMT) with Ilheus control tower.

The four passengers have been identified as Sean Woodhall, Ricky Every, Alan Kempson and Nigel Hodges. The planned development they had been considering is a luxury estate planned by Worldwide Destinations, who Sean Woodhall owns. It is based in Spain and constructs worldwide luxury property developments.

Ricky Every works for Worldwide Destinations, and Alan Kempson and Nigel Hodges are both

ORIGINAL REPORT

New Zealand Music Month kicks off for 2008

May marks the start of the month-long music festival dedicated to celebrating homegrown New Zealand music. The up and coming band, Spyte, helped to open New Zealand

directors of UK finance company Diamond Lifestyle Holdings, who had been considering a deal with Worldwide. At least three of the four did not live in the UK.

The search for the aircraft is focusing on a location 20 miles (32km) North of Ilheus, where there are eyewitness reports that a light aircraft was flying extremely low and without lights, leading authorities to believe the aircraft lost power. Investigations are probing some reports of witnessing a plane crash, and there are unconfirmed rumours that wreckage has been found.

Brazil's Coast Guard, three Aero Star helicopters and Bahia state police are all participating in the search. The weather was good at the time and the flight crew hadn't reported any issues to ATC.

Microsoft drops bid for Yahoo

Microsoft has announced it is dropping its bid to acquire one of their Internet competitors, Yahoo!, after a three-month courting effort by Microsoft.

Microsoft chief executive officer, Steve Ballmer notified Yahoo! chief executive officer, chairman and co-founder, Jerry Yang via a letter that Microsoft was dropping their bid for the Sunnyvale, California based search engine giant.

In a press release from Microsoft, Ballmer said, "Despite our best efforts, including raising our bid by roughly US\$5 billion, Yahoo! has not moved toward accepting our offer. After careful consideration, we believe the economics demanded by Yahoo! do not make sense for us, and it is in the best interests of Microsoft stockholders, employees and other stakeholders to withdraw our proposal".

Microsoft withdrew its bid effort after raising their bid from \$44.6 billion to \$47.5 billion, which works out at \$33 per share. However, Yahoo! were waiting for a bid of around \$53 billion, which was more than Microsoft were willing to pay.

Microsoft had previously wanted to takeover Yahoo! in-order to compete with Google, the market leader in online advertising. The online advertising market was worth \$40 billion in 2007 and will rise to an expected \$80 billion in 2010.

Some observers, however, are speculating that the bid withdrawal could just be another tactic in their attempt to acquire Yahoo!.

Three children taken from New Mexico compound

Three teenagers have been taken from a compound in New Mexico after it was alleged that minors in the compound, called The Lord Our Righteousness Church were being abused.

A person from the compound said, "Recently representatives from CYFD [Children Youth and Family Department of New Mexico] came to our land and kidnapped three teenagers who are part of our family here." He continued, " I call it an abduction because that is how God views it. There were no moral grounds for them to be taken."

Today in History

1789 – The Estates-General convened in Versailles to discuss a financial crisis in France, triggering a series of events that led to the French Revolution.

1891 – New York City's Carnegie Hall, built by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, officially opened with a concert conducted by Russian

composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

1949 – Ten European countries signed the Treaty of London, creating the Council of Europe, today one of the oldest international organisations working for European integration.

1950 – Prince Bhumibol Adulyadej was crowned in Bangkok as King Rama IX of Thailand, currently the world's longest-serving head of state.

1961 – Project Mercury: Aboard the American spacecraft Freedom 7, astronaut Alan Shepard made a sub-orbital flight, becoming the second person to travel into outer space after Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

May 05 is Cinco de Mayo; Liberation Day in Denmark, Ethiopia, and the Netherlands; Children's Day in Japan and South Korea

Quote of the Day

If I have ventured wrongly, very well, life then helps me with its penalty. But if I haven't ventured at all, who helps me then?
~ Søren Kierkegaard

Word of the Day

conflate v

1. To bring things together and fuse them into a single entity.

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+1-866-653-4265
(toll-free in the U.S.)
+1-202-742-5918

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(outside the U.S.)
+44-871-218-6397
(U.K. / Europe)

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