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Fernando Alonso wins 2006 Japanese Grand Prix



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Japanese Grand Prix. Ferrari drivers Felipe Massa and Michael Schumacher started the race from the first row, but an engine failure forced Schumacher to park his car. "I have to say clearly I don't really believe in the championship anymore," was Schumacher's reaction.

20,000 Poles demonstrate on the streets of Warsaw



Three major political demonstrations took place in Warsaw, the capital of Poland on Saturday, October 7. In total, more than 20,000 people flooded the streets and squares of the city to express either their dissatisfaction with or support for Jarosław Kaczyński's government, marred by a political corruption scandal and inability to form stable parliamentary majority.

Featured story

Mass grave with 51 bodies from the Nazi era found in Germany



The decomposed bodies of 22 children and 29 adults have been found in a mass grave, believed

Featured story

to date back to the 1940s, in a Catholic church cemetery in Menden-Barge, a small village in Germany. The buried are believed to be victims of Adolf Hitler's "program" in which numerous disabled people were murdered.

Wikipedia Current Events

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Venezuelan opposition holds large rally

An opposition rally was held, yesterday, in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, in support of the opposition candidate Manuel Rosales. The BBC reports that tens of thousands of opposition supporters gathered in Avenida Libertador. However the Associated Press reports only around 10,000 people at the rally.

The rally was called "un mojella de avalanche!" (a grand avalanche) by Rosales. The use of Avenida Bolivar and permission to take aerial photos of such rallies was denied by the government, citing "security reasons." There is a planned rally for Hugo Chavez October 8th in Caracas as well.

Rosales, the Social Democratic governor of Zulia has been singled out by the opposition to be their only candidate. He has been campaigning non-stop around the country to get support for his election in the December 3rd presidential election against incumbent Chavez who has a significant lead in public opinion

polls. Rosales' support is greatest amongst the middle class while Chavez's base is with the working class and poor.

Fernando Alonso wins 2006 Japanese Grand Prix



Fernando Alonso.

Renault driver Fernando Alonso won the FIA Formula-1 2006 Fuji Television Japanese Grand Prix on the Suzuka International Racing Course. Though Ferrari drivers Felipe Massa and

Michael Schumacher started the race from the first row, Alonso managed to overtake both Toyotas on the first part of the race and Massa after the pit stops. Then Alonso started to push on Michael Schumacher and closed the gap to about 5 seconds. An engine failure forced Schumacher to park his car after the tunnel on lap 36 and the Spaniard rushed to his seventh victory in this season.

Giancarlo Fisichella, Fernando's teammate, had a bad start, but burst through Toyota and finished on the back of the second-placed Felipe Massa. Toyota drivers Jarno Trulli and Ralf Schumacher lost even more positions, when Honda driver Jenson Button and McLaren Mercedes driver Kimi Räikkönen slipped in front of them and finished on 4-th and 5-th place respectively.

The situation in the drivers' championship became almost critical for Schumacher, who lost 10 points this week-end. Only one chance remains for Schumacher to win his eighth champion's title - if he wins the final 2006 Brazilian Grand Prix and Alonso doesn't score any points. "I have to say clearly I don't really believe in the championship anymore," was Schumacher's reaction.

There remains a battle for the third place in drivers' championship, where Massa has a one point lead ahead of Fisichella. In the constructor's championship Renault is 9 points ahead of Ferrari.

USA qualify for 2007 Rugby World Cup in France

The USA rugby union team has qualified for the 2007 Rugby World Cup in France. They defeated Uruguay in succession; in Montevideo 42-13 on September 30, and 33-7 in California on October 7. The USA team originally missed out on qualifying during an earlier round of the Americas qualifying tournament with Canada taking that position.

USA went through as 'Americas 4' to Pool A, where they join 2003 champions England, and the 1995 champions, South Africa. The other nation in the pool is Samoa, and one other nation that has yet to qualify, which will be either an Oceania or Asian nation. The USA have been to four World Cups in the past, with their best results being in 1987 and 2003 where they won one fixture in the pool rounds.

Next year's World Cup kicks off on September 7, and the USA will play their first game on September 8, against reigning World Champions England in Lens.

Uruguay although having lost the series against the USA, have one more chance at qualification, a series against the winner of (Africa 2 v Europe 4) to qualify as Repechage 1.

Today in History

- 1514 - Mary Tudor, sister of Henry VIII of England, became queen consort of France.
- 1831 - John Capodistria, the Greek head of state, was assassinated in Náfplio.
- 1888 - The Washington Monument, then the world's tallest building, officially opened to the general public.
- 1919 - The Black Sox scandal: The Cincinnati Reds "defeated" "Shoeless Joe" Jackson and the Chicago White Sox to "win" the World Series major league baseball championship by 5 games to 3.
- 1962 - Uganda became independent from the United Kingdom, with Milton Obote as the first Prime Minister.
- October 09 is Thanksgiving in Canada (2006), Hangul Day in South Korea (1446), Leif Erikson Day in the United States.

Quote of the Day

Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one.
~ John Lennon ~

Word of the Day

sesquipedalian; adj

1. Of long words, polysyllabic.
2. Given to the use of long words; long-winded.

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