



Top Stories

China Airlines plane catches fire at Japanese airport



A China Airlines Boeing 737 burst into flames at Naha Airport in Okinawa, Japan shortly after touchdown. All 157 passengers and eight crew from

Flight 120 have been accounted for; there were no casualties.

Exclusive report on New Zealand's digital TV service



An exclusive, and special report by freelance journalist, Gabriel Pollard, has compiled the

views from various politicians on New Zealand's latest digital television service, Freeview.

Featured story

Wikinews interviews World Wide Web co-inventor Robert Cailliau

Wikinews interviewed Robert Cailliau, co-inventor of the WWW, on the history and future of the Web.



Wikipedia Current Events

- Jailed Iranian-American academic Haleh Esfandiari is released on bail after more than 100 days in detention.
- The Central Intelligence Agency

Wikipedia Current Events

releases a report critical of the Agency's performance prior to the September 11, 2001 attacks.

- 2007 Lebanon conflict: Fatah al-Islam fighters battling the Lebanese army in a refugee camp have asked for a ceasefire to allow their families and remaining civilians to be evacuated.
- Space Shuttle Endeavour lands safely at Kennedy Space Center at 12:32:29 EDT.
- Five thousand Dhaka University students in Bangladesh riot resulting in major disruption to the university with 150 students being injured.
- Sayf al-Islam Gaddafi, a son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, has called for independent institutions in Libya including a central bank, a high court and media.

•Hurricane Dean makes landfall on the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico, just north of Chetumal, near the Belize border, at Category 5 strength. There are no reports of deaths but 11 people have died elsewhere as a result of the hurricane.

- The governments of Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are negotiating over a line demarcating each nation's respective rights to petroleum in the Atlantic Ocean. The DRC is expected to gain exploration rights to billions of untapped barrels worth of oil.
- Dr Mohamed Haneef wins his bid

Wikipedia Current Events

in the Federal Court to have his Australian work visa reinstated after Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews canceled it after Dr Haneef was charged with "providing material support to a terrorist organization." Andrews later says the Australian government would appeal against the court ruling.

- An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.9 hits the Indonesian province of Papua 101 kilometers from Tanahmerah.
- Fifteen former associates of Saddam Hussein, including his cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, face a trial in the Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal for their alleged role in suppressing a Shiite uprising in 1991.
- Winds equivalent to a Category 2 cyclone buffet the Byron Bay area of New South Wales before moving north to the Gold Coast area of Queensland.

England beat India in one-day cricket series opener

England have beaten India by 104 runs in the first One-Day International of the Indian tour of England at the Rose Bowl, Hampshire, England.

England's batsmen started quietly, reaching 43-1 in the eleventh over when Matt Prior was caught off Zaheer Khan's bowling. Alastair Cook and Ian Bell shared a 178-run partnership, with Cook reaching his maiden one-day century before being bowled by

Yuvraj Singh. Soon afterwards, Bell reached his first one-day century, and finished the innings on 126 not out. Kevin Pietersen added 33 runs off 25 balls and England finished their fifty overs with a score of 288-2.

In response, the Indian batsmen struggled. Sourav Ganguly was run out by Monty Panesar early in the innings. Soon afterwards James Anderson claimed his 100th ODI wicket when Gautam Gambhir was caught behind to leave India on 19-2. Anderson then took two wickets in one over when Sachin Tendulkar was caught by Ravi Bopara at mid-wicket and Yuvraj Singh was caught by Cook for a duck.

Rahul Dravid and Mahendra Singh Dhoni steadied the India innings with a partnership of 68 runs, but Dhoni was caught behind off Andrew Flintoff, who returned to the England side after a period of injury. Rahul Dravid scored 46 before being dismissed by Dimitri Mascarenhas, taking his first one-day wicket. Dinesh Karthik scored 44 not out and Zaheer Khan hit 20, including two sixes, but India were bowled out for 184, far short of the 289 run target. James Anderson was the pick of the England bowlers, taking 4-23.

England lead the seven-match series 1-0. The second ODI will take place at the County Ground, Bristol, on 24 August. Earlier in the month, India won a three-match Test series 1-0.

Finnish unemployment rate hits 16-year low at 5.9% for July

Finland's unemployment rate has continued falling steadily, as it has been doing for two years, and hit a 16-year low in July at 5.9%, it has been announced.

The announcement by the Finnish government statistics agency bettered predictions by the Finance Ministry, which had predicted a rate of 6.7% this year and 6.3% next year. The dramatic decrease is being fueled by strong economic growth in the country.

The figures come from a survey carried out for the government by Statistics Finland.

These latest figures mean that out of Finland's population of 5.3 million, 161,000 were jobless in July, compared with 179,000 at the same time last year.

Floods in midwest and plains kill over 20

The powerful storm system that flooded parts of the Midwest and the Plains moved through Ohio today.

Six people were killed in Oklahoma, eight were killed in Texas, and one person was killed in Missouri due to the storms.

The flooding was a result of a powerful storm system combined with the remnants of Tropical Storm Erin.

Some parts of the U.S. saw eleven inches of rain in the matter of a few hours on Monday.

The storms moved into Ohio on Tuesday, flooding a seven-mile stretch of Interstate 75 in northwestern Ohio.

Sheriff's Lt. Neil Riedlinger said, water was over three feet deep in some areas of downtown Carey, Ohio, and a local nursing home had to be evacuated. Firefighters had to use boats to rescue numerous people.

And, about 200 people were evacuated in the Akron, Ohio area due to severe flooding.

Southwestern Wisconsin was under another flash flood watch Tuesday night and Wednesday, with a chance of rain through Friday.

On Monday, the heavy rain flooded street, streams, and a sewage treatment plant in Iowa.

Wind gusts of up to 82 mph and golf-ball sized hail were reported in Nebraska from these storms.

In Minnesota, a dive team and a National Guard helicopter were called in to search for Jered Lorenz, 37, whose car was found overturned lodged in between rocks along a creek. Numerous mud slides were reported all across Minnesota, an area believed to be among the hardest hit areas according to meteorologists. Ben Tracy of WCCO-TV in Rushford, Minnesota reported, "It's the worst flooding anyone here has seen in 30 years." Orange X's in the area mark buildings that have already been searched for survivors.

25 killed as bus crashes into river gorge in Kashmir, Pakistan

25 people were killed and eight more injured after a bus left the road and plunged into a river gorge in a mountainous region of Kashmir, Pakistan.

The bus was carrying around 40 people when it left the road in the Neelum Valley. According to a local military official who declined to give his name to reporters "It was apparently due to overspeeding. That's the reason witnesses are giving,".

The crash occurred 45 km (30

miles) Northeast of the town of Muzaffarabad, according to the same official. The bus had been heading for the town, having originated from Jura.

The military continues to search for six more passengers who are known to be missing.

MAKS Airshow opens up in Russia

International Aerospace Salon MAKS'2007 opened today in Zhukovskiy, Russia by Vladimir Putin.

The popular airshow will feature about 250 helicopters, airplanes, missiles, satellites and dirigibles, including demonstration flights. The Russian aircraft will fly alongside French and United States aircraft.

It's scheduled to take place until August 26, 2007.

Weakening Dean makes landfall on Mexican coast

After gaining strength in the western Caribbean last night, Hurricane Dean made landfall as a Category 5 storm on Mexico's Yucatan coast at about 4:30 a.m. this morning (EDT).

The storm struck just north of Chetumal, the capital of the Mexican state of Quintana Roo. However, hurricane-force winds were felt over 60 miles away from the center of the storm, and tropical storm conditions impacted areas 175 miles away.

The Mexican government ordered the deployment of over 4,000 troops, and declared a state of emergency in the state of Campeche. Some areas braced for up to 20 inches of rain.

Dean made landfall as a category

5 storm, before being downgraded hours later to a category 3 storm. Later Tuesday afternoon, Dean was downgraded to a category 2 storm. Currently, the storm maintains category 1 status, with top sustained winds at 85 mph.

The hurricane moved towards modern oil installations of the Yucatan Peninsula, prompting evacuations of offshore oil rigs that produce most of Mexico's oil and gas.

Forecasters warn the storm could pick up strength as it crosses the Bay of Campeche and turn into an even more destructive hurricane before making a second landfall on Wednesday.

A hurricane warning remains in effect along the Gulf Coast of Mexico from south of Progreso to Tampico.

Forecasters do not believe it presents a threat to the United States.

Dean is being blamed for 13 deaths already.

West Virginia University regains title as number 1 party school

West Virginia University has once again been named "number 1 party school" by the Princeton Review.

School administrators say they are disappointed, because they have been trying to curb underage drinking and rowdy behavior. The school has made the list seven times in the past fifteen years. WVU senior Katie O'Hara says the school keeps making the list because, "No matter what kind of party you want it's here -- bars, fraternities, house parties."

New WVU President Mike Garrison said, "I'm focused on the way this university changes people's lives, the research that we do and the service we provide to the state of West Virginia."

Garrison also pointed out the university finished among the top 10 in other categories: No. 4 in Students Pack the Stadiums; No. 5 for Best College Library; No. 6 for Lots of Beer; No. 7 for Lots of Hard Liquor; and No. 8 for Best College Newspaper.

At number two on the party list was the University of Mississippi, followed by the University of Texas in Austin, the University of Florida, the University of Georgia, and Penn State University.

However, Brigham Young University, took the top spot in the "stone cold sober" category for the tenth year in a row.

Team formed to investigate suspicious Pakistan PNSC office fire

Babar Ghauri, Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping, has told reporters at a press conference that an investigative team has been formed to look into the causes of a suspicious fire two days ago at the Karachi office of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC).

One office worker was killed and four firefighters were injured in the multi-storey blaze. Another man had to be rescued from the roof via helicopter. 31 people were in the office at the time of the fire, including eight PNSC security guards and six other PNSC personel, the rest working for private companies.

The provincial investigation team's findings are expected to be

announced in around fifteen days. In addition, the Karachi Building Control Authority and several private organizations have been asked to inspect the building, and the course of action to be taken regarding the site will be determined after they have submitted their reports. "Even if the current PNSC building is demolished, it will be replaced by another PNSC building. The plot will not be given to anyone else," Ghauri said.

"I have spoken to the prime minister on the telephone. I told him that the incident should be investigated by independent parties and ministry personnel should not be part of these investigation teams," Ghauri said. Meanwhile, the Senate Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping confirmed that they will send a team to assist in investigative efforts.

The fire, which consumed floors four to ten, is being treated as suspicious because it is the second the building has suffered this year. The previous fire, which occurred on February 18, was deemed by a multi-national investigation at the time to have been caused by an electrical fault. The minister has, however, promised that the fact both fires occurred on a Sunday will be part of the investigation.

This latest fire has destroyed the records of several private shipping companies, causing Farhatullah Babar of the Pakistan Peoples Party to declare that the fire was a deliberate act to destroy undesirable PNSC documents. However, Ghauri was dismissive of the allegations, saying "Babar merely wants some cheap publicity and leveled allegations at us," and adding that PNSC records have not been affected by the fire. The

records are competised, and stored on the untouched first floor. The offices destroyed by the fire housed private corporations, such as Mega Shipping Company, Attock Cement, Engro, Meezan Bank and others.

There was already a known security issue in the building, with PNSC Chairman Tanvir Naqvi telling reporters "We were just about to issue tenders for improving security in the building when this happened,".

People described as 'sources in the PNSC' told reporters that the building was constructed by a company based in Turkey for Rs 30 million in 1958. "This building will not be demolished. Damages will be repaired and the building can be made usable," said one.

One man who worked on the fourth floor of the structure, who requested anonymity because he was not authorised to represent the PNSC, told the Daily Times newspaper that "The fire initially did not break out on the fourth floor," as originally reported, saying instead "At around 2:00 p.m. we saw smoke coming through our lighting fixtures. Within 36 seconds the smoke was so thick that we could not recognize people standing right in front of us. There is no air exhaust system on the emergency exits. If we had not evacuated immediately, we would have suffocated and died on the emergency exits."

He goes on to claim that of a number of PNSC employees present, not one knew how to operate the fire extinguishers supplied. They started panicking. I broke the glass and used the hose to try to put the fire out. But the smoke was too thick. We were in contact with Adeel (the worker on

the roof of the building)."

"The fire started in the ducts of the building. The pillars had already been damaged by the February blaze. This time around, the fire was more intense,".

Space Shuttle Endeavour to return to Earth on Tuesday

Space Shuttle Endeavour is scheduled to touchdown at 12:32 p.m. EDT today in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Rockets were fired to slow down the shuttle at 11:25 a.m. EDT to begin the re-entry procedure.

Weather conditions at the Kennedy Space Center are not forecast to be a problem, and the landing will take place as planned given a favorable crosswind.

A second landing in Florida is possible at the Kennedy Space Center at 2:06 p.m. Also, NASA says that usual back-up landing sites at Edwards Air Force Base in California and White Sands in New Mexico are not expected to be used.

Commander Scott Kelly was given the go-ahead for re-entry preparations after evaluation of the shuttle's wings and nose was completed, indicating no damage from space debris. The three-inch gash in the shuttle's belly reported earlier is likely not a safety risk, and should not lead to damage that requires any lengthy repair, NASA said.

The shuttle will pass above Hurricane Dean on the approach to Florida, but the shuttle will be too high to be affected. The threat of Dean heading toward Texas earlier last week prompted NASA to cut the mission a few days short in the case that Dean tracked north toward Houston's Mission Control

Center, potentially disabling operations.

2007 HiNet, WCG, and WGT 3-in-1 Taiwan Gaming Athletes Qualification: A brand new lineup

On the final day of 2007 HiNet, WCG, and WGT 3-in-1 Taiwan Gaming Athletes Qualification, an intensive gaming competition risen up from last night during the finales of three Xbox360 Gaming Group and three PC Gaming Group took place.

The first Taiwanese National Athlete was decided at the final of "Gears of War" Team Competitions, in the "best of seven series" rule, L bracket winner Z.A.C.K Team won W bracket winner SWPP Team with 4-1 sets at L bracket challenge, after the L bracket challenge, the organizer held an extra match, and Z.A.C.K. Team won again with 3-1 sets and became the Champion.

In the final of Xbox360 "Dead or Alive 4" Group, former champions competed at semi-finals, Cheng-kang Tu risen up and finally won the champion with a three-straight-sets and roared "I've been waited for a long time!" to express his anticipation for participating WCG Global Final; and You-cheng Liu won "Project Gotham Racing 3" champion to fulfill the hope of his father who passed away two days ago.

Not only in Xbox360 Groups, but also in PC Gaming Groups have a brand new lineup, Ming-kuei Liu, Yong-shan Liang, Jun-nan Tsai, and Taiwan UMX Team separately won the championships and Taiwanese Delegates at "Need for Speed - Carbon", "WarCraft", "Age of Empires 3", and "Counter Strike" Groups.

After the main events, Chunghua

Telecom announced that the HiNet, WCG, and WGT Gaming Competitions will hold unity at 2008 autumn.

Last missing body from Minnesota bridge collapse found

The remains of the last missing person following the bridge collapse in Minneapolis were recovered on Monday. The official death toll now stands at 13, following the collapse nearly three weeks ago. All recovery efforts have now been stopped.

The remains of Gregory Jolstad were found yesterday. Jolstad, nicknamed "Jolly," was a member of the construction crew that was resurfacing the bridge. Jolstad was driving a skid loader. He was 45.

Jolstad's wife, Lisa Jolstad, was worried that the search for her husband's remains would drag on, leaving her without any closure.

Sheriff Rich Stanek said, "There aren't a lot of smiles here tonight...We all have very heavy hearts. It weighed on a lot of people, both personally and professionally."

Governor Tim Pawlenty asked President Bush on Monday to declare the collapse a major disaster, allowing the state to be eligible for more federal money. President Bush is scheduled to be in Minneapolis today to get a briefing on the bridge.

Helicopter incident in Afghanistan wounds three Italian soldiers

Three soldiers of the Italian part of NATO's mission in Afghanistan, ISAF, were injured while their helicopter was performing an emergency landing. The Italian Ministry of Defence reported that

the soldiers are not in a serious condition, and they are currently hospitalized at a French field hospital in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

The helicopter, an AB-212 with 7 on board, was forced to make an emergency landing because of technical malfunction, 21 km south east of Kabul.

John Key admits to visiting strip clubs

A huge political storm has erupted around Australia after labor leader Kevin Rudd was found to have gone to a strip club during a taxpayer funded trip. This caused many people to ask their country's politicians questions. John Key, leader of New Zealand's National Party, has openly admitted to visiting a strip club after being posed the question by reporters.

However, unlike Rudd, Key never visited the club when he was a politician, nor on an official trip, when he went to the two strip clubs. The two trips Key has made was once as a business trip at New York while working the finance industry, and the second for a stag night in New Zealand.

Helen Clark, prime minister of New Zealand, refused to comment on the visits by Key and Rudd, but did say she, as a woman, saw it as inappropriate entertainment.

Key takes the position, however, that he would never visit a strip club now.

Peace activists propose 'Fast for Freedom'

On July 22, 2007 Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, Arun Manilal Gandhi, was interviewed by Peter Sissons of the BBC News 24. Peter asked what Mahatma Gandhi would have done had he seen the

Al-Qaeda problem. "Why don't all the Muslims, Christians and other religions have a day of fasting to show Al-Qaeda that we reject their philosophy," Arun Manilal Gandhi, founder of M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence replied.

Inspired by Arun Gandhi's words, Heidi Hog, from United Kingdom, and Mike W., from Orlando, Florida, began a foundation for a peace movement, Fast for Freedom 8·8·8. They are encouraging all people from all nations to participate in a one-day fast on August 8, 2008 as a peaceful way to protest Al-Qaeda's philosophy.

Fast for Freedom 8·8·8 founder Heidi Hog suggested that the day of fasting would be a success due to the simplicity in participating. "There is great success behind [the] Fast for Freedom 8·8·8 campaign because everyone is invited," said Hog. "Fast for Freedom 8·8·8 encourages everyone of race, creed, colour, religion, national origin, sex, gender, orientation, age, and language to get involved and assist."

Mike W. and Heidi Hog have never met in person and hope to be examples of how strangers can unite together. Mike W. discussed how Fast for Freedom 8·8·8 is generating interest. "The fresh buzz about uniting worldwide against war, famine, starvation, and aggressive secret governments is making steady developments," suggested Mike W. "Fast for Freedom 8·8·8 breaks the division between every man, woman and religion."

A worldwide fast on August 8, 2008 is proposed, beginning at midnight for a 24-hour period. Fasting is practiced in many

religious traditions and spiritual practices and Heidi and Mike have chosen Fast for Freedom 8·8·8 as a way for people to share in the experience. "It's not about disarming the world or banning armies and guns and weapons of mass destruction. It's about one day denying food, greed, arrogance, and violence," said Mike W.

The proposed day of action has generated many supporters, according to Heidi Hog and Mike W. "Fast for Freedom 8·8·8 deserves imperious attention as one large soundoff voice demanding an awakening for no more and the world fasts for freedom together."

Tarantino wades through Manila floods

Acclaimed Hollywood director of "Pulp Fiction" and "Kill Bill," Quentin Tarantino was forced to wade in Manila's flood waters and use a pedicab in order to get to Malacanan Palace to receive an award from Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday.

The pedicab is a three-wheeled vehicle with a side-car driven by human pedal power, common mode of transportation in the Philippines used for short distance travel or during floods in the country.

Tarantino, the guest of honour for the 9th Cinemanila International Film Festival, was about to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award when an elevated southwest monsoon dumped rain in the Philippine capital, Manila, Wednesday morning.

The director was already late for the award ceremony due to traffic caused by the rain in Metro Manila

when he was forced to leave his limousine and take the pedicab to the Presidential palace, some 1.5 kilometers away.

Tarantino was wearing the Barong Tagalog (the Filipino formal wear), black pants and black shoes when he took the pedicab. While he was being transported in the barely covered pedicab to the Presidential Palace, another downpour occurred. Tarantino arrived at the palace wet from the downpour and had to change into black jogging pants.

The director was being honored for his contributions in cinema. He was quoted as saying, during his week-long visit to the Philippines, that he admires Asian cinema and will need to study it more.

Tarantino is currently writing a book on Asian cinema and will feature Filipino cinema.

Police station attacked following illegal rave

Two police vehicles were damaged and police officers narrowly avoided injury in Great Yarmouth, England after a mob of over 100 people assembled outside a local police station.

The event has been labelled by local police as a 'major incident' and has so far resulted in fifteen arrests pertaining to violent disorder, possession of drugs and taking a vehicle without consent. Over 100 police officers were involved in the event; many of them from bordering counties.

The mob assembled in the early hours of Monday morning and threw missiles including wine bottles and beer cans at the building.

The conflict is thought to be

connected to the prior arrests of three people driving a van containing sound equipment in connection with an unlicensed music event which was being monitored by the police several hours earlier. At the event, police had made three arrests and seized forty-four vehicles.

The police are also investigating a burglary which occurred on Harfrey's Industrial Estate in the close vicinity of the illegal music event. Police Chief Supt Scully has warned people away from the area as it is now being treated as a crime scene.

UK PM's speechwriter awaits sentence

An English lawyer has pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice. He faked a legal judgment and sent it to a father who was pleading in Taunton family court to be able to remain involved in his child's upbringing. The lawyer, London barrister Bruce Hyman, now awaits his sentence. The judge indicated that he could receive a prison sentence. Bruce Hyman is well-known in media circles, having produced The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy on BBC Radio. He also produced a series with Clive Anderson, at Above The Title Productions, called Unreliable Evidence.

The father, a former City financier, had attended a series of court hearings in order to make suitable arrangements to see his child following an acrimonious divorce. Shortly before one of these hearings he received an email, ostensibly from a self-help group to which he belonged, which had attached a Court of Appeal case that appeared favourable to an application he had made for the judge to stand down from the case. The father, who was

representing himself, duly showed the case to the judge. At this point, Bruce Hyman, the lawyer representing the former wife, claimed tot he judge that the case was a forgery, which indeed it turned out to be.

After confirming that the self-help group had not sent him the email, the father then embarked on some detective work his own. The fraudulent email was traced via its header to a dial-up internet connection and a phone number belonging to a shop in London. The shop was able to recover CCTV footage which showed a man sending the email from an Apple laptop. The man turned out to be Bruce Hyman.

Sentencing of Hyman is due in September at Bristol Crown Court.

Today in History

- 1485 – Lancastrian forces under Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond defeated Yorkist forces under Richard III of England at the Battle of Bosworth Field, decisively ending the Wars of the Roses.
- 1791 – A slave rebellion erupted in the French colony of Saint-Domingue, starting the Haitian Revolution.
- 1864 – The Red Cross movement led by Henry Dunant officially began when twelve European nations signed the First Geneva Convention, establishing the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- 1910 – Korea was annexed by Japan with the signing of the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty, beginning a period of Japanese rule of Korea that lasted until the end of World War II.
- 1922 – Irish Civil War: Irish National Army commander-in-chief Michael Collins was assassinated in an ambush while en route through County Cork at the village of Béal

na mBláth.

Quote of the Day

I wish to write down my musical dreams in a spirit of utter self-detachment. I wish to sing of my interior visions with the naïve candour of a child. No doubt, this simple musical grammar will jar on some people. It is bound to offend the partisans of deceit and artifice. I foresee that and rejoice at it.
~ Claude Debussy

Word of the Day

machination; n

1. A clever scheme or artful plot, usually crafted for evil purposes.
2. The act of machinating or plotting.

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