



Top Stories

Deadline to release "Muslim prisoners" passes, journalists still being held captive

A midnight deadline to release "Muslim prisoners" has passed and two Fox News journalists are still being held captive in Gaza.

Congo electoral commissioner condemns Kinshasha clashes

The President of the Independent Electoral Commission in Congo has condemned the recent violence that followed the announcement of results from the first round of elections, in which around 43 people are believed to have died.

Featured story

Fire brings down two domes of historical Russian cathedral

A fire at the Trinity Cathedral in St. Petersburg brought down two of the building's domes. Officials said that valuable icons housed in the buildings were safe and no injuries have been reported.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Eyewitnesses claim that Israel bombed a Reuters armored car in Gaza City. Hospital staff say that two cameramen and three bystanders were injured.
- Pakistani security forces kill rebel chieftain Nawab Akbar Bugti in heavy fighting near the town of Dera Bugti in Baluchistan province. At least 25 commandos and 30 insurgents were killed in the fighting.

Wikipedia Current Events

- NASA delays the launch of the Space Shuttle Atlantis (STS-115) for 24 hours. Lightning struck the space shuttle launch pad on Friday but no damage was caused.
- EU officials caution that the peacekeeping force in Lebanon will not disarm Hezbollah. Disarming Hezbollah is the responsibility of the Lebanese government and army.

Elizabeth May elected leader of Canada's Green Party

Elizabeth May has been elected leader of the Green Party of Canada today winning the position with 2,145 votes or 65.3 per cent of ballot cast. She beat her nearest rival, environmental consultant and Green deputy leader David Chernushenko by a margin of almost 2 to 1. Jim Fannon, the third candidate, finished far back with only 29 votes. The new leader will replace Jim Harris, who stepped down after holding the position since 2003.

In her acceptance speech, May called on the federal government to give notice that Canada will withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement in order to force the United States to renegotiate the treaty.

May, a long-time environmental activist and former executive director of the Sierra Club of Canada, takes over the party which received 4.5 per cent of the popular vote in the last federal

election, enough to secure over \$1 million a year in federal funding but not enough to elect any of its candidates to the Canadian House of Commons. Chernushenko, won the highest vote percentage of any Green candidate in the January election winning 10% of the vote in Ottawa Centre.

"We draw pretty much equally from across the entire political spectrum," Jim Harris told CBC News. "If you were a Progressive Conservative, as I was, where do you go? The Green party supports Kyoto. We were opposed to the war in Iraq and yet at the same time we're fiscally responsible. This is something that's attractive to people."

"What we need to do is clearly build a method and a platform so that they are not voting for 'none of the above' but so that they are voting for 'all my dreams,'" said May after her victory.

The race has brought new people to the party with membership rising from 5,517 to 8,694 in recent months.

May says that "her national profile and background as an adviser to the environment minister during Conservative Brian Mulroney's government are important for getting more Canadians interested in the party". May referred to tackling climate change, urging electoral reform and ending Canada's military mission in Afghanistan.

"I don't really understand yet what she stands for. It's a lot of rhetoric," Globe and Mail columnist Jane Taber told CTV Newsnet.

"We will elect MPs by continuing to gain the trust and confidence of Canadians, and by reaching out to Canadians outside of our traditional base of support," said Chernushenko. Chernushenko said the party should parachute star candidates into key ridings.

"Chernushenko sees a need for government regulation but wants to involve the private sector a bit more, and that's consistent with Jim Harris's ideas," said Jonathan Malloy, political science professor at Ottawa's Carleton University.

Jim Fannon, who spoke casually to the audience about his talents as a mediator, capable of bridging political gaps between the Greens, Liberals, Conservatives and New Democrats. Chernushenko says though he may not always be able to "wow" a crowd, he remains a strong communicator and team player. "I can't do the rah-rah motivational thing, like Jim (Harris) did an incredible job at, but I can go very deep on complex issues and explain them in plain language," he said Friday.

Josh Matlow of Earth Roots said: "Elizabeth May is someone I would want to lock myself to a tree with; David Chernushenko is someone I would want to discuss policy with; and Jim Fannon is someone I would go for a beer with".

Political analysts consider May, a veteran environmentalist activist but also a newcomer to the party, to be the strong favourite to win the race against party stalwart Chernushenko.

British Airways flight makes emergency landing in Iceland, terrorism ruled out

A British Airways (BA) flight from London to Denver had to make an emergency landing at an airport in Iceland today after smoke was seen emerging from an oven in the aircraft's rear kitchen.

A BA spokesman said that the Boeing 777 landed safely at Keflavik Airport. He added that the plane's 268 passengers left the craft unharmed.

A spokeswoman from the Iceland Civil Aviation Administration ruled out any terrorist involvement. She added: "They were 50 miles from Keflavik when it was thought there was a fire. But it turned out to be only smoke."

The flight should complete its journey to the US tomorrow. Passengers are spending the night in a hotel.

Pakistan: Nawab Akbar Bugti Killed in Baluchistan

Heavy casualties resulted in a fight between government forces and balochi rebels. Nawab Akbar Bugti, chief of the Bugti tribe was killed according to government sources near the town of Dera Bugti, which was not far from his hideout.

There had been great tussle between him and the government which escalated after the rape case of a Dr.Shazia Khalid Khwaja about a year ago.

Baluchistan is the main provider of natural gas to the country and the rebels demanded more money for the development of the area than what the government was willing to provide.

Nawab Akbar Bugti was a feudal lord who greatly dominated his

subjects and over the years developed a strong rebel army to give resistance to the government.

South Africa lose to the All Blacks at rugby in Pretoria

Despite the All Blacks having already clinched the 2006 Tri Nations in rugby union, the first of the remaining three fixtures was played in Pretoria, South Africa on Saturday August 26. The Springboks (South Africa) lost the fifth Test in a row, whilst the All Blacks continued their streak of wins. The final score was 45 to 26, and played at Loftus Versfeld. It was the first win in South Africa for the All Blacks since 2003.

Richie McCaw knocked on the kick off from Butch James, offside All Blacks then lead to an early penalty kick to Percy Montgomery, giving South Africa a three-nil lead. James kicks another penalty two minutes later giving them a six to nil lead. Daniel Carter then gives the All Blacks their first points with a penalty kick of his own. Fourie du Preez scored the first try of the match in the 10th minute for South Africa. Montgomery misses the conversion and the South Africa now lead 11 to three. After a period of no scoring, Carter kicks another penalty goal in the 18th minute to reduce the gap to 11 to six. Neemia Tialata scores the All Blacks first try off a Carter kick. Carter converts, and the All Blacks move ahead to 13 to 11. On halftime the All Blacks are given a penalty, 60m away from the South African line. An ambitious Carter goes for the kick, and is successful, and the All Blacks go into the break 16 to 11.

Carter gets the first points of the second half with another penalty goal in the 43rd minute. Luke McAlister extends the All Blacks

lead a few minutes later with a try of his own, and with Carters conversion, the All Blacks now lead 26 to 11. A subsequent penalty goal to South Africa by Montgomery reduces this to 26 to 14. The All Blacks start to move further away with the game when Sitiveni Sivivatu scores in the 55th minute, although Carter misses the conversion, the All Blacks move to a 31 to 14 lead. A try to Mils Muliaina and a subsequent Carter conversion makes the score 38 to 14. South Africa start to make a comeback when Jaque Fourie scores a try. André Pretorius misses the conversion, and the score is now 38 to 19 to the All Blacks. Fourie scores again in the 70th minute, and with the Pretorius conversion, the score is now 38 to 26 with 10 minutes remaining in the match. However Rico Gear seals the victory in the 75th minute with a try. carter converts and the All Blacks win 45 to 26.

Iran inaugurates heavy-water production plant

Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad inaugurated a heavy-water production plant in Arak, Iran on Saturday, according to reports on Iranian television. The plant is part of the nuclear program of Iran, which the Iranian government says is for peaceful purposes only (the generation of nuclear power) in the face of accusations by western governments that the country is trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The Arak facility, located 150 miles south of Teheran, is part of a larger project of building a heavy-water reactor in the city. The Iranian president has said that it will be used for medical purposes only, and has said that students, scientists, and journalists will be allowed to tour the plant.

Construction on the production plant began in 1996. Iran provoked international controversy in April 2006 when it announced an earlier nuclear success: the enrichment of a small amount of uranium to reactor-grade levels (3.5% of the isotope uranium-235 using gaseous centrifuge technology. Concern was raised by some that if Iran was able to scale up its enrichment facilities, they could be used to produce bomb-grade uranium (90% uranium-235).

Heavy water is the colloquial name for deuterium oxide, $2H_2O$. To the unaided eye it looks almost identical to regular water, H_2O , but it contains deuterium, a heavy isotope of hydrogen. Among its many uses, it is commonly used as a moderator in certain types of nuclear reactors. It is considered a nuclear proliferation risk because heavy-water production reactors can easily use natural uranium, and in the process transmute it into the element plutonium, which can be reprocessed and used as the fissile core of a nuclear bomb. Heavy-water production reactors have been used for this purpose by India, Israel, Pakistan, North Korea, Russia and USA. There is no evidence that heavy-water power reactors, such as the Canadian-produced CANDU reactor, have been used for military plutonium production, but in theory they can also be used for this purpose, as any uranium reactor will produce certain amounts of plutonium.

Critics have charged that current Iranian research reactors do not require the amount of heavy water which the production facility will be able to create. Iran's other controversial reactor site at Bushehr does not require heavy water. Though many of Iran's

nuclear facilities do have possible peaceful uses, most of them are considered dual-use technology, which could also be diverted into military purposes.

In 2003, the still-developing production site was inspected by a delegation from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the non-proliferation wing of the United Nations in charge of enforcing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, of which Iran is a signatory. At the time, Iran claimed the heavy water would be for exporting to other countries, and later clarified that it would be used for a heavy-water reactor in Arak. Iran has claimed that it would have purchased a heavy-water research reactor from abroad but it had been unable to do so, and so had to resort to an indigenous design and construction. Iran claims that the reactor will be used to produce radioisotopes, which have many medical applications. IAEA inspectors questioned this on the basis that the reactor plans they had seen did not have adequate facilities for producing radioisotopes. Iran claimed that the plans were still developing and that the missing facilities, known as hot cells, could not yet be designed without knowing other characteristics of the reactor, and that they were building a separate facility with those capabilities at the same site.

Iran has insisted that under the terms of the 1968 treaty, it is guaranteed the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The IAEA has called upon Iran in the past to freeze production of the heavy-water reactor at Arak, but the Iranian government has refused and began construction on the 40MW reactor facility in 2004. It has been estimated that it will take

five years to build, based on the previous experience of North Korea.

None of Iran's facilities currently have the ability to produce weapons-grade nuclear material, and most experts say it would be at least a decade for Iran to be able to build a functional nuclear weapon.

Four year-old boy bound to a tree and battered with a brick in East Yorkshire

In what Humberside Police are describing as a "nasty" attack, a four year-old boy was bound to a tree and battered with a brick. The incident happened on wasteland close to the child's home in Hessle, East Yorkshire.

Charlie Davis was discovered by a couple on Thursday. He was in a puddle of blood and part of his ear was hanging off; doctors at Hull Royal Infirmary later performed surgery to repair it. He is still in hospital, and doctors say that his brain is not injured, despite having a fractured skull.

A spokeswoman from Humberside Police said: "This little boy has suffered a nasty attack and has some horrible injuries."

Police think Charlie, who was playing with a friend, was molested by a male youth. His injuries suggest that he dragged the child across the ground, kicked him in the face, tied him to a tree and struck him with a brick.

The police spokeswoman added that police are pursuing several lines of inquiry. "There has been information suggesting possible suspects and these form one of the lines of inquiry being pursued."

The assault is thought to have happened before lunchtime on Thursday next to Station Road which is near the Hull to Hessle railway line. "It is currently unclear how the child got to the area. He may have gone of his own accord, he might have been chased there or he may have been taken by someone against his will," said the police spokeswoman.

Charlie, who was meant to be going on holiday with his family today, is too disturbed to talk to detectives about the incident. The spokeswoman said: "We do understand that the victim was struck with a brick which has resulted in his injuries. But, clearly, until police can get an account from the four-year-old victim it is not possible to confirm any more details of the incident."

All-Ferrari front row on 2006 Turkish Grand Prix

Second Ferrari driver Felipe Massa won the first place on the FIA Formula-1 Turkish Grand Prix on the Istanbul Park racing track. His teammate Michael Schumacher qualified right after him.

Renault drivers Giancarlo Fisicella and Fernando Alonso managed to get on the second row of the starting grid.

Jenson Button, winner of the previous Gran Prix in Hungary was six.

Nick Heidfeld had a nice qualification and will start before Button.

Kimi Räikkönen and Robert Kubica closed the first eight places on the grid

Umpire Darrell Hair offers to quit ICC elite panel for \$500,000

The International Cricket Council announced on Friday that controversial Australian umpire Darrell Hair has offered to resign from the ICC Elite Umpires Panel with effect from 31st August if he is paid a sum U.S \$500,000 to do so. Hair is currently involved in a dispute with the Pakistan side after he penalised them for ball-tampering during their Test against England at the Oval. The Pakistan team subsequently refused to come out of the pavilion, resulting in their forfeiting the match to the home side. The issue soon snowballed and both the Pakistani captain Inzamam-ul-Haq and Hair came under criticism, the former for bringing the sport into disrepute and the umpire for his alleged bias against players from the Subcontinent.

The ICC's chief executive Malcolm Speed told a press conference that copies of Hair's letter had been forwarded to both Doug Cowie (the Council's umpire manager) and the Pakistan Cricket Board. The umpire asks, in his letter, for "a one-off payment to compensate for the loss of future earnings and retainer payments over the next four years, which I believe would have been the best years I have to offer ICC and world umpiring." Speed, however, said that neither he nor David Richardson (the ICC's General Manager) believed that the episode was motivated by any "dishonest, underhand or malicious intent." on Darrell's part. He also expressed surprise at the contents of the letter and that he felt the issue had been "marked by a series of unfortunate and entirely avoidable overreactions."

Congo electoral commissioner condemns Kinshasha clashes

Nearly a week after the announcement of provisional election results in the Democratic Republic of Congo sparked violence across the capital Kinshasha, the country's Electoral Commissioner has spoken out to halt clashes.

In an interview with journalists associated with the UN mission in Congo, Independent Electoral Commission President, Fr Malu Malu called for an end to gun battles between forces loyal to two presidential candidates.

"It cannot be accepted, and any Congolese in his or her right mind could not consider that what happened was normal," he said, "The country and the Congolese people have expressed their will in the clearest possible way, and their choice needs to be accepted."

Mr. Malu Malu also added that if calm returned to Kinshasha this weekend, his commission would slowly begin to announce other election results, but added that security was essential for this to happen. "All of us - the organisers of the elections, the voters, candidates, observers, and our friends who support the electoral process - all of us have a need for security, and we will not tolerate insecurity. I believe security is an issue of shared responsibility which is demanded of all of us" he said.

Meanwhile, the incumbent government has been counting the cost of this week's violence. It is now believed around 43 people have been killed in clashes since Sunday, with many bodies still lying in the streets. The dead include 12 policemen and 4 civilians.

Violence began after provisional results were announced for July's landmark elections last Sunday, and several gunfights took place across the capital.

Violence broke out around the house of one of the main presidential contenders, Jean-Pierre Bemba on Monday. As Bemba was meeting with U.N. officials and ambassadors, troops loyal to the incumbent president, Joseph Kabila, opened fire around Bemba's villa, forcing 14 ambassadors to flee for cover.

UN troops soon took over control in the city, but sporadic clashes continued through Tuesday. The streets have become deserted according to journalists in Kinshasha.

A fragile truce was declared on Tuesday as both Kabila and Bemba agreed to withdraw their forces from the city. The largest UN peacekeeping force in the world is currently trying to maintain the peace, which analysts fear may not last.

"The situation is still very tense," one diplomat told Reuters, "there are too many nervous men wandering around with guns, but we have moved on from the clashes earlier this week."

Hopes were high that elections in the Democratic Republic – the first since 1961 – would mark a new start for the massive country. The initial results, however, revealed marked divisions among the population.

The current president, Joseph Kabila, holds the lead with 44.81% of the vote, more than twice the general support of Bemba. Kabila's support though comes solely from the eastern provinces in the

country. In western Kinshasha, Kabila holds just 13% of the vote, and in the west and north of the country his strength is minimal.

A presidential run-off between Kabila and Bemba is set for the 29th October.

Courtrooms in Ontario to get cameras

Ontario courtrooms could get cameras for Ontarians to watch court proceedings on television. This is awaiting approval by both the government and judges.

Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant released a report on justice and the media which recommends cameras to be allowed in courtrooms except during witness testimony. Bryant said he agreed with the suggestion from a panel of experts composed of court officials and members of news organizations. "I think that our justice system is ready for its close-up," Bryant said in Toronto.

Bryant agreed Thursday, saying the compromise position would avoid sensational coverage of criminal trials often seen in the U.S.

"The panel looked at that and wanted to avoid the circus," said Bryant. "There were great concerns about television cameras reporting in a fashion that would intimidate witnesses. Some witnesses (and some victims) might not come forward if they thought they would be on television."

"We're not talking about filming trials, we're talking about allowing cameras into the court to record legal argument," said Louise Botham, president of the Ontario Criminal Lawyer's Association.

Proceedings at the Supreme Court of Canada are broadcast on the Canadian Parliamentary Affairs Channel (CPAC) and provinces such as British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Manitoba, with prior permission of the court. In Newfoundland, cameras are allowed into a courtroom up to the time the judge enters.

Bloc Quebecois says no to reversing gay marriage

Contrary to Steven Harper's plan to put Canada's newly created Civil Marriage Bill back on the floor of the House of Commons for a free vote, The Bloc Quebecois plans to oppose any attempts by the Conservatives to revisit the issue when Parliament returns in the fall.

"It is simply believed that the debate has taken place and it is not relevant to start it again," said Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe.

The same-sex marriage debate in Canada was kicked off in 2003 by a ruling of the Ontario Supreme Court which found that the constitution's definition of marriage between one man and one woman was unconstitutional, and forced Ontario to recognize same-sex marriage. The ruling sparked similar provincial supreme court challenges in nine other provinces, prompting then Former Prime Minister Paul Martin to introduce a bill in the House of Commons that changed the federal constitution's definition to a union between two people. The controversial bill drew fire from Canada's conservative and religious communities who alleged that such a change to the constitution would destroy Canadian society, and lead to churches being forced to perform same-sex marriages. The bill was later changed to exclude any

religious institution from being forced to perform marriages that were contrary to church doctrine. After putting the bill to a free vote in the House of Commons in the spring of 2005, the bill received the support of the house and was drafted into law. In the election that followed, Conservative Party leader Steven Harper vowed to revisit the issue of equal marriage with another free vote, this time hoping to reverse the constitutional change.

Fire brings down two domes of historical Russian cathedral

A fire broke out at the Trinity Cathedral in St. Petersburg, causing the main dome and another dome to collapse, early in the evening of August 25.

Firefighters fought the blaze, and a helicopter was pressed into service. Staff, emergency service workers and passers by rescued treasured items from the cathedral.

Four hours later, St. Petersburg emergency department spokeswoman Lyudmila Rubasova said the fires were contained but the remaining domes were damaged. Later a departmental spokesmen said that the fire was extinguished.

"The main dome has been destroyed but we could not stop the fire because it was so high and now other domes are in flames," said a spokesman for Russia's emergencies ministry.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, but acting St. Petersburg emergency department chief Leonid Belyayev said the blaze seems to have started on scaffolding on the outside of the church, which was undergoing restoration.

He also said that the most valuable icons and other items had been saved, and that structural damage beneath the roof area was minor.

There are no reported injuries.

Today in History

1776 - British forces led by William Howe defeated the Continental Army under George Washington in the Battle of Long Island.

1896 - Zanzibar surrendered within an hour after the Anglo-Zanzibar War broke out.

1928 - The Kellogg-Briand Pact, renouncing war as an instrument of foreign policy, was signed by 60 nations.

1939 - Experimental jetplane Heinkel He 178 became the world's first aircraft to fly under turbojet power.

1985 - The Nigerian government of Muhammadu Buhari was overthrown by Ibrahim Babangida. August 27 is Ganesh Chaturthi in Hinduism, Heroes' Day in the Philippines (2006); Independence Day for Moldova (1991).

Quote of the Day

"If those in charge of our society — politicians, corporate executives, and owners of press and television — can dominate our ideas, they will be secure in their power. They will not need soldiers patrolling the streets. We will control ourselves."

~ Howard Zinn

Word of the Day

nucleus; n

1. The central part (of something), round which others are collected.
2. The massive, positively charged central part of an atom made up of protons and neutrons.
3. A large organelle found in

cells which contains genetic material.

4. A cluster of many neuronal bodies where synapsing occurs.

About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.

Got news and no computer?

Call the Wikinews Hotline

+1-866-653-4265
(toll-free in the U.S.)
+1-202-742-5918
(outside the U.S.)
+44-871-218-6397
(U.K. / Europe)

License

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Articles published in this Print edition were created by Wikinewsies. Other content released under the GNU Free Documentation License.

To view a copy of the CC-BY license, visit:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>

or send a letter to

Creative Commons
543 Howard Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California, 94105, USA

To view a copy of the GFDL, visit:

<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>

Wikipedia Current Events

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Current_events

Today in History

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Quote of the Day

http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page

Word of the Day

http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page

About Wikinews Print Edition

For more information about Wikinews Print Edition visit:

<http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Wikinews:Print>