



Top Stories

Violence in Uganda over forest clearing proposal

Four people are reported killed in Kampala, Uganda, amidst protest marches organised against a government proposal to cut down 7,000 hectares of forest land to set up a private company's sugarcane plantations.



Liberal Party of Canada makes deal with Green Party leader

The Liberal Party of Canada, and the Green Party of Canada have decided not to run a candidate in the riding where the other party's leader is running.



Featured story

Jimbo Wales to create 'code of conduct' for bloggers and the Wikimedia Foundation

Jimbo Wales, the founder of Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Foundation, is teaming up with book publisher Tim O'Reilly to create a "code of conduct" for bloggers and the Wikimedia Foundation.



Wikipedia Current Events

- Google reaches a deal with DoubleClick to buy the company for \$3.1 billion.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The Al Qaeda-linked Islamic State of Iraq claims responsibility for yesterday's bombing of the National Assembly of Iraq.
- A police report shows that New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine was not wearing a seatbelt during the hit and run car accident that injured him yesterday.
- Ja'afar Adam, a prominent Islamic cleric, is shot dead inside a mosque in Kano, Nigeria.
- Thousands of people protest in Islamabad in support of the suspended Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.
- The Prime Minister of Fiji Frank Bainimarama sends in troops to close down the headquarters of Fiji's Great Council of Chiefs.
- A 6.3 magnitude earthquake hits Mexico just north of Acapulco knocking out power to parts of Mexico City.
- The Australian Government announces plans to outlaw material such as films and books that advocate terrorism.

Liberal Party of Canada makes deal with Green Party leader

After non-elected Green Party leader Elizabeth May announced her plans for running against Conservative MP Peter MacKay in his riding of Central Nova in the next federal election, the Liberal Party of Canada have decided to not have a candidate in the riding. The Greens have also decided in

return to not run a Green candidate against Liberal leader Stéphane Dion in his riding of Saint-Laurent—Cartierville in Quebec.

Both Stéphane Dion and Elizabeth May held a joint news conference today in Central Nova to talk about their plans.

The riding has a long history of Conservative MPs which finds it a tough race to fight for May with the Liberals backing her.

The decision earned some criticism from NDP leader Jack Layton. "It's incredible that this matter of such importance is being decided by two leaders in secret," Jack Layton said. "That's not what democracy is about. It is the citizens that ought to make choices about who is going to be representing them..."I'm surprised to see Ms. May support the member of Parliament [Stéphane Dion] who was at the Liberal cabinet table during the decade that greenhouse gases went up by more than 30 per cent."

Stéphane Dion held the Minister of Environment portfolio under former Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin. At the end of his Liberal leadership campaign he changed his campaign colour to green to represent his interest for environmental issues in Canada. May is an environmentalist and is largely noted as founder of the Sierra Club of Canada.

The Green Party of Canada has never had an elected MP. If May wins the riding in the next federal election, she would be the first one

ever.

2007 Cricket World Cup: Australia vs Ireland

Australia beat Ireland by 9 wickets in the Super 8 phase in the World Cup at the Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Australia are now assured of a place in the semi-finals of the World Cup, the first team to achieve as such in this year's competition, having bowled Ireland out in just 3 hours, and swiftly hit the 92 required in under an hour: finishing the match before the lunch break.

The out of form Mike Hussey was pushed up the order in place of Matthew Hayden to get some time at the crease, and posted his highest score of the World Cup with 30*.

Toss: Australia won, and elected to field first.

MLB: Travis Hafner wins it for Indians

The Cleveland Indians pulled off a stunning win late in the game at Miller Park in Milwaukee, Thursday, defeating the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Travis Hafner, in the bottom of the eighth, hit a three run homer to erase the one score lead of the Angels. Orlando Cabrera was the only angel for the Angels as he had three hits on four at bats with two runs scored.

Pitching for Cleveland was pretty solid as Jeremy Sowers pitched seven innings, with one run on six hits with 27 at bats, one error, and three strikeouts. No home runs were give up by any of the four pitchers(Jeremy Sowers, Roberto Hernandez, Aaron Fultz and Joe Borowski) for Cleveland.

The same couldn't be said for the

Angels pitchers squad, though. Dustin Moseley started for the LA Angels pitching six innings, allowing one run on five hits with 24 at bats, one error, three strikeouts, and one home run given up. It was not Dustin Moseley who gave up the game winning three run homer, but Scot Shields, the relief pitcher who let the game slide.

Aaron Fultz was the winning pitcher for the game, his second win of the young season. Scot Shields was saddled with his first loss of the season. The save was credited to closer Joe Borowski.

The game was played in Milwaukee due to the snow storm in Cleveland the previous weekend.

Cleveland's next game will be a home game (this time in Cleveland) against the Chicago White Sox at 7:05 tonight, the first of a three game series. As the Angels well face the Boston Red Sox at 4:05 tonight, the first of a four game series.

Football: Cristiano Ronaldo extends stay at United

Cristiano Ronaldo has signed a new five-year deal with Manchester United. He will now stay in the club until at least 2012.

Spanish clubs FC Barcelona and Real Madrid have been showing interest in the Portuguese midfielder for months, and the deal is sure to quiet transfer rumours for the time being.

Sir Alex Ferguson said to Manchester United's website that it is fantastic news. He also said that Ronaldo has a good relationship with the club, the staff and the fans.

Ronaldo says that he is happy in

club and he wants to win more trophies with them.

Christiano has scored twenty goals for United so far this season, and has added five for Portugal in Euro 2008 qualifiers. He is a candidate for the PFA and the Ballon d'Or (European Footballer of the Year), and is hoping to lead United to three trophies this season.

Nintendo releases final version of Opera internet browser for Wii



Wii with earlier version of Opera browser.

Nintendo of America Inc. (Nintendo) announced on Thursday the release of a full version of the Wii gaming

system's Internet Channel. Powered by a customized Opera Internet browser, the service will allow gamers with high-speed connections to surf the Internet on their television.

According to the Nintendo news release, the Channel's final version is available as a free download until June 30, after which it will cost 500 Wii Points, or approximately five US dollars. Once downloaded, the Internet Channel would be free for the lifetime of the system.

The Opera browser had been available in a beta format with limitations on the functionality. The final version boasts improvements such as a manual zoom, improved scrolling, as well as collapsible toolbars and multiple on-screen cursors. In addition, users are given the choice of presetting either Google or Yahoo! as a search engine to power the built-in search button.

Some enthusiasts have complained that using the Wii's controllers rather than a keyboard to enter text, can be awkward. "Opening the address bar does not open it with the current URL. That would have been nice." wrote Slashdot member LBT1st. "It would also be nice if it would make plain text URL's into links. Manual entry is hell without a keyboard."

Others lamented the lack of availability of the Wii system in stores and were concerned that the free download offer might expire before being able to obtain a system. "Great! Now all I need is a Wii! Still searching for one in Toronto," complained Slashdot member, CokeBear.

The full version of the Internet Channel, with the Opera browser, is available for download in North America only, at this stage.

New Jersey Governor hospitalized after car crash



*New Jersey Governor
Jon S. Corzine*

The Governor of New Jersey Jon S. Corzine was hospitalized Thursday after the vehicle he was riding in crashed into a guardrail on Garden State Parkway. The Governor was on his way to the meeting between the Rutgers University basketball team and radio personality Don Imus.

Corzine was riding in the front passenger seat when a red pickup truck drifted onto the shoulder. As the truck corrected itself, a white pickup swerved to avoid it, hitting the motorcade SUV he was riding. Corzine suffered six broken ribs, a broken collarbone, broken sternum,

fracture of his lower vertebrae, a broken leg, and a head gash. He is in stable condition following surgery at Cooper University Hospital, but will require more surgery to repair a broken femur that broke through the skin. The trooper driving the vehicle suffered minor injuries.

Senate President Richard Codey will serve as governor while Corzine is in the hospital. An aide to Corzine said he was not wearing a seat belt.

Television New Zealand announces job losses; news worst hit



*TVNZ's headquarters in
Auckland, New Zealand.
Photograph by Gabriel
Pollard.*

New Zealand's state-owned broadcaster, TVNZ (Television New Zealand) announced yesterday its proposed redundancy

cuts that will see jobs go from various sectors, the most going from their news and current affairs sector.

At least 140 people will be told that they will be set to lose their job in the next six months, at least 50 of those are from the news sector.

Seven general reporting journalists will be leaving, which only leaves six left from the Auckland newsroom. Two sports reporting journalists will also be leaving from the Auckland newsroom, leaving six. Accredited parliament reporters also look to face redundancy cuts, as well as reporters from the Christchurch newsroom. As well as people losing their jobs, the Queenstown, Wanganui and Rotorua newsrooms will be closed, as well as the news reference library, and the current affairs

show, Sunday looks set to close its Wellington office. Head of journalism at the University of Canterbury, Jim Tully says that the closing of the Queenstown newsroom is a big mistake. Current affairs show, Close Up will also lose two journalists and a Christchurch producer, but will gain a producer in Auckland. Fair Go, consumer affairs show, will lose three senior producers. Breakfast will lose a weather and sports presenter, and a producer.

The final decision of the exact numbers will be disclosed in the next few weeks, following consultation with the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union, which represents, altogether, 5,000 employees.

Some of the job losses include experienced journalists, and Bill Ralston, former head of news and current affairs for TVNZ, said that they will be replaced by cheaper, inexperienced journalists. "If you do that your audience will reduce even further . . . this move makes no commercial sense whatsoever," he said.

The Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union has described the job losses as an attack on democracy, and have launched a campaign titled, 'Our Media' to bring these issues to light. The National Secretary, Andrew Little has said that an essential function of communities is good quality regional news reporting, which will be reduced because of the job cuts.

Steve Maharey, broadcasting minister, has refused to comment regarding TVNZ.

Mr Ralston has said that this move will destroy TVNZ's 30-year reputation being "...a good quality public broadcaster who gives you a

news and current affairs service that you can believe and trust."

He also questioned why they were cutting the news sector heavily when there are other sectors that are unnecessary, such as human resources. "Last time I looked at TVNZ it had 25 people in its human resources division – TV3 has none." One TVNZ staff member has said that the job cuts were run by the human resources decision, and that they are very "anti-journalist".

TVNZ plan to launch a new continuous news channel next year on New Zealand's new digital platform, FreeView.

The New Zealand Herald is currently also looking at reducing staff numbers by outsourcing their sub-editors/copy editors.

Research In Motion financial probe becomes formal investigation

On Wednesday, Canadian BlackBerry maker Research In



RIM BlackBerry 8700c handset

Motion Limited (RIM), reported preliminary fourth quarter and year-end financial results. Despite record profits, up from US\$18 million in the same quarter last year to \$188 million for the

current quarter, the news was dampened by the revelation that the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had formalized its investigation into RIM's accounting practices.

An internal review by RIM, initiated eight months ago, revealed irregularities with how the company accounted for stock options. On March 5 of 2007, RIM co-chief

executive and chairman, Jim Balsillie, resigned his position of chairman, due to the irregularities.

RIM had indicated, until recently, that the SEC probe into the company's stock option granting practices was an informal inquiry. In a press release April 11, RIM suggested that "the informal inquiry has been converted to a formal investigation."

In its press release, RIM indicated it would restate financials for the second and third quarters of fiscal 2007, and the fiscal year ended March 3, 2007 only. Through its internal probe, RIM had determined that the accounting irregularities for recently filed Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) statements would not result in a material adjustment. It would not, therefore, restate Canadian GAAP financial statements, filed previously.

Aside from the record profits just reported, RIM indicated that it had shipped approximately 6.4 million BlackBerry devices in fiscal 2007 and that 1.02 million subscriber accounts were added in the fourth quarter. At the end of the quarter, the total BlackBerry subscriber account base had increased to 8 million.

On the news of the formal SEC inquiry, RIM's stock price was down over 8%, Thursday, on the NASDAQ.

XP expunged from 2008



Microsoft has confirmed plans to discontinue sales of Windows XP from Jan 31st 2008, it has been revealed. This is despite limited customer uptake of the new Windows Vista operating system.

A spokesperson for Microsoft, Robert Epstien however reassured customers that support for XP is not ending yet though, BBC news quotes him as saying, "This is purely about availability of brand new licenses for brand new machines, We'll continue to support XP for some considerable time."

NO to HIV migrants- says Australian PM

HIV positive migrants or refugees should be blocked from entering Australia according to statements made by Australian Prime Minister Howard.



In a radio interview in Melbourne, Mr. Howard was apparently quoted as stating, "My initial reaction is no," he said. "There may be some humanitarian considerations that could temper that in certain cases, but, prime facie - no," Howard said in relation to the issue.

An angry reaction has come from charities involved with AIDS. Dr. Chris Lemoh, a specialist in infectious disease was quoted as as saying, "a hysterical overreaction, it mixes racism with a phobia about infectious disease"

Action needed to revive Science in UK

A report prepared for the UK Council of Industry and Higher Education, has stated that action is needed to halt the declining number of students opting for maths and science subjects.

Amongst the reports many recommendations, it has been suggested that A-Level students could be paid for passing exams in Maths and Science subjects. "'Pay students' to revive science".

BBC News, Friday, 13 April 2007

'Gagged' MEP's speak out against Singapore

A group of European Parliament members (MEPs) has criticised Singapore from preventing them speaking at a forum on democracy.

Graham Watson a member of the group denied permission is quoted as saying. "I fear that, in this sense at least, it puts Singapore in a league with North Korea, Myanmar and the People's Republic of China."

Ignasi Guardans, another member of the group, added, "What has happened today proves that Singapore is an authoritarian state."

Visa Transactions experience 'technical' issue

Owing to technical issues, some European Visa customers may have had transactions declined due to a technical problem

Visa spokesperson Simon Kleine was quoted (BBC News) as saying, "We are currently experiencing some technical problems in our card transaction processing. In some cases this is resulting in card transactions being declined."

However Kleine was quick to reassure customers that "immediate action is being taken to overcome this problem and we hope to have a full service resumed as soon as possible."

Today in History

1865 - John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln with a Deringer pistol at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

1931 - King Alfonso XIII left Spain. The Second Spanish Republic was proclaimed by a provisional government led by Niceto Alcalá-Zamora.

1956 - The use of the 2" Quadruplex videotape was first demonstrated in public.

1970 - An oxygen tank aboard Apollo 13 exploded, causing the NASA spacecraft to lose most of its oxygen and electrical power.

1978 - Thousands of Georgians demonstrated in Tbilisi against an attempt by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR to change the constitutional status of the Georgian language.

April 14 is Pohela Baishakh in Bengal, N'Ko Alphabet Day in West Africa.

Quote of the Day

All moments, past, present and future, always have existed, always will exist... It is just an illusion we have here on Earth that one moment follows another one, like beads on a string, and that once a moment is gone it is gone forever...

Now, when I myself hear that somebody is dead, I simply shrug and say what the Tralfamadorians say about dead people, which is "So it goes." ~ Kurt Vonnegut

Word of the Day

fey; adj

1. Magical or fairylike.
2. Doomed to die.

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