



Top Stories

Al-Qaeda explosives expert killed in Pakistan

Mohsin Musa Matawalli Atwah, 45, one of Al-Qaeda's explosives experts is believed to have been killed in an airstrike by Pakistani forces. So far, the United States has not confirmed the report, but a Minister for Egypt confirms "the death of this Egyptian terrorist."

Canada tests cow for Mad Cow Disease

Initial tests done on a cow in British Columbia, Canada, have come back inconclusive for Mad Cow Disease. Further tests are being conducted and results are expected on Sunday.

Featured story

Bear in Tennessee kills six-year-old girl

A six-year-old girl was killed and her brother and mother were critically injured when a black bear attacked them at Chilwoee Campground in Tennessee. Officials are currently working to catch the bear.

Wikipedia Current Events

• Just days after announcing that his country has enriched uranium in the laboratory, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad criticizes Israel in a three-day conference attended by Palestinian Hamas officials. He calls Israel "a rotten, dried tree that will be eliminated by one storm."

Wikipedia Current Events

•An editorial in the Lancet, an influential medical journal, says that researchers should study the effects of psychedelic drugs, by using them themselves, and thereby weakening the force of the social demonization of such substances.

New Apple software lets Microsoft Windows boot on Macs

Last week, Apple Computer released a program for their Mac OS operating system called Boot Camp Assistant, which will allow Macs to boot Microsoft Windows. The software was released as a beta version for Apple computers powered on the Intel architecture, which is also used by Windows. Assistant works by creating a hard drive partition to contain the Windows operating system. Unlike the current method of reformatting, the software will arrange files so that the new partition will not erase existing files. After the partition is created, the user must load a Microsoft Windows install disc.

While Macs will support booting competitors' operating systems with Boot Camp Assistant, Apple will not offer support for them. Infinite Loop reports that this has led to people accidentally permanently installing Windows on their computers. Another concerned party is Microsoft, who claims that their commitment to the Macintosh operating system "has not changed."

One group seen to benefit is gamers, who will no longer be left waiting for delayed releases of Macintosh versions of games. Peter Cohen of Macworld notes that he has been able to play certain games with a moderate level of quality. However, he considers this to be a disadvantage for Mac developers, who are responsible for bringing software already available for Windows to the Macintosh operating system.

Bear in Tennessee kills six-year-old girl

A six-year-old girl was killed after a Black Bear attacked her. Her mother and two-year-old brother, also attacked, were critically injured.

The nearly 400 pound bear attacked the family when they were staying at Chilwoee Campground located within the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee. The family was visiting a nearby waterfall when they were attacked.

According to rescuers, the girl managed to escape from the bear, but was found only an hour later by a rescuer who fired shots which scared the bear away.

"Allegedly, after the rescue squad found the little girl, one of the squad members fired a shot from a small-caliber handgun. We don't know whether the bear was hit or not. There was no blood, but it chased off," said Dan Hicks, a spokesman for the states Wildlife Resources Agency.

The mother and the brother both remain in critical condition at a hospital in Chattanooga hospital. The boys head was bitten by the bear, which punctured his skull, before it attacked his mother. The mother was trying to scare the bear away with rocks and sticks before being attacked. According to doctors, she had several puncture wounds to her neck, but had too many other claw and teeth marks for them to count. Both are expected to recover.

Investigators, so far, have not been able to speak to the mother because her injuries are too severe.

"She may not remember the attack at all," said Hicks. He also said that it was only Tennessee's second documented attack involving a bear.

Officials have baited traps with honey buns and doughnuts to try and catch the bear.

"There is a chance that the same bear would attack someone else, so I hope they do catch him," said Lynn Rogers of the North American Bear Center.

Authorities have not yet released the names of the victims and the campground has been closed.

Al-Qaeda explosives expert killed in Pakistan

Mohsin Musa Matawalli Atwah, 45, one of Al-Qaeda's explosives experts, was killed in a missile attack on Wednesday night in Pakistan said Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Pakistan's information minister. At least eight other terrorists, both foreign and of Pakistani decent, were also believed to have been killed in the strike; however, the body of Atwah has not yet been found and the

identities of the others killed are not yet known. It is believed that at least two children were also killed.

"We can confirm the identities of the foreigners killed once we have carried out a thorough ground check," said Pakistani military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan.

Atwah, also known as Abdul Rahman Al- Muhajir, Muhammad K.A. and Abdel Rahman, is believed to be responsible for the bombings of the American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania on August 7, 1998 which killed 20 Americans and at least 200 Africans. Atwah is on the FBI's list of most wanted terrorists with a bounty of five million dollars.

"His death has been confirmed. The confirmation is based upon multiple intelligence sources," said Ahmed.

"I confirm the death of this Egyptian terrorist," said an Egyptian minister.

Pakistani forces used missile fire and explosives launched from assault helicopters, to kill the expert in the North Waziristan village of Naghar Kalai which lies near the border of Afghanistan.

Atwah, "had been living here for quite some time," said one security official.

However; it is believed that associates of the terrorists killed removed the bodies and buried them in an unidentified location but at least four tribesmen that were killed, were buried in the towns cemetery.

So far, neither the United States FBI nor U.S. officials in Egypt have

confirmed the death of Atwah.

Explosion rocks Jama Masjid in India

Twin blasts have rocked the historic Jama Masjid in Old Delhi (India). The first explosion occurred around 1730 hrs local time (IST) and the second at 1740 hrs. At least thirteen people were injured in the blasts and at least five have been killed. The explosives were reportedly carried in plastic bags. There were around 1000 people in the mosque at the time of blasts as the day happened to be Friday, considered holy by the Muslims as well as because of the fact that it was the first Friday after Milad un Nabi, Prophet Muhammad's birthday. The blasts took place just before the Azaan. The explosions were not strong enough to damage the 16th century mosque. Some sources claim that the mosque was almost empty with only 100-150 people in the premises when the blast took place. The first blast occurred near Gate No. 1, a place where people wash their hands before offering prayers.

The injured have been admitted to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital. Alert have been sounded in major mosques in India, especially in Mumbai. Fire trucks, ambulances and bomb disposal squads reached the site and have cordoned off the area for their operations. The nearby shops have been asked to suspend operations. The Delhi State Government has requested the people to maintain calm and announced an ex-gratia compensation of Rs. 50,000 for the seriously injured and Rs. 25,000 for those with minor injuries. It is being speculated that these blasts might be linked with coincidental six grenade attacks in Srinagar, that took place the same day.

Forecast cloudy for COSMIC launch

The COSMIC atmospheric research spacecraft launch is likely to be rescheduled to Saturday due to inclement weather.

COSMIC is currently scheduled to launch tonight between 5:10 and 8:20 p.m. PDT. The Air Force launch weather team at Vandenberg Air Force Base is predicting a 70% chance that weather conditions will prohibit the launch from happening tonight.

If tonight's launch is cancelled, it will be rescheduled for Saturday. Times for a rescheduled launch have not been announced.

The weather outlook for Saturday shows improved conditions with only a 10% chance of rain.

Grover Norquist attempts to trademark 'K Street Project'

Grover Norquist, a conservative activist, is working to trademark the term 'K Street Project'. Norquist feels that Democrats, along with Republican Jay Boehner, have hijacked the term and made it symbolize corruption and scandal, which he says is entirely unrelated to his project, a branch of Americans for Tax Reform.

Norquist states that his project is just a job listing for lobbyists in Washington, as well as a list of political ties or campaign contributions that they may have. Originally founded in 1989, the goal of the K Street Project was to correct the imbalance that Norquist saw in lobbyist's political views in Washington.

Norquist later stated: "Some people say Kleenex when they mean tissue. We will jealously guard the real phrasing the way

Kleenex and Coca-Cola do. We will sue anyone who says it wrong and make lots of money."

A spokesperson for House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said, "Republicans can call it anything they want. It doesn't change the fact that every single Republican is responsible for enabling and benefiting from a K Street Project that puts their cronies ahead of the American people."

Australian PM faces inquiry into Iraqi kickbacks

Australian Prime Minister, John Howard appeared before the Cole inquiry on Thursday, the first time an Australian Prime Minister has appeared before an inquiry with royal commission powers since 1983.

Unlike his foreign minister Alexander Downer who gave evidence before the inquiry on Tuesday, Mr Howard entered through the front door where he gave a brief address. He told the press that his government is being open about the Iraqi kickback affair. " just want to make one point and that is that the appearance by me, earlier this week by the Foreign Minister and also by the Trade Minister, demonstrates absolutely how open and transparent and accountable the Government is being in relation to this matter" Mr Howard said to reporters.

Mr Howard was questioned by John Agius, counsel assisting the inquiry. Counsel for AWB, the company at the centre of the scandal did not apply to cross-examine the prime minister.

Terrence Cole, the inquiry's commissioner received an application from Peter Geary and Micheal Long's counsel to cross-

examine the prime minister but refused it on the grounds that the proposed line of questioning was similar to that of Mr Aguis' and that there was no evidence that Mr Howard had "ever met with Mr Geary or Mr Long".

Mr Agius questioned the prime minister about a series of diplomatic cables sent to his office, which raised concerns about AWB's contracts in Iraq.

Mr Howard told the inquiry that he doesn't recall reading or being briefed about any of the cables referred to by the inquiry. The inquiry also heard that prior to 2003 there was no system in place to identify which cables had been bought to the prime minister's attention.

In his statement to the inquiry, Mr Howard said that his office had not recieved four of the cables mentioned by the inquiry. Under questioning, Mr Howard confirmed this but conceded that it was likely that his staff had read the other 17.

When asked whether there were any guidelines which guided his advisors in deciding which cables should be bought to the prime minister's attention, Mr Howard replied "No, there weren't".

The inquiry heard that the only discussions about which cables which should be bought to Mr Howard's attention ocured when an advisor changed in very generic terms. Mr Howard told the inquiry that he would tell a new advisor "Well, you've got to exercise your own judgment, I can't possibly read everything, and clearly I want things brought to my attention which are, in your judgment, important and are relevant to issues in front of the

government at the time".

Mr Howard admitted that the government had an interest in Iraq using the United Nations oil for food program for it's own financial benefit, but said he did not expect cables dealing with alleged breach of UN sanctions to have been bought to his attention.

The questioning then turned to a statement Mr Howard made to the National Press Club on March 13, 2003, one week prior to the US-led Iraqi occupation. Speaking about Saddam Hussein Mr Howard said "He has cruelly and cynically manipulated the United Nations oil-for-food programme. He's rorted it to buy weapons to support his designs at the expense of the wellbeing of his people".

Mr Agius asked Mr Howard if his statement was based upon briefngs he had received. Mr Howard told the inquiry that the information was based upon "open source" intelligence stated at addresses by British foreign secretary Jack Straw and the United States state department. Mr Howard said one of his advisors "checked with some cables to confirm that those cables supported the open-source claims and was satisfied that they did".

Mr Howard denied seeing the cables used by the advisor to support the claims, but believed he would have told her to be sure that everything they were saying can be supported by fact. Mr Howard told the inquiry that he never knew about cables which referred to Hussein rorting the UN Oil for Food program. Mr Howard admitted that at the time his "general knowledge" was that Hussein had breached UN sanctions and was rorting the Oil for Food program.

"My general knowledge at the time and belief was that the program had been rorted, and it was not seriously in dispute. Nobody was arguing it hadn't been rorted" Mr Howard said.

The prime minister was questioned about an unassessed intelligence report which mentioned a Jordanian trucking company known as "Alia" paying kickbacks to Hussein. In response to this Mr Howard told the inquiry that he could not recall the information being bought to his attention, which was not unusual.

Canada tests cow for Mad Cow Disease

Initial tests done on a six-year-old dairy cow in Fraser Valley, a farming community near Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada, are inconclusive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or "mad cow disease," said Canada's Food Inspection Agency.

Further tests are being conducted at Winnipeg's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease and results are expected on Sunday. Officials also say the cow did not enter the human food chain.

"Canada has a suite of internationally recognized safeguards that work together to provide high levels of human and animal health protection," officials for the agency said in a statement.

If the results are positive, this will be Canada's fifth case of the disease since 2003.

Today in History

- 1755 - A Dictionary of the English Language was first published.
- 1912 - The RMS Titanic sank two hours and forty minutes after colliding with an iceberg.

1947 - African American Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers broke the color line in professional baseball.

1986 - U.S. armed forces launched Operation El Dorado Canyon against Libya.

1989 - The Hillsborough disaster, one of the biggest tragedies of European football, occurred.
April 16 is Holy Saturday in Western Christianity, Father Damien Day in Hawaii, Birthday of the Great Leader in North Korea.

Quote of the Day

"Although to penetrate into the intimate mysteries of nature and thence to learn the true causes of phenomena is not allowed to us, nevertheless it can happen that a certain fictive hypothesis may suffice for explaining many phenomena." ~ Leonhard Euler

Word of the Day

colossal; *adj*

Definition

Extremely large.

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