



### Top Stories

#### Former Chadian leader receives death sentence

Hissen Habre, the former President of Chad, has received a death sentence for plotting to overthrow the Chadian government. He is currently in exile and is living in Senegal.



#### Usain Bolt sets new world record in 100m sprint

The Jamaican Usain Bolt set a new world record in the final of the 100m sprint, which is often considered the most important event in the Olympic games, with his time of 9.69 seconds. BBC Sport reported that Bolt set the new world record even though "he didn't even try all of the way."



#### Ceasefire signed in Georgian-Russian conflict

The President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili had signed a ceasefire agreement today in the presence of United States (US) Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. An identical document, requiring the immediate withdrawal of all Russian forces from Georgian soil, was signed earlier this week, according to the New York Times, by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.



#### Dorival Caymmi, Brazilian singer and songwriter, dies aged 94

Dorival Caymmi, a popular Brazilian singer and songwriter, has died today at the age of 94 at his Rio de Janeiro home. His death was caused by kidney cancer and multiple organ failures.

### Wikipedia Current Events

Abkhazian rebels, backed by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, grab control of 13 Georgian villages.

- 2008 Atlantic Hurricane season: The Governor of Florida Charlie Crist declares a state of emergency as Tropical Storm Fay is due to hit Florida on Monday, possibly at hurricane strength.
- The President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev signs the six-point peace plan for a ceasefire in the 2008 South Ossetia War.
- A bomb explodes outside the house of Mayor Lito Pinol in the city of Mlang, Philippines, but fails to assassinate the Mayor. Police successfully defuse a bomb placed in the market of Kidapawan City.
- At least eight people die and 60 are injured after a passenger train collides with a goods train in Indonesia's Lampung province.
- Sprinter Usain Bolt of Jamaica wins the 100 metre-title in a world record time.
- Michael Phelps of the United States wins his seventh gold

### Wikipedia Current Events

medal of the 2008 Summer Olympics in the 100 metre butterfly, tying Mark Spitz's record for gold medals at an Olympic Games.

- Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe wins the 200 metre backstroke title setting a world record.
- Rebecca Adlington of Great Britain wins the 800 metres freestyle, breaking Janet Evans' 19 year old world record in the process.

#### Russia follows Georgia in signing peace plan

Russian president Dmitry Medvedev followed the president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili and signed the ceasefire agreement on Saturday. The peace plan document was originally drafted by Nicolas Sarkozy, the President of France. Medvedev announced having signed the document during a meeting of the Russian Security Council.

The truce was signed by Saakashvili on Friday, after a long meeting with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Following the meeting, a press conference was held in which Saakashvili stated that he had signed the accord. But he pointed out that "this is not a done deal. We need to do our utmost to deter such behaviour in the future."

By signing the agreement, both sides agree to pull back their forces to pre-conflict positions.

Rice has demanded that Russian forces withdraw from Georgia immediately. The accord also provides protection for Georgia and a "reconstruction plan", as well as allowing certain concessions to Russia.

Russia advanced into the Georgian break-away province of South Ossetia on August 7 to aid the rebels who had been battling Georgian troops. On August 11, Russian troops landed in Abkhazia and Ossetia advanced far beyond South Ossetia's borders into Georgian home turf and stopped only about 30 miles from Tbilisi, the Georgian capital.

Initially Medvedev said that he had ordered Russian troops to begin leaving Georgia on August 11. However, the Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov refused to put a timetable on the withdrawal of Russian forces from deep inside Georgia and stated that their departure depended on extra security measures being put in place. Lavrov also said Russia would strengthen its contingent in South Ossetia. In a letter to Saakashvili, Nicolas Sarkozy confirmed that according to the signed peace plan, Russian forces are obliged to withdraw from all major Georgian towns regardless of the "additional security measures" mentioned in the document. According to Sarkozy, these additional measures refer to the border area only. At the same time Georgian internal affairs ministry reported that Russian forces changed the administrative borders of Abkhazia, and captured one of the Georgian power plants in the area. It is also reported that Russian forces destroyed the strategic Georgian rail bridge in Kaspi.

According to Lavrov, the document

Saakashvili signed differed from the one signed by Medvedev, lacking its introductory part.

### **Dorival Caymmi, Brazillian singer and songwriter, dies aged 94**

Dorival Caymmi, a popular Brazilian singer and songwriter, has died today at the age of 94 at his Rio de Janeiro home. His death was caused by kidney cancer and multiple organ failures.

Caymmi wrote over one hundred songs in his lifetime. His song "Das Rosas" was translated into English as "And Roses and Roses" by the American lyricist Ray Gilbert. Associated Press has reported that his "deep, velvety voice" made Caymmi one of Brazil's most popular musicians. One of his most popular songs, "O que e que a Baiana tem" gained popularity after being performed by Carmen Miranda, who was a popular Brazillian samba singa and film star.

Also an actor, Caymmi performed in several film roles, his first being *Joujoux e Balangandãs* in 1939. He also starred in *Pureza*, *Abacaxi azul*, *Estrela da Manhã*, *Pluft, o Fantasminha*, *Garota de Ipanema*, *The Sandpit Generals* (an English language film) and, most recently, *Tenda dos Milagres*. According to Maria Ferreira, a relative of Caymmi, the family is "very shaken" by his death. He is survived by his three children.

### **Usain Bolt sets new world record in 100m sprint**

The Jamaican Usain Bolt set a new world record in the final of the 100m sprint, which is often considered a very important event in the Olympic games, with his time of 9.69 seconds.

BBC Sport reported that Bolt set

the new world record even though "he didn't even try all of the way."

Bolt passed through the semi-final with a time of 9.85, only 0.13 seconds behind his own world record time of 9.72. this is despite the fact that, according to the BBC, Bolt jogged the last twenty metres.

The American Tyson Gay failed to qualify for the 100 metre final. "I don't have any excuses. I'm pretty upset," said Gay after realizing he had failed to finish in the top three of the semi-finals, which took place approximately two hours before the final.

The World record for the 100 metres has dropped significantly since the record of 10.6 seconds was set by Donald Lippincott on July 6, 1912.

The ten second barrier was first crossed by Jim Hines of the United States on June 20, 1968.

### **Today in History**

1862 – A council of Dakota decided to attack settlements throughout the Minnesota River valley in an effort to drive whites out of the area, sparking the Dakota War of 1862.

1914 – World War I: Ignoring orders to retreat, Hermann von François led a successful counterattack defending East Prussia at the Battle of Stallupönen and scored the first German victory in the Eastern Front.

1915 – American Jew Leo Frank was lynched by a mob of prominent citizens in Marietta, Georgia for the alleged murder of a 13-year-old girl, sparking a series of events that led to the founding of the Anti-Defamation League.

1978 – Double Eagle II became

the first hot air balloon to cross the Atlantic Ocean, landing in Miserey near Paris six days after leaving Presque Isle, Maine.  
 1999 – A 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck northwestern Turkey, killing over 17,000 people and leaving approximately half a million people homeless.  
 August 17 is Independence Day in Indonesia (1945) and Gabon (1960)

**Quote of the Day**

Everything of value about me is in my books. Whatever extra there is in me at any given moment isn't fully formed. I am hardly aware of it; it awaits the next book. It will — with luck — come to me during the actual writing, and it will take me by surprise. That element of surprise is what I look for when I am writing. ~ V.S. Naipaul

**Word of the Day**

cistern n

1. A reservoir or tank for holding water, especially rainwater.
2. (technical) A toilet tank.
3. (anatomy) A cisterna.

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