



### Top Stories

#### White House discussing troop withdrawals of up to 50% in Iraq

The White House and Pentagon officials have been discussing "concepts" to reduce the level of troops in Iraq by up to 50%, leaving a force of about 100,000 in Iraq by Mid 2008.

#### Roadside bomb kills Canadian soldier, injures two others

The 55th Canadian soldier was killed in Afghanistan, when a large roadside bomb exploded. The blast killed Matthew J. McCully, 25, from Orangeville, Ontario on Friday at around 8:00 a.m. local time.

### Featured story

#### Exclusive video interview with New Zealand Opposition leader, John Key

John Key, New Zealand's Leader of the Opposition, and leader of the National Party, shared with Wikinews the details of his video blogging activities and future plans to make use of so-called 'new media'.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- Scotland's Dario Franchitti wins a rain-shortened Indianapolis 500.
- United States forces rescue 41 Iraqis from an al-Qaeda hideout northeast of Baghdad with some captives showing signs of torture.
- China claims all gold and silver medals in the Table Tennis World Championships in Zagreb,

### Wikipedia Current Events

- Croatia.
- Two Qassam rockets land in Israel with at least two casualties in Sderot.
- The IAF strikes two Hamas posts in the Gaza Strip, with no casualties reported.
- The President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko and the Prime Minister of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich agree to a compromise, with early Parliamentary elections being held on September 30.
- Spanish voters go to the polls in local and regional elections.
- Venezuelan TV station Radio Caracas Television is shut down by the Hugo Chávez administration.
- Romanian film 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days by Cristian Mungiu gets the Palme d'Or at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival.

#### Myanmar prayer rally calls for release of democracy leader Suu Kyi

About 200 supporters of detained Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi held a march and prayer rally in Yangon, calling for her release by the military-led government.

Pro-junta counter-protesters and plainclothes police disrupted the march by the members of the National League for Democracy, blocking the way to Shwedagon Pagoda, where Suu Kyi's

supporters were intending to go pray. The NLD members retreated to their party's headquarters where they prayed and shouted slogans, "free Aung San Suu Kyi" and "release her now".

Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize and the leader of the NLD, has been under house arrest for more than 11 of the past 17 years, continuously since 2003, after her motorcade was attacked by a pro-junta mob. The country's ruling State Peace and Development Council reviews her detainment annually, and on Friday (May 25), the junta extended Suu Kyi's house arrest by another year.

The move by the ruling generals had been widely expected, but still drew condemnation from the United Nations, United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom and neighboring member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

On May 27, 1990, Suu Kyi's party won elections by a landslide, but the country's military leadership, which took power in a bloody 1988 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations, never allowed the NLD to take power.

#### Fernando Alonso wins 2007 Monaco Grand Prix

McLaren Mercedes drivers Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton win the FIA Formula-1 2007 Monaco Grand Prix at the Circuit de Monaco in Monte Carlo from top two places of the starting

grid.

As Ferrari driver Felipe Massa said after the race his car was completely "out of pace" and was not able to compete properly. While in the first half of the race he was trying to stay close to Hamilton, in the second part the gap increased to more than 40 seconds. This was due to the traffic, Anthony Davidson from Super Aguri-Honda team even got a drive-through penalty for ignoring the waving blue flags. Massa ended up on the third place.

All the other pilots, starting from Giancarlo Fisichella from Renault lose at least one lap to the podium third.

Kimi Räikkönen, who started 16th because of his error in the second qualifying session, struggled hard and got up to the 8th place scoring one additional point to his championship standings. Scott Speed driving for Toro Rosso-Ferrari also was highly successful, the only American pilot attached himself to the rear wing of Finn and managed to get 9th from his 18th place.

### **Dalai Lama no-show at mass untouchable conversion in India**

This Sunday it was hoped Tenzin Gyatso, the Dali Lama, would preside over a mass conversion of Indian Dalits to Buddhism. According to a report in The Hindu newspaper he instead sent a message of encouragement to the mass conversion ceremony in Mumbai.

The ceremony, attended by diplomats from a variety of Buddhist countries, was expected to have around 100,000 converts. Those attending the ceremony at the city's racecourse hope that the

change of religion will help escape the stigma of being one of the country's untouchables.

### **Canada, U.S. to tighten security between 'cross-border' library**

Ever wanted to visit Canada or the United States by walking distance? The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the United States Border Patrol and local officials from both sides are looking into tightening security at a Quebec library.

It is so easy to go into the U.S. at Haskell Free Library and Opera House, in Rock Island, Quebec, that all you need is directions to go to Stanstead, Quebec, directions to the local library and walk through the doors; you've illegally entered Derby Line, Vermont, U.S. If you walk across from Stanstead St. to Derby Line you will be at the checkout in the U.S., go to the library from Derby Line to Stanstead St. and you've officially entered back into Canada.

Want to see your neighbour across the street? Well, then you've re-entered the U.S. Anyone who comes from Stanstead St. to Derby Line, to visit their neighbour, must report to Customs or they could be sent to jail for illegally entering. However, residents do not need to notify Customs if they cross the border inside buildings.

Currently, the front door is in Vermont and if Quebecers couldn't enter the front they would have to go through the back way. If Americans wanted to park in the parking lot they couldn't because it is legally in Canada.

The library has been deliberately on the border of Canada and the U.S. since it was built in 1904 by

American sawmill owner Carlos Haskell and Canadian wife Martha Stewart Haskell for availability to both countries.

A black line diagonally runs across the center of the library to mark the international border. Ironically the line puts the seats in the U.S. and the opera stage in Canada. The international border also is on Canusa St., a residential street in Stanstead, Quebec and Beebe Plain, Vermont.

Both towns share the same share water, sewer systems and emergency crews thus they cross the border without going against the law. In total, there are three streets that cross the border and there are camera's on both sides to monitor illegal activity, but that doesn't tighten border security enough officials say.

"There's been an increase in illegal activity, both north and south, in the last little while," said operations officer for the Border Patrol's Swanton sector, Mark Henry. "There have been some significant cases. This all fits in to the larger picture of the Border Patrol strategy to gain operational control of our borders."

"I don't think they're aiming at people who go pick up groceries and come back. It's people that want to use this in a bad way," says Cpl. Luc Bessette, a spokesman for the RCMP.

A meeting will take place this 19 June at 7 p.m. local time asking whether residents want to prevent people from crossing the border regularly or, in some cases, illegal crossings. During a meeting last Thursday in Stanstead, Quebec, local officials from both countries (towns) said border walls and fences will not be put up due to

local residents' concerns. They say there are other alternatives.

There is also a movement to separate Vermont from the U.S. or make it the 11th province of Canada, with two territories. The website "Vermont Canada" says the state should join Canada due to its remaining liberal policies as opposed to the U.S.

### Today in History

1588 - The Spanish Armada, with 130 ships and over 30,000 men, set sail from Lisbon for the English Channel.

1892 - The Sierra Club was founded by preservationist John Muir in San Francisco.

1905 - Japanese forces led by Admiral Togo Heihachiro destroyed the Russian Baltic Fleet in the Battle of Tsushima, the decisive naval battle in the Russo-Japanese War.

1918 - The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, one of the first democratic republics in the Muslim world, was proclaimed in Ganja.

1961 - An article by Peter Benenson was published in newspapers, starting a letter-writing campaign that grew and became Amnesty International.

May 28 is Whit Monday in Christianity, Memorial Day in the United States (2007); Republic Day in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

### Quote of the Day

I have the same idea with all my books: an attempt to come close to the core of reality, the structure of reality, as opposed to the merely superficial. The realistic novel is remote from art. A novel should heighten life, should give one an illuminating experience; it shouldn't set out what you know already. I just muddle away at it. One gets flashes here and there, which help. I am not a philosopher or an intellectual. Practically anything I have done of any worth I feel I have done through my intuition, not my mind...  
~ Patrick White

### Word of the Day

xenobiology; n

1. The speculative biology of extraterrestrial life forms.

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