



Top Stories

Cruise ship evacuated off Greek coast

Close to 1,600 passengers and crew are being evacuated from the Cruise liner Sea Diamond, which ran aground near Santorini Island in Greece. The cruise operator has announced that all passengers have been safely evacuated and all crew are safe.

British navy personnel back home

The fifteen sailors and marines, detained for thirteen days by Iran for allegedly straying into their waters, have been released and flown to Heathrow International Airport. The British government insists they were in Iraqi waters when they were captured.

Featured story

Forty Hells Angels locations in Canada raided by police

Thursday around 40 Hells Angels locations were raided by police in Ontario, New Brunswick, and British Columbia. Police arrested more than 30 people in all three selected provinces.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Three men are charged with involvement in the 7 July 2005 London bombings.
- Former rebel leader Ramzan Kadyrov takes office as President of Chechnya.

OECD releases report on New Zealand's environmental performance

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has released a report on the environmental performance of the New Zealand Government. Although the Government applauds the findings as vindicating its path to sustainability the report makes a wide range of recommendations in order to improve environmental performance. It calls for better protection of water, a clarification and strengthening of climate change policy, an upgrade of waste management and improvement environmental reporting.

The previous report was released in 1996 and a number of improvements have been noted. These include minimising harmful substances in agriculture and fisheries, improving drinking water, balancing social and environmental concerns and expanding protected areas.

It is part of a second cycle of peer reviewed reports on the OECD member countries.

MLB: White Sox defeat Indians 4-3 following hit batter

It was an unusual ending to Thursday's game at U.S. Cellular Field between the Chicago White Sox and the Cleveland Indians. With the game tied going into the ninth inning, Cleveland pitcher Roberto Hernández hit batter A.J. Pierzynski with the bases loaded, walking in the winning run.

Grady Sizemore got things started for the Indians by hitting a solo home run in the first, but the Sox would tie it up in the second on a Paul Konerko RBI groundout. Another Indian homer came from the bat of Jason Michaels, but the Sox again tie it up in the fourth with Tadahito Iguchi hitting an RBI sacrifice fly. Chicago took their first lead of the game in the seventh with a Scott Podsednik RBI, but Jason Michaels would tie it up again in the eighth. In the bottom of the ninth inning, an inside pitch hit batter A.J. Pierzynski, walking in the winning run and ending the game.

Chicago starter Mark Buehrle left the game in the second inning suffering from bruising on his forearm after being hit just below the elbow of his pitching arm. He has been diagnosed with having a contusion on his left forearm, and his status will be day-to-day. Matt Thornton is credited a blown save for giving up Chicago's one run lead in the eighth. Cleveland starter Jeremy Sowers pitched the first six innings, giving up just a hit and two runs.

The White Sox, now 1-2, are staying in town to play the visiting Minnesota Twins while Cleveland, now 2-1, will go home to face off against the Seattle Mariners.

MLB: Pirates complete sweep of Astros

The Pittsburgh Pirates swept the Houston Astros in a 5-4 victory at the Minute Maid Park Wednesday. Xavier Nady did very well in the

first three games of the season, going 1 for 4 with 2 runs to lift the Pirates over the Astros. Tom Gorzelanny made his debut in the last game of the series, giving up 3 runs on 7 hits, with 2 errors, with one ball batted and four strikeouts. This is the first time since May 1991 that the Pirates swept the Astros.

Trailing by two runs in the fifth, Pittsburgh capitalized on three fielding errors to put them ahead by two. Craig Biggio hit a solo home run with two outs in the ninth inning, but Pittsburgh closer Salomon Torres struck out the last batter and picked up the save.

The Astros are off until Friday when the St. Louis Cardinals visit for three games. Meanwhile, the Pirates are concluding their opening road trip in Cincinnati before returning home to face the Cardinals.

Cruise ship evacuated off Greek coast

An evacuation operation is underway as a Cruise ship runs aground off the coast of Santorini, a Greek island, leaving up to 1,167 passengers and 391 crew to abandon the ship.

Cruise operator Louis Cruise Lines has announced that all passengers have been safely disembarked, with no casualties and that all the crew are safe.

Many of the passengers on board the Sea Diamond ship are either American or German, local news reports. The ship is taking on water after striking a reef in the volcanic island's lagoon, similar to a lake, and issued a distress signal, launching an operation that has led more than a dozen ships and five Greek Navy helicopters evacuating all the people on board, with many

boarding a small ferry that is helping with the operation.

The ship was about one nautical mile - 1.8km - from the island's coast when it ran aground. The ship's operators, Louis Cruise Lines, earlier said that a "controlled evacuation" was underway, but that "there is no danger to passengers". The ship had left the Athenian port of Piraeus on Monday for a five-day tour of the islands. The sea was calm when the incident occurred.

"Some passengers have already reached the island and no-one has been hurt," an official at the Santorini coastguard has said, whilst Merchant Marine Minister Manolis Kefaloyiannis said to reporters, "Thankfully, everything has gone well so far. Emergency services responded very quickly and very well."

Keith Richards denies reports that he snorted his father's ashes

According to a recent interview, Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards is said to have snorted his late father's ashes mixed with cocaine.

In an interview with the NME magazine he is quoted as saying "The strangest thing I've tried to snort? My father. I snorted my father. He was cremated and I couldn't resist grinding him up with a little bit of blow. My dad wouldn't have cared, he didn't give a shit. It went down pretty well, and I'm still alive. He went down pretty well."

Despite the interview, Richards denies he said anything like that and that he ever used cocaine.

"I wouldn't take cocaine at this point in my life unless I wished to commit suicide. The truth of the matter is that I planted a sturdy

English Oak. I took the lid off the box of ashes [of his father] and he is now growing oak trees and would love me for it!" said Richards in a statement also adding that the interview was "lost in the usual slanting."

Bert, who had been the father of Richards, died when he was 84, back in 2002.

Richard's manager later told the NME that the remarks had been made "in jest", and should not be taken seriously.

British navy personnel back home

The fifteen British navy personnel detained by Iran landed at just gone 12:00 noon BST at Heathrow International Airport, following their release after thirteen days of captivity.

The sailors and marines were captured by Iranian border guards on March 23 in the Persian Gulf near the Shatt al Arab waterway. Iran says they were in Iranian territorial waters while the UK insists they were operating in Iraqi waters under the terms of a UN mandate.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday announced that he would free the fifteen British captured navy personnel as a "gift to the British people."

The crew are back on British soil, after landing in an area usually reserved for VIPs such as the Queen, and have arrived at a military base for de-briefing and thorough mental and physical health checks, and to meet their waiting families.

"The disagreements we have with your government we wish to

resolve peacefully through dialogue. I hope - as I've always hoped - that in the future we are able to do so."

—British Prime Minister, Tony Blair

They left Iran at approximately 8:00 a.m local time from Mehrabad International Airport located in Tehran, Iran and were flown to Royal Marines Base Chivenor by Westland Sea King helicopters just minutes after leaving the British Airways BA6634 flight that had taken them back to the United Kingdom.

At exactly 12 noon BST, Prime Minister Tony Blair made a statement outside 10 Downing Street, saying that he was "glad" that the crew had returned safely, and firmly stating that "no deal" had been made with the Iranians to secure the release. He also repeated his government's view that there were "elements of the Iranian regime" that were "financing, arming and supporting terrorism in Iraq".

Iranian state television had ran live video showing Mr Ahmadinejad smiling, chatting and shaking the hands of some of the detainees. "We are grateful for your forgiveness," one servicemen said to Mr. Ahmadinejad.

After Ahmadinejad's announcement on Wednesday that he was releasing the troops, British Prime Minister Tony Blair had told reporters that "We bear you [Iran] no ill will. On the contrary, we respect Iran as an ancient civilization, as a nation with a proud and dignified history. The disagreements we have with your government we wish to resolve peacefully through dialogue. I hope - as I've always hoped - that in the future we are able to do so."

Ray Cooper, uncle to Royal Marine Adam Sperry, said that this is "the best present imaginable. Whoever has been in the right or wrong, the whole thing has been a political mess, so let's just get them home", whilst his grandmother, Margaret Sperry, said that "I don't think I would have ever gone out of the door again if anything had happened to him."

MLB: Twins defeat Orioles 7-2, sweep series

The Minnesota Twins swept the Baltimore Orioles in a 7-2 victory at the Metrodome Wednesday. Ramón Ortiz made an impressive Twins debut, giving up only two runs in seven innings of play and picking up the win. This was the first time Minnesota has swept a series with the Orioles at home since they faced them in May 1994, and their first 3-0 start since 2003.

Baltimore pitcher Jaret Wright made his debut for the Orioles Wednesday, but he gave up six runs (four earned) and five walks in less than three innings. Oriole fielders were charged with three errors. This was the first time Baltimore has started the season 0-3 since 1995.

Twins got things started early, with Michael Cuddyer hitting in Nick Punto in both the first and third innings. Rondell White got his first hit of the season and picked up two RBIs. Luis Castillo, who hit in the Twins the winning run on Tuesday picked up two RBIs as well. In the fifth inning, Jason Kubel hit in Torii Hunter, making the score 7-0.

Baltimore attempted a rally in the sixth inning, Melvin Mora and Miguel Tejada hitting in a run each, but the pitching by Ortiz and the Twins' defense held them to only two runs.

Cuddyer left the game following the fourth inning after being hit by a bouncing foul ball in the chin. He was given five stitches and is expected to be ready to play on Friday when the team travels to Chicago to face the White Sox. Baltimore will head to New York to face the Yankees after their off day.

In the course of the game, reliever Joe Nathan became a father for a second time, his wife giving birth to his son Riley. Nathan, being allowed to miss the game, left the hospital shortly after the birth to attend the final inning. He was able to congratulate his team immediately following their win, while being congratulated himself.

NCAA Football: Grambling State legend Eddie Robinson dies

Former Grambling State head coach Eddie Robinson died Tuesday night, after a lengthy fight with Alzheimer's disease. Robinson was diagnosed with the disease in 1997, and spent the last year in a nursing home.

"Eddie Robinson was one of the giants in coaching. He was a great football coach and person who made tremendous contributions to our profession. He made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of young people. He was a great ambassador for Grambling and represented his school with pride, class and commitment"

—Joe Paterno, head coach of Pennsylvania State University

Robinson passed, not long after being admitted to Lincoln General Hospital in Ruston, La., as reported by former Grambling State quarterback and Super Bowl MVP, Doug Williams. Williams added, "He'd been fighting that battle for a long time, It was one of the many he fought in his lifetime. We all

know it's coming. But that's Eddie Robinson. Eddie Robinson is not supposed to go. But when you look back at it, there's lot of joy in it too. I don't think none of us have to worry about where he's going to be from now on. He is a gate keeper."

The following is a statement from Ms. Doris Robinson, wife of Eddie Robinson: "The many expressions of support, sympathy, and gratitude that we have received from all over the country have been overwhelming. I truly appreciate each and every person, so many of whom we have never met, who has said such kind and inspiring words about Eddie, his legacy, and our family. Our love and admiration for Eddie were unyielding, as was Eddie's for his immediate family and his extended Grambling family. Eddie was the consummate husband, father, teacher, leader, role model, and, most of all, the greatest of Americans. Words cannot express the loneliness that I will feel without my beloved Eddie. However, I realize, and the immediate family realizes, the greatness that Eddie contributed to our society. He will forever fill our hearts, minds, and souls."

Robinson's career highlights included 57 years as head coach at Grambling State University, 408 victories, 45 winning seasons, 17 Southwestern Conference Championships, and over 200 players sent into the NFL. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, April 11, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Center on the campus of Grambling State University (across from Robinson Stadium). Internment will be at Memorial Gardens in Grambling, La.

Retired hockey enforcer Tie Domi to sue coach of son's team

Through a press release, by Tie Domi's lawyer Tuesday evening, it was revealed that Domi may initiate legal action against Lee Miller, coach of the Toronto Marlboros peewee AAA hockey club.

Domi, who retired from the Toronto Maple Leafs in 2006, was known as an enforcer and fighter during his playing days. Domi accrued the most penalty minutes of any player in the history of the Leafs and is ranked third overall for penalty minutes in the National Hockey League (NHL).

On Friday, March 30, Domi was involved in a verbal confrontation with coach Miller over differences of opinion on coaching styles and, allegedly, the amount of ice time Domi's son was receiving. Domi's 11-year-old son, Max, plays for the Marlboros.

According to a Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL) media release yesterday, Domi had confronted Miller using, allegedly, foul and profane language. Toronto Police were called to the rink to deal with the situation, but no charges were laid.

On Monday, April 2, the GTHL received a formal complaint from Miller outlining his version of events. A review by the league is expected to finish up by April 18.

According to Symon Zucker, Domi's counsel, the suggestion that an assault, or threat of assault, by Domi had occurred during the altercation with Miller, was without merit. Although Zucker admitted that Domi and Miller did have a disagreement over Miller's coaching skills, he suggested the discussion did not escalate to threats. Zucker

alleged that the police investigation, which cleared Domi of the allegations, left Miller dissatisfied and that Miller "decided to report his allegations to the media with the intent of embarrassing Mr. Domi."

Zucker indicated that Domi instructed him to put "Miller on notice of an intention to seek damages for libel and slander," according to the press release. "Mr. Miller's public campaign to discredit Mr. Domi is actionable and will be strenuously defended," said Zucker.

Prosecutors file charges in the 2005 London bombings

Prosecutors in the United Kingdom filed charges against Mohammed Shakil, 30, Waheed Ali, 23, and Sadeer Saleem, 26. Each were charged with conspiracy to cause explosions on transport or at tourist attractions, related to the July 7, 2005 London bombings. Authorities said they are still searching for additional suspects.

The July 7, 2005 London bombings killed 56 (including the four suicide bombers) and injured more than 700.

US helicopter crashes in southern Iraq

A US UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed after coming under fire near Latifiya, Iraq. The US military confirmed that the helicopter was shot down. All nine aboard survived but four had been injured.

Witnesses reported a hard landing and gunfire afterwards, but no explosion. The US has lost at least fifty military helicopters in Iraq, nine of those since the beginning of this year.

Relics believed to have belonged to Joan of Arc, found to be fake

Scientists who studied relics that

were thought to have belonged to the saint Joan of Arc and were said to have been found at a pharmacy in Paris, France, have turned out to be forgeries. Tests show that the items are actually the remains of a mummy from Egypt.

The relics were originally authenticated by the Roman Catholic Church and are now in a museum in Chinon, France.

Today in History

1652 - Dutch sailor Jan van Riebeeck established the first permanent European settlement in sub-Saharan Africa on what eventually became known as Cape Town.

1782 - Rama I succeeded King Taksin of Thailand, founding the Chakri Dynasty.

1830 - Joseph Smith, Jr., Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer and others formally organized the Church of Christ, starting the Latter Day Saint movement.

1896 - The first modern Olympic Games opened in Athens.

April 06 is Holy and Great Friday in Eastern Christianity and Good Friday in Western Christianity (2007); Tartan Day

Quote of the Day

I am less concerned with expressing the motions of the soul and mind than to render visible, so to speak, the inner flashes of intuition which have something divine in their apparent insignificance and reveal magic, even divine horizons, when they are transposed into the marvellous effects of pure plastic art.
~ Gustave Moreau

Word of the Day

jettison; v

1. To eject from a watercraft or aircraft in order to lighten the load.
2. To discard as useless or

defective.

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