



Top Stories

Saddam Hussein sentenced to death for Dujail killings

A special tribunal has sentenced deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, his chief of the secret police and a former judge to death by hanging over the 1982 killings of 148 villagers in Dujail. Four others, including former Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan were sentenced to prison terms.

Taiwan president speaks to defend himself from corruption charges

Taiwan's president Chen Shui-bian has said that he had not made any money illegally and apologized for a corruption scandal involving him and the first lady, Wu Shu-chen. He added that he would resign from the post if his wife is convicted of the charges filed against her.

Featured story

401st Guy Fawkes celebrated in parts of the Commonwealth

Today, November 5, is Guy Fawkes Night. On this day, 401 years ago there was an attempt to blow up the British parliament. Since that time, Guy Fawkes day is celebrated by bonfires, fireworks and the parading of effigies called "guys".

Wikipedia Current Events

•Heavy fighting has been reported between forces of Union of Islamic Courts and Puntland, the semi-autonomous region of

Wikipedia Current Events

Somalia.

•Felipe Pérez Roque, the Foreign Minister of Cuba, backs away from earlier predictions that Fidel Castro would return as the President of Cuba by December raising concerns about the progress of Castro's recovery from intestinal surgery.

•The Iraqi government prepares a law that may see former Baath Party supporters restored to their former jobs.

•Tony Blair opposes the death penalty for Saddam Hussein but says the trial had reminded the world of Hussein's brutality.

•Bombs explode at Mexico's Federal Electoral Tribunal, an opposition party's headquarters and a bank in the capital.

•Operation Autumn Clouds: A female Palestinian suicide bomber has blown herself up in a Gaza Strip town, killing herself and injuring an Israeli soldier, the Israeli army says.

•The Polish President, Lech Kaczynski, proposes that there be a 100,000 man-strong EU Army designed to work with NATO.

•Ariel Sharon is moved out of the intensive care unit at the Sheba Medical Center.

•Daniel Ortega has an early lead over Eduardo Montealegre, according to partial results from the general elections in Nicaragua.

•The United Nations Climate

Wikipedia Current Events

Change Conference (COP-12) opens in Nairobi, Kenya.

Air America radio files for bankruptcy, allegedly due to advertiser blackout

Air America Radio filed for bankruptcy on October 13th, with close to \$20 million in liabilities.

A recent memo from ABC has suggested that Air America's financial problems are partially the result of the loss of revenue from 90 corporate advertisers who requested their ads not be run on stations who carry Air America.

It is common for U.S. advertisers to avoid the time slots of controversial shows, such as Rush Limbaugh. However, the practice of blacking out the entire affiliated station is relatively unusual, raising the question of whether the move was politically motivated to favor right wing syndicated news programming over the liberal leanings of Air America reports.

In a news report published by The Huffington Post, author Josh Silver claims that the difference is not political per se, as several of the companies that withdrew advertising support were companies that made major contributions to the Democratic parties. Instead, he suggests the difference is that Air America journalism occasionally focuses on corporate malfeasance.

Other political programming, such

as Rush Limbaugh or the Daily Show, rarely cover corporate behavior.

The bankruptcy filing by Air America underscores the dilemma faced by news media outlets that depend on advertising revenues from business and government to survive. The exact reasons for the blackballing of Air America are unclear, but if unflattering editorial programming can be held hostage to protect the interests of a news organization's sponsors, chances for a vibrant press are reduced.

Air America Radio was known best for its flagship program, *Al Franken* show. Franken himself is owed \$360,750 by Air America.

Hackers try to use German Wikipedia to spread links to malicious code

The German version of the encyclopedia Wikipedia, has been used in an attempt to spread a "malicious code" which would unleash a virus on to personal computers worldwide.

The page titled: "W32.Blaster" was edited in a way where a link was placed in the article directing users to a site where an alleged fix for the Lovesan/MS Blaster worm, but the fix turned out to be false and the file was considered "malicious." Computers that were target would receive e-mails from what appeared to be the Wikipedia.org website telling them to download the fix and including a link to it.

"The good news is that the authorities at Wikipedia quickly identified and edited the article on their site," said senior technology consultant at Sophos anti-virus, Graham Cluley.

Although the edit has since been

reverted or removed, until recently the edit remained in and archived version of the page, but had later been removed.

"A version of the page remained in the archive, allowing the hackers to send out spam and continue to direct visitors to the malicious code," added Cluley.

It is not known how many computers have been affected by the worm, if any at all. It is also not known when the edit was made and how long it was active on the site before it was deleted. However it appears that it was deleted on October 31, as the page was partially deleted on that day twice, according to log files.

Prachanda and Koirala resume Nepal peace talks

The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) chairman Prachanda and Nepal Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala have resumed the fifth round of peace talks in today evening after the meeting held on Sunday in the presence of UN Secretary General's representative Ian Martin. The aim of the peace talk was to settle the issue of arms management.

The meeting was held at Baluwatar in Nepal to finalise the political package prepared by the ruling seven-party alliance (SPA) and CPN (Maoist). They tried to narrow down the differences to reach the final conclusion on all the issues.

Prachanda held a meeting with Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) General Secretary, Madhav Kumar Nepal, and leader of the United Leftist Front, Prabhu Narayan Chaudhari, to discuss the political package in the morning before the talks.

The submit meeting was adjourned

after six and half hours long talk. It is likely to resume in Tuesday morning.

Prachanda said that he will make his first public address in twenty five year in a mass meeting in Kathmandu on this Friday.

Pranab and Oli discuss Nepal peace talks

The Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has talked with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal K P Sharma Oli to discuss the status of ongoing peace talks with the Maoist rebels.

Oli met Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pranab Mukherjee during his visit in New Delhi. Oli discussed the the situation of the peace negotiations between the Nepal government and Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). He provided them an overview about the efforts being made by government to persuade the Maoists to quit the arms.

During an-hour long talk between Mukherjee and Oli, they reviewed the implementation of the economic package announced after Koirala's visit to India in June. They also discussed about the key infrastructure projects in Nepal, like, export of power from India to Nepal and construction of transmission lines.

The talk was important as Maoist and Nepal government are trying to resolve the issue. Maoist chief Prachanda met Nepal Prime Minister G P Koirala in the presence of United Nations Secretary General's special representative Ian Martin on Sunday. During the meeting they tried to sort out most of the issues regarding crucial arm management issue and agreed to hold fresh talk

on Monday.

Historic Florida attraction, Gatorland, partly destroyed by fire

Gatorland, an Orlando, Florida, tourist attraction known for its gator wrestling shows and its conservation programs for alligators, crocodiles and other reptiles and birds, was heavily damaged by fire on Monday morning, November 6, 2006.

The four-alarm fire was reported at 5:55am EST. The entrance building, which contains the administration offices and the gift shop, was destroyed. The only thing left standing of it was its iconic gator head front gate, whose upper jaw was almost completely charred.

At least four animals--two gators and two snakes, which were being kept near the gift shop--were feared dead. No humans were hurt. The other gators in the public display took refuge in the central pools, and were okay. The birds were in the aviary in the back, and were in no danger.

None of the attraction venues beyond the gift shop, however, were damaged. Gatorland hopes to reopen for tourists in a week, using a temporary entrance.

Orange County Fire Rescue is investigating the cause of the fire.

Canadian PM and Quebec premier announce plans for highway development in Montreal

The PM and Quebec premier Jean Charest have announced a \$1 billion highway development in Montreal. This project would be one of Canada's largest ever public private partnerships. It will be a 35 kilometer (21.8 mile) four-lane toll

road Highway 30 project, in Montreal.

"It opens up a new horizon in Quebec's economic development," Stephen Harper said in a speech in Lery, Quebec. "As prime minister of Canada I am very proud and welcome this latest example of the fruitful collaboration between our government and that of Quebec."

"Since we formed the government of Canada, I have wanted to practice an open federalism, inspired by the spirit which gave birth to the Canadian confederation," said Harper. "That includes respecting provincial jurisdictions and the sharing of responsibilities."

"You know that open federalism is not a constitutional theory or an electoral slogan," the prime minister added. "It's a new approach that allows partners in the Canadian federation to work better together in the realization of projects."

Completing the highway will allow through traffic to bypass Montreal, reducing traffic congestion and air pollution in the area.

"The announcement today speaks to the willingness of both governments to work together to better serve the interests of the population," said Charest, who is expected to head into an election next year.

Bank of Canada Governor David Dodge and other public officials have endorsed agreements between governments and private companies to invest in roads and hospitals.

Taiwan president speaks to defend himself from corruption charges

Taiwan's president Chen Shui-bian has said that he had not made any money illegally and apologized for a corruption scandal involving him and the first lady, Wu Shu-chen. Speaking in an hour-long televised speech on Sunday night, he added that he would resign from the post if his wife is convicted of the charges filed against her.

President Chen's wife and three ex-aides were indicted on embezzlement, forgery and perjury charges on Friday. They were accused of skimming 14.8 million New Taiwan dollars (US\$450,000) in corruption scandal in June, 2002.

President added that he and his wife are innocent and they did not take any money in the scam. He refused to resign from the post.

Taiwan's main opposition party, the Kuomintang has launched a third bid to remove Chen from the post of president. Party spokesman Tsai Chin-lung said that the party would formally propose the recall motion as they had sufficient evidence to charge Chen with graft.

Palestinian teenager killed in Israeli airstrike

A Palestinian teenager was killed and seven others, including six children, injured in an Israeli airstrike near a school in the town of Beit Lahiya, according to Dr Muawiya Hassanin, a local emergency services official.

Israeli military officials claimed that the strike targeted militants who were retrieving a device used to fire missiles.

Israel's incursions into northern

Gaza, which it says are aimed at curbing rocket attacks by Palestinian militants, have killed over 50 people over the last six days.

Friday saw 17 killings, including the gunning down of two women outside a mosque in Beit Hanoun. At least seven people, including a 12-year-old girl were killed by Israeli action on Saturday, and three others yesterday.

The Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert denied that his country was planning to re-occupy Gaza, and said that the offensive is aimed at stopping rockets from being fired into Israel by Hamas militants.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has termed the incidents "massacres" and has called for the UN Security Council to discuss the issue.

Israeli occupation troops have regularly made incursions into Gaza following the capture of Gilad Shalit in June this year.

Supreme Court orders resumption of sealing drive in New Delhi

The Indian Supreme Court has refused to grant any relief to the owners of unauthorised commercial establishments in New Delhi. A two judge bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Y K Sabharwal, said today that it found no grounds for modifying its previous order to seal commercial establishments violating zoning regulations.

The Group of ministers had previously decided not to resume the sealing drive. The Delhi state government and the central government had filed an application to review the order on November 3, 2006 because of fear

of violence in the city if the sealing would be resumed. But Supreme Court denied their request and ordered to resume the sealing drive.

The apex court added that the government is not powerless to control the situation. According to article 141 and 144 of the constitution, authorities should follow the court's order.

The court ordered the MCD to use police force, if required, to carry out the process. The MCD has decided to meet in the afternoon to discuss the consequences of the Supreme Court verdict.

On the other hand, traders are very unhappy with the court order. Praveen Khandelwal, Secretary General of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), said that the traders were expecting the apex court to take a humanitarian decision. He added that if the sealing drive is not stopped traders would start a non-cooperation movement, a nationwide strike against the government.

First female governor in Nigeria sworn in amid misconduct controversy

Former deputy governor Virginia Etiaba was sworn in as the Governor of Anambra, a state in south-central Nigeria, making her the first female governor in the country's history. Her instatement comes as the previous governor, Peter Obi, was impeached by the state legislature for alleged gross misconduct.

Etiaba initially refused the position, saying that the impeached man was still the governor and her boss. However, she later accepted the position due to what she called the "peculiarity of the situation". Both the 64-year-old Etiaba and

45-year-old Obi have been in office since March 2006 after the previous governor's election was overturned by a court.

The new governor may not last in her job, however. While Obi does not contest the legality of Etiaba's swearing in, he intends to contend the impeachment in court. Additionally, the ongoing impeachment proceedings may yet cause Etiaba herself to be removed from office if she is indicted for the same misconduct as her former boss.

Etiaba was also criticized by a number of local religious and community leaders, who put out a statement condemning both the original impeachment of Obi as well as the promotion of Etiaba. The statement reads in part: *We are shocked at the alleged summersault of the Deputy Governor of Anambra State, Dame Virgy Etiaba who we had commended for keeping faith with the people when she rejected the offer to replace her boss and sincerely hope that she was not coerced into accepting to be sworn in as the Governor of Anambra State against her peoples wish.*

Etiaba is expected at the impeachment hearing today.

Liberal Leadership Candidate Bob Rae warns about reopening Constitution

Michael Ignatieff wants to reopen the Constitution to have a debate about Quebec as a nation within Canada. It is to be debated at the convention two days before the new leader is chosen.

Bob Rae, current Liberal leadership candidate, warned about reopening the Constitution.

According to Ignatieff's website it

says that Rae "supported the notion that Quebec is a nation," and "we can be both a Quebecker and a Canadian."

"I'm not somebody who is going to set this country on a constitutional adventure, whose consequences and whose outcome I'm not certain of," Rae said. "For me, what's important is to stay open to Quebec, but we will not reopen the Constitution," he said yesterday at an Ottawa book signing for his new book, *Canada In The Balance*.

The other seven leadership contenders have expressed their feelings on this issue saying that they have some discomfort with it.

Former Liberal PM Jean Chrétien, repeatedly said in the past that Canada was working well and most people did not care about changing the Constitution.

"They say that when you have a nation, there must be a corresponding state to this nation. That is the equation they make," said Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Benoît Pelletier. "They have the impression that each state must correspond to a single nation. That is false. States can be made up of a plurality of nations. The sovereigntists make the same mistake."

"You should not raise expectations that cannot be met and we should not be engaging in an abstract debate in this country at this point in time. We should be focusing our attention on issues that really matter to people," says Rae.

Ignatieff will outline his ideas for Quebec being a nation within Canada at the convention two days before the new leader will be picked in Montreal, December 3.

Record amount of fires during New Zealand Guy Fawkes

There were a record amount of fire calls during Guy Fawkes night, the festivities had emergency services stretched to the limit, a spokesman for the NZ Fire service said that it was "like driving through a war zone." Despite this, no major structure fires were reported.

Preliminary numbers show that the amount of minor fires reported amounted to 1,729 between the period of October 27 and November 5. For the same period last year, 2005, there was only 1,632. Last years numbers were also record setting at the time. Over the Guy Fawkes weekend, November 4 - November 5, there were 784 reports of fires. The actual numbers will be released soon, as the false alarms and multiple reports are separated out. A safety campaign by the NZ Fire brigade advising the public to call 111 on the suspicion of any fire is expected to have increased the number of calls per incident. Discussions on the NZ volunteer firefighter's mailing list suggest that the majority of bad behaviour occurred in urban areas.

The New Zealand police had to report to 423 reports of disorder in the top half on the North Island alone and in just seven hours. There was a fight which involved 40 people, in Whitianga, police were called to break up that fight and were also called to stop youths from getting fireworks from a shop. But in Tauranga, police were called to a fight party of 200 youths at 1.00 a.m. In Mount Albert, Auckland, police were forced to retreat and wait for reinforcements during an incident.

In Wellington, New Zealand, the police had to make 39 arrests,

including assaults, disorderly behaviors and liquor ban breaches. The police said it was as bad a New Year's Eve. "It was as busy as New Year's Eve. It was one of the busiest nights we have had this year," Sergeant Maggie Windle said, "Alcohol was a big factor in a lot of the arrests and a lot of the offending. We were dealing with the bulk of this mass disorder."

Remarkably, the St John's Ambulance Service reported only one serious firework related injury; a stabbing following an incident involving fireworks.

Mike Hall, chief executive/national commander of the New Zealand Fire Service, said: "The unfortunate result vindicates his call for a retail ban on fireworks, made last month. Despite warnings and a safety campaign, and even with parts of the country being much wetter than they were last year, firefighters were still called out more times than ever. That means that firefighters cannot respond as quickly as they would like to genuine emergencies, and thousands of volunteers across the country are needlessly called away from work and family commitments."

The Government had previously warned the public that a ban on the public sale of fireworks would be enacted if behaviour was deemed unacceptable over the Guy Fawkes season.

Opinion polls indicate that the public is divided 50:50 over permitting the sale of fireworks, or wanting to see fireworks restricted to public displays or licenced operators. Mr. Hall said "the public are also sick of the danger to themselves, property and pets posed by misuse of fireworks, not to mention the late-night noise

and mess associated with people letting off fireworks indiscriminately. The lack of a major fireworks-related fire or fatality at the weekend was pure luck."

Allegedly Dunedin students were burning furniture in the streets.

Marian Hobbs, Member of Parliament, said that she has put in a bill to stop fireworks to be used by the public: "I'm not saying ban fireworks. I'm not a killjoy. But it does give us powers to stop what is dangerous, time-consuming and expensive. We have to make a start and put our foot down on this."

Ipsos Reid: Poll shows more Canadians oppose Afghan mission

Support for Canada's Afghan mission is declining over the course of the last month according to a new Ipsos Reid opinion poll conducted for CanWest News Service and Global Television.

When citizens were asked if they would support the mission until 2009, 58 per cent of Canadians said "no" and 39 per cent said they "strongly oppose" the mission. When asked if they supported the mission, 41 per cent of Canadians said "yes".

44 per cent of Canadians say they support the "use of Canadian troops for security and combat efforts against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan."

Opposition is highest in Quebec with 73 per cent of the population, followed by Atlantic Canada at 61 per cent, Alberta supports the mission, while Ontario is split right down the middle.

"There's no good news on

Afghanistan, that's the thing," said Ipsos Reid senior vice president Darrell Bricker. "The only thing we hear out of Afghanistan is about what Canadian got injured or killed today. There's no sense of progress."

While in Canada for a visit to Ottawa and Montreal from September 21 to 23, Afghan President Hamid Karzai thanked Canada for its contribution. "They have sacrificed so that we in Afghanistan may have security and they have sacrificed to ensure the continued safety of their fellow Canadians from terrorism," said Karzai in his address to the Canadian Parliament in September.

People between the ages of 18 and 34 are the most likely to oppose the mission, according to Ipsos Reid.

So far, Thirty-nine Canadian soldiers have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

Jordan's King Abdullah meets survivors of Beslan school siege

On November 5, 2006, King Abdullah II of Jordan met with 90 survivors of the Beslan school hostage crisis during thier week long vacation in Jordan, organised at the King's expense.

The King watched the students perform traditional dances and and reviewed artworks that they had created celebrating the theme of cross-cultural communication and understanding. The event took place at the King's Academy, in Madaba, Jordan.

People rally worldwide for action against climate change

Large rallies were held in cities around the globe yesterday, to call on governments to take greater

action against climate change.

The internationally-coordinated actions, dubbed 'Walk Against Warming', aimed to raise awareness of the urgent need for something to be done about human-caused climate change, said organisers.

The protests were timed to precede the international talks about climate change that are to be held in Kenya, starting next week.

In London (UK), 22,000 protesters gathered in Trafalgar Square, while in Sydney (Australia) there were 50,000.

Today in History

1665 - The London Gazette, the oldest surviving English newspaper, was first published.

1885 - Construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the first transcontinental railroad across Canada, concluded with Sir Donald Smith driving in the "last spike" in Craigellachie, British Columbia.

1917 - Vladimir Lenin led a Bolshevik coup d'état against the Provisional Government of Alexander Kerensky, starting the October Revolution in Russia.

1987 - Zine El Abidine Ben Ali deposed Habib Bourguiba to become President of Tunisia.

1996 - NASA launched the Mars Global Surveyor.

November 07 is Election Day in the United States (2006)

Quote of the Day

Philosophy is harmonized knowledge making a harmonious life; it is the self-discipline which lifts us to serenity and freedom.

Knowledge is power, but only wisdom is liberty.

~ Will Durant

Word of the Day

stochastic; adj

1. Random; determined randomly.

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