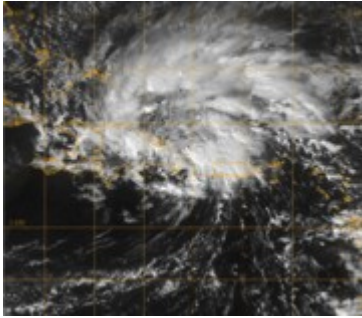




Top Stories



Tropical Storm Olga causes many deaths in Caribbean

The death toll for Tropical Storm Olga reached 38 on Friday. The rare December tropical storm, which disintegrated into a mass of thunderstorms late on Wednesday, killed two people, a woman and a 3-year-old boy, in Haiti. In the Dominican Republic, 12 Hatians drowned. Olga's torrential rains were also blamed for mudslides that killed a man in Puerto Rico. 4,000 hetchacres of crops and \$40 million in revenues have been destroyed. The highest winds recorded were 60 miles per hour. This storm was the fifteenth in the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season.

Featured story

Interview with Reggie Bibbs on his life with neurofibromatosis

This man from Texas launched a succesful campaign on Neurofibromatosis awareness entitled "Just Ask", and that's just what Wikinews did in an exclusive video-interview.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The "Mitchell Report" is released, naming 89 Major League Baseball players who are alleged to have used anabolic steroids or human growth hormone.
- Two bombings in Algiers kill dozens of people, including 17 UN employees.
- A state of disaster is declared in South Korea's Taeon county, after the country's worst ever oil spill.
- The Afghan National Army and the International Security Assistance Force launch an assault near Musa Qala in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, against Taliban insurgents.

December [tropical storm](#), which disintegrated into a mass of thunderstorms late on Wednesday, killed two people, a woman and a 3-year-old boy, in [Haiti](#). In the [Dominican Republic](#), 12 Hatians drowned. Olga's torrential rains were also blamed for [mudslides](#) that killed a man in [Puerto Rico](#). 4,000 hetchacres of crops and \$40 million in revenues have been destroyed. The highest winds recorded were 60 miles per hour. This storm was the fifteenth in the [2007 Atlantic hurricane season](#).

On December 10, the [Tropical Prediction Center](#) issued a gale warning for waters north of the [Lesser Antilles](#), Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic, in association with the precursor disturbance to Olga. Upon it being classified as a subtropical cyclone, the government of the Dominican Republic issued a tropical storm warning from [Cabo Engaño](#) along the north coast to its border with Haiti; a tropical storm watch was also issued along the southern coastline to near [Santo Domingo](#). Because winds were well to the north of its center, a tropical storm warning was not issued for Puerto Rico. Prior to it moving ashore, the government of Haiti issued a tropical storm warning for its northern coastline, and later a tropical storm warning was issued for the [Turks and Caicos Islands](#), as well as the southeastern [Bahamas](#).

Trans-Atlantic 'air rage' incident ends safely

An [Air Canada](#) flight from [Toronto](#) to [London](#) on 6th December was disrupted by a passenger who began shouting in an apparent case of "[air rage](#)". This

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incident became the subject of a hit video this week.

During the apparent panic attack, a man identified as "Jay" indicated fears that he was about to be shot to death, in addition to uttering obscenities and racist comments. He was restrained by several members of the flight crew and the flight landed safely at [Heathrow Airport](#). Authorities did not place the passenger under arrest at London, and Air Canada indicated there was no danger from this outburst.

However, a video of the incident was broadcast on [YouTube](#) by "2003tiburon" who with his partner was on the flight and was close enough to the incident to capture a video. The clip received nearly 120 000 views as of 17:30 UTC Saturday.

"Bali Roadmap" agreed on, applauded

After the [United States](#) agreed to the changes proposed by [India](#) this morning, the so called *Bali Roadmap* has been agreed on, to applause from all parties. The decision was made at this year's [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) in Bali. The Roadmap establishes a time frame and scope for reaching a post-2012 climate change agreement. This includes setting, for industrialized nations, targets for reductions of [greenhouse gas](#) (GHG) emissions. Numerous observers and parties had voiced that they see this as being of great importance prior to and during the conference.

Following the reopening of the plenary at midday, India reiterated its position that part of a paragraph needed to be reformulated. The [EU](#) went on to state that in the spirit of negotiations, they agreed with the proposed changes. After some further statements by other nations, the US said that they can not accept the changes, as they would

considerably change the balance of the text. This was met with loudly audible booing in the plenary. Some time later, after a number of other nations voiced their opinions and the American delegation could be seen busily debating and writing, the US said they would agree to the consensus position after all. Standing ovations and cheers welcomed this change in position, which allowed the President of the Conference soon thereafter to declare the document decided.

India this morning had raised objections on one of the central documents of what constitutes the Roadmap. This had made a decision impossible for the time being, as the conference can only pass items unanimously. The objection regarded the phrasing of how nations with developing industries are to take action to slow and reduce their GHG emissions. The President of the Conference, the Indonesian Environmental Minister, had declined the request, stating that the proposal he had made was very finely balanced. The President had then suspended the session so that further consultations could be made.

No progress was made when the meeting was reopened about an hour later, with [China](#) stating that negotiations of the so called Group of 77 and China with the Indonesian Minister of Finance were still ongoing. China then accused the [UNFCCC](#) secretariat of deliberately opening the plenary session at a time it knew that their Ministers were in talks. The Chinese delegate went on to demand an apology by the secretariat, and the meeting was again suspended.

Ministerial negotiations had continued through the night until the early morning hours yesterday and the climate conference had been scheduled to decide on the last outstanding items this morning.

Yesterday evening Yvo de Boer of the

UNFCCC had said that the parties were "on the brink of agreement", when he was asked where negotiations currently stand. With almost all open matters having been agreed on by a group of 40 ministers, one of the last outstanding points then was still the question of guideline numbers for GHG cuts.

Some of the issues that had still been open the day before yesterday (for example how [deforestation](#) was to be addressed and the matter of financial support for developing countries to send and support negotiators to the UN climate conferences), had apparently been addressed to everyone's satisfaction during yesterdays informal talks. But the talks were still on with regard to preambular text of a document that states how further action to mitigate climate change is to be taken, the inclusion of a 25-40% range for reductions in GHG emissions for industrialized nations by 2020 from 1990 levels being contested.

The draft decision proposed by the President of the Conference today however, no longer included the numbers, but did make reference to the latest report by the international body of scientists that is charged with assessing the current state of knowledge on climate change. This [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) had presented its Synthesis report earlier this year.

2007 Taipei International Travel Fair: Taiwanese government promote premiums on tourism industry

[2007 Taipei International Travel Fair](#) (Taipei ITF), supported by governments with new premiums promoted by [Executive Yuan](#) in the future, started with [a great new scale](#) at December 14 to 17. In the opening morning yesterday, governmental people and ambassadors from several countries including [Taiwan](#) successively visited this show.

The show organizer, Taiwan Visitors Association (TVA), held 2 opening ceremonies for Cross-Strait Pavilion and the main show. In the side of Cross-Strait, several teams performed traditional entertainment shows like "[Bian Lian](#)" (Face-Changing) and [Martial Arts of Shaolin Monastery](#) (In Chinese: Shaolin Kungfu) successively at press conference and welcome reception yesterday and opening ceremony today. Participants from [China](#) and Taiwan hoped the relation from Cross-Strait can be improved with tourism industry.

In the main opening ceremony, [Premier of the Republic of China Chun-hsiung Chang](#) not only announced the premiums of "2008-2009 Visit Taiwan Year" but also said: "We (the Executive Yuan) will still encourage foreign visitors visit Taiwan and also provide premiums for groups with a charter airline. with our '2008-2009 Visit Taiwan Year' in the future".

Not only Chun-hsiung Chang, Minister of Transportation and Communications Duei Tsai, Commissioner of Tourism Bureau of MOTC Janice Lai, and the current President of [Palau Thomas Esang Remengesau, Jr.](#) visited this show. Governments in several divisions participated in this show to showcase traditional cultures from several divisions with unlimited potentials on tourism industry in Taiwan.

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+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)

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