June 17, 2006
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Bill Gates to step down from daily roles by July 2008
Bill Gates is stepping down from Microsoft by July 2008 to dedicate more time working on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Rallies in Greece as Universities' strike continues
University students in Greece continue their opposition to a new law - which mainly has to do with the foundation of private universities in Greece - through organizing new rallies in Athens and Thessaloniki as well as through the occupancy of many University departments across the country.

"Living fossil" found in Laos
A retired biologist from Florida State University has captured photos of a rodent in Laos which scientists thought was extinct for 11 million years.

Top Stories

Wikipedia Current Events

- sentenced to one year in prison at the Longhui No. 1 People's Court in Hunan province for extortion. Xiaqing wrote an article exposing local Communist Party official Yang Jianxin's embezzlement of state assets. Jianxin has been reassigned to an advisory post in Shaoyang city. Hundreds of protesters block police cars to prevent them from taking Xiaqing to jail.
- The Winnipeg police have made numerous arrests in the relation to the Shedden massacre, including five members from the Bandidos motorcycle club.
- Prachanda, reclusive leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), meets with Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, in what is thought to be his first visit to the capital Kathmandu in decades.
- Angola hold Mexico to 0-0 draw in Group D
Joao Ricardo was the hero as Angola held Mexico to a 0-0 draw in the AWD Arena, Hanover, Friday.

- The Italian pretender, Vittorio Emanuele, Prince of Naples, is arrested as part of an investigation into corruption and prostitution.
- The Avian bird flu has been detected in the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island. The bird flu currently has a "low risk" to humans.
- Chinese journalist Yang Xiaoqing, a reporter for the state-run China Industrial Economy News, is

36 year old goalkeeper, who did not have a football club, clinched the ball like a trophy and earned his team a 0-0 draw. It was Angola's first World Cup point.

For a nation where average life expectancy is 38 years this was the biggest result in Angolan football history. The result also meant if Angola beat Iran they still had a mathematical chance to get into the knock-out stage of the Fifa World Cup.

In the first half the crowd was subdued as chances were few. Mexico had free kicks saved, one from Rafael Marquez had come off the post. For Angola Figueiredo's free kick found Fabrice Akwa only for the captain's header to go nowhere near the goal.

The best chance in free play before the break fell to Mexico's Guillermo Franco. A long ball into box on 44 minutes bounced off a defender but Ricardo was in the way of Franco's weak shot.

Ricardo La Volpe had been banned from smoking on the touchline by Fifa after being observed doing so in his first game. Against Iran the Mexican coach was credited with a change in the game after half time.

Sans cigarettes, this happened again against Angola but his team just couldn't get past Ricardo.

Franco was denied once more on 55 minutes when he tried to lob the keeper but Ricardo got a hand

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to it. The ball then dropped to Jesus Arellano but his shot was tame and a defender on the line cleared.

When a defensive clearance rebounded to Omar Bravo Ricardo was in the right place to pick up the striker's scuffed shot.

Ricardo, the Fifa Man of the Match, missed a few crosses but when he got them he didn't drop them. On 64 minutes a cross was whipped in from the right and he caught the cross spectacularly with one-hand.

Angolan attacks were limited. Mendonca's drive went straight to Oswald Sanchez while a Figueiredo blast from outside the box cleared the bar.

On 80 minutes Andre was sent off for deliberate hand ball, his second yellow card offense in the game. All Angolan energies were now diverted to keep the scores level.

It was a difficult last ten minutes. Jesus Arellano floated a cross from midfield to Jose Fonseca but his volley went wide. With great technique Marquez connected superbly with a long 35 yard drive but Ricardo leapt to his right and used both hands to push the ball behind for a corner.

While two minutes remained Mexico hit the post for the second time in the match. Ricardo missed a fast cross but Omar Bravo's instinctive redirection toward goal was centimeters out.

The qualifiers from Group D was not settled by the result, Friday. Mexico's progress became more tricky. But the Central Americans still had the upper hand. Luis De Oliveira Goncalves's side had to score goals against Iran while Mexico needed only to not lose to Portugal in their last game to go through.

**Timorese rebels begin disarming**

East Timorese rebels begun disarming Friday, when the rebel leader, Lt. Cmdr. Alfredo Reinado, and his men handed over ammunition and more than a dozen weapons to Australian peacekeepers. The disarming started after a official request of President Xanana Gusmão this week.

The disarming process requested this week by East Timor's President, Xanana Gusmão, started today in Maubisse, as Alfredo Reinado, the leader of the military rebels, handed over his M-16 rifle, with telescopic sight, to an Australian soldier. Followed by him, his men saluted him and handed over their weapons. As Reinado checked that they were unloaded and turned them in to an Australian soldier, that noted down the weapon type and serial number.

In this ceremony at a nineteenth century Portuguese village, where Reinado's rebel group camped after fleeing the Timorese capital, Dili in April, Reinado and his men gave up 12 automatic rifles and four pistols. These were then stored at a container guarded by Australian soldiers.

After delivering the weapons Lt. Cmdr. Alfredo Reinado guaranteed in a press conference that he will continue to fulfill the orders of Xanana Gusmão.

Regarding the polemic question about the continuation of the Timorese first Prime Minister, Mari Alkatiri, in power, the Commander clarified that he is a "military and a Lieutenant Commander on the hierarchy of the Armed Forces" and that he is only "fulfilling orders".

The disarming process of the rebels' weapons will be also followed in Gleno, where the remaining rebel troops lead by the Lt. Cmdr. Marcos Tilman and Alves Tara are camped.

The start of the process had been announced this Thursday by Marcos Tilman and confirmed by Army Brig. Michael Slater, commander of the Australian-led forces. The announce was made 24 hours after President Xanana Gusmão have proclaimed, in message to the Parliament, that the hour for the second phase of the international military forces in the country had arrived. The international military forces, as the second phase starts, will leave Dili into the interior of the country, leaving the Timorese capital in control of the international police forces.

According to Army Brig. Michael Slater, that was speaking to the press in Dili to announce formally the beginning of the disarming process, the international force "will guarantee protection" to the rebels, that as of today are disarmed, in way that "nobody will go to their meeting with aggressive intentions".

Questioned regarding if the delivery of the weapons translates as a surrendering of the military rebels, Mick Slater rejected that classification, pointing out that "East Timor is not crossing a civil war".

"There's no civil war and nobody is surrendering. There's yes a internal dispute. The important is to create a reliable climate next to the population, taking it to

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gradually return to its communities", he added.

First Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri and Timorese Foreign Minister José Ramos Horta showed to be satisfied with the delivery of the rebels weapons.

"Its a good start to stabilize the country. I expect that others follow the example", Alkatiri pointed out.

"They have not done harm to anyone and they have pledged they would not involve in violence with their comrades in the defense force," Ramos Horta said. "So that has only boosted their credibility", he added.

Regarding the ex-Lieutenant Gastão Salsinha, spokesman of the 600 individuals that subscribed an petition denouncing alleged practical discriminatory in the Timorese Armed Forces, Marcos Tilman assured that "they don't have any weapons".

Dismissed from the army in March after going on strike to complain of discrimination, the rebels have been hiding in the mountains surrounding Dili, since the start of the violence in the country in the last months.

By request of the Timorese authorities, a force of more than 2,000 military and police troops of Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Portugal started to arrive at Dili as May 25, 2006, to establish order and peace in the country, after a violence wave have caused the death of more than 2 dozens of people and 130,000 refugees.

**Netherlands defeat Ivory Coast in Group C**

The Netherlands beat Ivory Coast 2:1 which effectively knocked the African side out of the World Cup in Stuttgart, Friday.

The result meant both the Netherlands and Argentina moved into the knock-out round of the Fifa World Cup as they both had six points; while the Ivory Coast and Serbia and Montenegro had no points with one game left in Group C.

Excitement in the first-half gave way to a gritty second-half as Marco Van Basten's Orangemen changed to a more defensive formation and showed resilience to stop the Elephant's charge.

The Netherlands committed 24 fouls in the match but could not stop Ivory Coast taking 16 shots, nine of which hit the target. Late in the match Robin Van Persie used his chest to stop a Didier Drogba header going over the goal line.

Henri Michel's side played an attractive passing game but as the game went on this proved ineffective against the wall of orange-shirted Netherlands defenders. A more direct approach might have been better; as the tall, 180 centimeter, forward Didier Drogba showed when Van Persie was forced to clear from a corner.

On 32 minutes creative midfielder Didier Zokora gave Van Der Sar a warning when he smashed a powerful long range shot against his crossbar.

Seven minutes later Bakary Kone ran from the centre of the field to space on the Netherland's left side. Kone reached the edge of the penalty area and let fly with his right foot; the ball thumped into the top right of Van Der Sar's goal.

At this point the Ivory Coast looked better than the Netherlands defence. On 42 minutes Drogba intercepted a misplaced pass but on the breakaway could not thread his pass to his team mate when 2 on 1 with the last defender.

It was not to be Ivory Coast's day. While Ivory Coast still looked to pass through the Netherlands the Dutch looked more than capable to hold out for the win.

The best of the entertainment was in the first half. The first goal led from a free kick earned by Van Persie on 22 minutes. Van Persie ran at speed horizontal to the penalty area and was cut down in full flight by Kolo Toure.

Van Persie took the free kick and hammered the ball left footed around the wall into the net.

Suddenly Ivory Coast were opened up again three minutes later. Good passes and movement and Arjen Robben found Ruud Van Nistelroij in space to the right of Jean-Jacques Tizie. The striker passed the ball high over the keeper.

The two goal lead did not reflect the play which had seen some good moves by Ivory Coast and an Emmanuel Eboue penalty appeal rejected.

American Idol winner Ruben Studdard wins lawsuit

Former American Idol winner Ruben Studdard has won a lawsuit
and $2 million against his ex-manager Ronald W. Edwards and Edwards' promotions company, Sez Inc. The lawsuit was for misappropriating the singer's money and credit cards. The suit claimed Edwards misused more than $246,000 of the singer's money. According to the judge's ruling, Edwards stole money from Studdard's checking and other bank accounts, improperly used his credit cards and even used Studdard's money to repay a $10,000 bank loan.

Jefferson County Circuit Judge Scott Vowell awarded Studdard $500,000 for actual losses and another $1.5 million in punitive damages. Vowell dismissed Edwards' promotions company from the suit because it was bankrupt and had no money or assets. Edwards filed a petition for Chapter 7 bankruptcy on June 17, 2005. Studdard has sold 2.2 million records, but because of the damage done to his credit by Edwards, it is now even hard for Ruben to buy a home, said Vowell.

Documents reveal al'Qaida wants war between U.S. and Iran, Iraq insurgency weakening
Documents found at the hideout of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi revealed al-Qaeda's desire to force a war between the U.S. and Iran. The document was translated by Iraqi National Security Adviser Mouwafak al-Rubaie, but the authenticity of the information could not be confirmed to be from al-Qaeda.

The documents reveal that al-Zarqawi was planning to destroy the relationship between the Shi'ite Iraqis and the United States. The document also said the U.S. military was hurting the insurgency by seizure of weapons, disrupting their financial outlets, massive arrests, and training Iraqi security forces.

The translated document said, "Generally speaking and despite the gloomy present situation, we find that the best solution in order to get out of this crisis is to involve the U.S. forces in waging a war against another country or any hostile groups."

Mowaffaq al-Rubaie said, "These documents have given us the edge over al-Qaeda and (they) also gave us the whereabouts of their network, of their leaders, of their weapons and the way they lead the organization and the whereabouts of their meetings."

Wade leads Miami to win over Dallas in NBA Finals, ties series 2-2
Dwayne Wade had 36 points to lead the Miami Heat to a 98-74 victory Thursday night over the Dallas Mavericks. Miami's win over Dallas evens the NBA Finals series to 2-2.

Wade hit 13 of his 23 shots. Miami's Shaquille O'Neal added 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Dallas scored only seven points in the fourth quarter for a record-low in any quarter in the NBA Finals history.

Miami coach Pat Riley said "It was our best game, there's no doubt, of this series. Our defense was very active tonight. We did not want to give them free throws and did not want to give them layups and jumpers."

The fifth game of the series will be played in Miami this Sunday, June 18. The sixth and, if necessary, the seventh games will be played in Dallas.

Tram derails in Geneva
A tram derailed on Thursday in the middle of the afternoon on the Boulevard Georges Favon, near Route du Stand, Geneva, causing major traffic jams. Surprisingly, only 3 people suffered minor injuries. Sometime after 15.42, amazed eyewitnesses saw the tram travel 30 metres across the road and onto the sidewalk. The tram stopped around 30 cm from a shop window. The three wounded people are suffering from injuries to the shoulders and back, according to Raymond Wicky, head of the Fire Department. The driver and several shop owners were affected psychologically by the accident.

Psychological assistance has been offered to them. Nine fire engines, two ambulances, and a dozen policemen and cars quickly arrived at the scene. A large security border was placed around the immobilised tram, which blocked half of the road.

Around a dozen onlookers assisted with the efforts to move the tram from the road back onto its rails. A truck then towed it back to its shed, where it shall be investigated by police and the Swiss Federal Department of Transport.

Only a few elements that caused the derailment are known. The tram was on a line different from its normal route. Police will inspect whether the tram was traveling too fast, or if the switch that would have connected the tram to Rue du Stand and then return it to its normal path was faulty. The police will also investigate whether the conductor, wanting to turn, chose to merge into his normal route.
Argentina thrash Serbia and Montenegro in Group C

Argentina thrashed Serbia and Montenegro 6-0 in a display that stunned the crowd in Gelsenkirchen, Friday.

On one side of this one-way game there was an embarrassment of Argentine talent; on the other there was the humiliation of Ilija Petkovic's side being out-played for 90 minutes by a team at the top of their form.

With the roof over the Veltins Arena it was dark enough in the stadium for camera flashes to light up in the crowd. On the pitch the Argentine players provided the flashes of brilliance.

An early goal after six minutes was the first of six goals that were the product of almost flawless team play and individual execution. Argentina swept down the left, Maxim Rodriguez ran at speed into a pass and toe-poked first time beyond Dragoslav Jevric.

The next one was the climax of a 24 pass move. Estenban Cambiasso tapped the ball forward to Hernan Crespo just inside the penalty area; a back heal and Cambiasso ran on and smacked it past Dragoslav Jevric.

The third goal came on 41 minutes. Jevric could only palm a Javier Saviola shot to Maxim Rodriguez at the far post who stuck away his second off the post.

Savo Milosevic won his hundreth cap for Serbia and Montenegro, a statistic that included games with the Yugoslavia football team. He forced a corner with a hard long range shot and failed to reach a header after Danijel Ljuboja had briefly stretched Argentina on the right.

On 64 minutes Mateja Kezman appeared to make a frustrated two-footed lunge which caught Javier Mascherano. The referee reached for the red card and made a hard position harder for the unfortunate Serbia and Montenegro team.

Then it was the Lionel Messi show. The Argentines were comfortable but had not scored in the second half until the 19-year-old Barcelona striker came on after 74 minutes. Soon there were three more goals to the total.

It could have been four nil at the break but on 36 minutes Crespo's effort was judged to have come from an offside position. Crespo got booked because he did not stop when the referee blew his whistle. The television replay showed the linesman was mistaken.

On 35 minutes the Argentina fans in the crowd seemed to know which way the game was going. The chant "Ole" was heard as the Argentines continued to pass amongst themselves with great ease.

Totally dominant, the blue and white stripes had over 60 per cent ball possession come half-time. Roberto Abbondanziere in the Argentina goal was for the most part the spectator number 52'001.

The goal many Argentines in the crowd had waited for came two minutes from time. Messi, recently back from injury, was fed on another burst into the penalty area. He beat Jevric at his near post.

This year Montenegro made their split from Serbia official in the political arena. In the Veltins Arena, Friday, the performance of the two national sides combined might be grounds for the coming football divorce.

The mathemetics of the Group C table mean Jose Pekerman's Argentina are not yet through to the knock-out stage of the Fifa World Cup. They would go through if the Netherlands did not lose to Ivory Coast, who played Friday.

Four incidents occur at Australian reactor in a week

The Australian federal opposition has attacked the Howard government following four incidents in a week at the HIFAR nuclear research reactor in Lucas Heights, South of Sydney. The incidents come just a week after the Australian government announced an inquiry into the feasibility of nuclear power.

The first incident occurred on June 8, when a carbon canister containing radioactive material exploded, blowing out seals in a cell at the Lucas Heights site. The accident is believed to be an explosion in a carbon canister containing radioactive material, which blew the seals out on Hot Cell No 2 in Building 54 releasing small amounts of xenon and krypton into the atmosphere.

Jenny Macklin (Jagajaga, Labor), shadow science minister and...
deputy leader of the opposition accused science minister Julie Bishop (Curtin, Liberal) of misleading the parliament. Ms Bishop told parliament on Wednesday that "there was no measurable contamination found outside the immediate area where the incident occurred."

Ms Bishop denied there being any radiation threat to the community. "According to ANSTO, there was absolutely no radiation threat to the health of the workers of ANSTO or the community."

Jenny Macklin said in a statement on Wednesday that details of the incident were being hidden. "The local community deserves to be told what actually happened at the Lucas Heights reactor last Thursday, and why the release of radioactive gases into the atmosphere was not made public," said Ms Macklin.

Following Ms Macklin's statement ANSTO said it was "surprised and disappointed" at Ms Macklin's comments. ANSTO refuted that it failed to adequately notify the community saying that they released a media statement the day after the incident. ANSTO said that radiation released during the incident was "so low as not to be directly measurable". ANSTO said that it could however calculate the amount of radioactive material released and it was a "very small fraction of the radiation dose received by everyone each year from naturally occurring sources of radiation".

ANSTO assured the public that the releases could not be detected off-site.

Following a statement by the science minister on Thursday that she was unaware of any incidents at ANSTO in the 12 months prior to the latest incidents, the opposition again questioned Ms Bishop's competence. Ms Macklin asked how the minister could not be informed about compliance reports issued by Australia's nuclear regulator ARPANSA that state there were 12 incidents at Lucas Heights in 2005.

Following Ms Macklin's removal from the house, Anthony Albanese (Grayndler, Labor), shadow environment minister questioned Ms Bishop about incidents at ANSTO on Wednesday. According to ANSTO, a worker received a low dose of radiation from Iodine-123 while packaging radiopharmaceuticals. ANSTO claims that the technician received a dose around four per cent of the annual limit for radiation workers and much less than a thyroid cancer patient would receive during a nuclear medicine scan.

In a statement, Ms Macklin later accused the science minister of being ill-informed of the incident at Lucas Heights, saying it was concerning the government had an "incompetent" science minister at a time when they were "pushing the benefits of nuclear power".

Responding to the opposition's questions during question time in the House of Representatives, the science minister accused the opposition of engaging in a scare campaign to close down a facility that provides "a medical service for cancer suffers across Australia."

ANSTO has said that the radiation dose received by the technician was so low he did not require medical attention once he had undergone several tests.

ANSTO admitted another two incidents occurred at its Lucas Heights facility on Thursday. The first occurred when a worker who was cleaning a production area burst a package of radioactive material. The second occurred when a worker packing a radiopharmaceutical dropped a small vial. ANSTO said that the amount of radiation received by both workers was extremely low.

ANSTO said that while it is uncommon for two incidents to occur on a single day, it was not uncommon for minor incidents to occur once a month.

**Bush proclaims Northwestern Hawaiian Islands a National Monument**

U.S. President George W. Bush yesterday signed an executive order declaring the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands a U.S. National Monument, creating the largest protected marine area in the world and the largest single conservation area in the history of the United States.

In a signing ceremony attended by Hawaii officials, including Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, Bush pledged, "This region holds the largest and healthiest untouched coral reef system in the United States. And we're going to preserve it."

Bush reportedly moved quickly to protect the archipelago after a screening of Jean-Michel Cousteau's documentary Voyage to Kure in April. He invoked powers under the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives the President the power to restrict the use of public land by executive order. The area was under consideration as a National Marine Sanctuary, but Bush's invocation of the Antiquities Act bypasses the yearlong consultation that would be necessary.
All the Northwestern islands are uninhabited, except Midway Island.

As a National Monument, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands would be subject to one of the highest levels of protection in the U.S. All fishing will be phased out over five years, and visitors will require permits for snorkeling and diving. Lingle had enacted similar protections as Hawaii governor, but the protections were limited to a three-mile radius from shore.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would manage the monument along with its 13 national marine sanctuaries.

Advocates for the fishing industry have raised concerns about the feasibility of further protections, asserting that a small fishery operation in the area would cause little environmental impact. Kitty Simonds of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council said, "The President can do whatever he wants to do, but we're disappointed that we can't continue on a small, healthy bottomfish fishery."

Environmental groups generally lauded Bush's move.

"When you add it all up, it's a world-class ecological jewel. From both a national and global perspective, this really is a landmark conservation event," said Joshua Reichert, head of the environment program for the private Pew Charitable Trusts.

The preserve, covering all the islands northwest of Niihau, covers 140,000 square miles (360,000 km2), covering 10 islands and atolls, and stretches for about 1,400 miles (2,200 km).

Auckland, New Zealand sexual attack premeditated

A sexual attack on a woman in her Pukekohe, South Auckland home was, police say, premeditated.

A man, who had been drinking, told the victim that he needed to use her phone, she handed him a portable phone through a small gap in the door and then closed the door. The man pretended to use the phone and then when she opened the door again to regain her phone the man barged his way in, at about 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 13 NZST.

It was a five-hour attack and she only managed to escape when she was driven to an ATM to withdraw money she fumbled with her bank cards and while the attacker was distracted she ran to a service station.

The victim told police that she believed that the man had been stalking her for about a week. Criminal profilers are worried that he may strike again.

Detective Senior Sergeant Grimstone says "the terror in the woman's eyes is clearly visible as she asks for help at a service station."

The attacker could be wearing blue jeans and a black jacket that was taken from the victim's house. The attacker is described as an unshaven Māori male in his late 30s or 40s.

Australian Senator to introduce bill for same-sex marriage

The Australian Democrats deputy leader, Senator Andrew Bartlett moved in the Australian Senate a bill to amend the Marriage Act to provide for same-sex marriages.

Senator Bartlett's second reading speech which was incorporated into the Hansard described that the bill "reverses the Marriage Amendment Act 2004...which...changed the definition to that of a union between one man and one woman only", and refuted arguments against same-sex marriage proposed by some conservative Government senators. Bartlett continued to say that "We do not want to send the message that discrimination is acceptable in Australia" to our children, or to other nations."

The federal Government is opposed to civil unions. In an interview on June 8, Prime Minister John Howard said, "I don't see it in any way as discriminating against homosexuals, it's not, it's designed to preserve the special status of marriage in our community and that's what it's all about."

Debate on the bill will occur at a later date. A bill proposed later in the sitting day by the Australian Greens to stop the Governor-General disallowing ACT state law establishing civil unions failed, by a majority of two votes.

Today in History

1775 - American Revolutionary War: British forces took Bunker Hill outside of Boston.
1789 - French Revolution: The Third Estate of France declared itself the National Assembly.
1961 - Canada's New Democratic Party was founded with the merger of the CCF and organised labour.
1972 - Watergate scandal: Five men were arrested for burglarising the offices of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate Hotel.
1994 - O. J. Simpson was chased...
down and arrested on suspicion of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. 

June 17 is Independence Day in Iceland (1944)

**Quote of the Day**
"Some would say that it is too idealistic to believe in a society based on tolerance and the sanctity of human life, where borders, nationalities and ideologies are of marginal importance. To those I say, this is not idealism, but rather realism, because history has taught us that war rarely resolves our differences. Force does not heal old wounds; it opens new ones."

~ Mohamed ElBaradei

**Word of the Day**
absquatulate; v
1. To leave quickly or in a hurry; to take oneself off; to depart.

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