



WIKINEWS

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Top Stories

Governor of Puerto Rico indicted in campaign finance probe

Aníbal Acevedo Vilá, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, was indicted with 19 counts related to irregularities found in the financing of his campaigns for public offices on and off the island.



United States Army suspends ammo contract for Afghan security forces

The United States Army has suspended their nearly \$300 million contract with a Miami-based company run by a 22 year-old that delivered old and corroding ammunition from China for use by Afghan army and police force in a way that violated the contract terms.

Tom Cruise spoofed in 'Superhero Movie'

Clips of the film Superhero Movie have been released on the Internet that parody a Church of Scientology promotional video featuring celebrity Scientologist Tom Cruise. Actor Miles Fisher imitates Cruise in what has been described as a "dead-on impersonation". Scientology's attempts to force video sharing sites to remove the promotional interview with Cruise sparked worldwide protests on February 10 and March 15.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Popular soap opera 'The Young and the Restless' celebrates 35 years on the air



Wikinews interviews three actresses of the popular U.S. daytime soap opera

The Young and the Restless to commemorate the serial's 35th anniversary, which was celebrated Wednesday. Actresses Melody Thomas Scott, Michelle Stafford, and Tricia Cast took part in the largest Wikinews interview to date.

Wikipedia Current Events

•Eamon Sullivan (Australia) breaks the 50m Freestyle World Record, his time 21.28 seconds.

Zimbabwe prepares for election

A parliamentary election will be held in Zimbabwe tomorrow, along with a presidential election on the same day. The election is for both the House of Assembly and the Senate. Voice of America has reported that analysts in Zimbabwe have predicted a victory for Robert Mugabe.

Wikipedia Current Events

Dwain Chambers: BBC, Sky Sports & The Sun newspaper are all carrying reports that Chambers is to announce he is to become an English rugby league player with Castleford Tigers. Chambers was previously an athlete and American Football player.

•2008 unrest in Tibet: About 18 protesting Tibetan exiles scale the walls of the United Nations compound in Kathmandu, Nepal as Nepalese police arrest another 40 protestors.

•North Korea fired a volley of missiles into the sea warning that it might stop disabling its nuclear facilities unless the United States dropped its demands for more details about North Korea's nuclear arsenal. A day before, North Korea expelled 11 South Korean officials from an industrial park north of the border that separates the two Koreas.

With the last parliamentary election having been held in 2005, the subsequent election was initially planned to be held in 2010, but after an abortive plan to delay the 2008 presidential election to 2010, it was decided to instead bring the parliamentary election forward by two years so that it could be held concurrently with the 2008 presidential election.

The House of Assembly is being expanded from 150 to 210 members, all elected, in the 2008 election, while the Senate is being expanded to 93 seats, 60 of which will be directly elected (six from each province). There are 29 constituencies in Harare, 28 in Midlands, 26 in Manicaland, 18 in Mashonaland Central, 23 in Mashonaland East, 22 in Mashonaland West, 26 in Masvingo, 13 in Matabeleland North, and 13 in Matabeleland South, and 12 in Bulawayo. Unlike in past elections, when

constituency voter rolls were used, ward voter rolls will be used in the 2008 election. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission delimited 1,958 wards.

On January 25, 2008, the specific date of the election was announced as March 29. A spokesperson for the faction of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) led by Morgan Tsvangirai denounced this as "an act of madness and arrogance", while the leader of the other MDC faction, Arthur Mutambara, said that a free and fair election could not be held under the existing conditions, calling for a new constitution to be adopted prior to the election.

Prior to the election being held, ZANU-PF has already won two seats where it was unopposed: the House of Assembly seat from Muzarabani South, won by Edward Raradza, and the Senate seat from Rushinga, won by Damien Mumvuri.

While not inviting any observers from the European Union or the United States, Zimbabwe has invited 47 observer teams, including observers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union, China, Russia, and Iran. On March 11, the arrival of the first 50 observers from SADC was reported, with more expected. SADC had already conducted a preliminary mission in February, in which its team looked at constituencies, their boundaries, and the number of candidates, and used that information to determine the number of observers that would be necessary.

There are about 5.6 million registered voters and there will be about 11,000 polling stations,

compared to about 4,000 polling stations in the 2005 parliamentary election.

Poison drummer Rikki Rockett arrested for rape

Rikki Rockett, drummer for United States glam metal band Poison, was temporarily arrested today on an outstanding rape warrant after exiting a plane arriving at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), California from New Zealand.

The arrest stems from an alleged incident on September 23, 2007, while Rockett — real name Richard Ream — was staying at the Silver Star Hotel & Casino in Mississippi. A female guest alleges Rockett raped her in his hotel room. Several days after the attack is claimed to have occurred, she filed a report with the Neshoba County Sheriff's department. They determined there were sufficient grounds to arrest him and issued a warrant.

Los Angeles Police Department arrested him on his arrival at LAX and booked him into Los Angeles County Jail but the 46-year-old was released because Mississippi authorities decided not to extradite him while official charges from the Neshoba County District Attorney are pending.

Rockett had been in New Zealand to play at Wellington's Rock2Wgtn festival with the rest of Poison, who opened day two and were joined by Whitesnake and Ozzy Osbourne. The previous day featured Lordi, Alice Cooper and KISS.

United States Army suspends ammo contract for Afghan security forces

The United States Army has suspended its contract with a

company that delivered old and corroding ammunition from China for use by Afghan army and police forces in a way that violated the contract terms.

The ammunition was supplied by the Miami-based AEY Inc., a company run by a 22-year old named Efrain Diveroli. The nearly US\$300 million contract stated that bullets were coming from Hungary, but were actually decades-old, damaged and corroded bullets from China.

Officials from the Army Legal Services Agency notified Diveroli, via a letter, that his company is suspended from future contracting with any U.S. government agency. The letter came as part of an Army investigation since November regarding violation of the contract.

According the to the New York Times, Diveroli signed papers back on November 25, 2007 certifying that 28 pallets of ammunition for Afghanistan had been manufactured by MFS 2000, a Hungarian company, according to a memo written by investigators.

AEY violated the contract by breaking two clauses, one stating that the ammunition could not be acquired directly or indirectly from the People's Republic of China, which is a violation of American law. The other clause specified that it must be packaged to comply with best commercial practices for international shipment.

According to the Times, says the ammunition arrived in decomposing cardboard boxes which contained ammunition dating as far back as 1966. However, Army officials believe some ammunition even dates back further to 1962.

The Army had contracted with AEY in January 2007 to supply various types of nonstandard ammunition for use by the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police, an Army official said on background. The company was required to purchase the ammunition and deliver it to Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan. AEY was recently awarded a delivery order amount of \$48,717,553 on March 17, 2007 as part of the \$298,004,398 contract.

Also according to the Times, when purchasing the ammunition, AEY worked with middlemen and a shell company which has been placed on federal list of entities suspected of illegal arms trafficking. Also, from the Times, Diveroli was secretly recorded in conversation that suggested corruption on his company's purchase of 100 million aging rounds from Albania.

Bryan Whitman, The Pentagon's spokesperson told reporters that suspension of the contract was due to the violation of the origin of the ammunition and the packaging of the ammunition, not the safety and performance.

"Safety and performance has not apparently been a factor, according to our folks in Afghanistan. They have had no safety incidents reported and no reports of any ammunition that has malfunctioned associated with this particular contract," Whitman told the press.

He also denied that the issue happened because the Army awarded the contract to the lowest bidder and that he was not aware of AEY's qualifications to fulfill the contract.

"As the United States government does business, they are obviously always trying to ensure they get the best value," he said. "But that does not mean that, in achieving the best value for the taxpayer, that we will accept something that is below standard for what it is we are purchasing, either."

"I would prefer he became a nice Jewish doctor or lawyer rather than an arms dealer. He's never asked for my approval on the company. He doesn't always take my advice, I don't influence him. As a father of a boy genius he's hard to control."

—Michael Diveroli, Efrain's father

According to an Army official, the suspension of the contract will not have an impact on Afghanistan operations and other contractors are expressing interest into entering into a contract. "Besides, there's no shortage of ammunition already in Afghanistan. This will have no impact," he said.

Michael Diveroli, Efrain's father, who originally founded AEY as a small printing business, said of his son's career choice to CBS' Miami affiliate, WFOR, "I would prefer he became a nice Jewish doctor or lawyer rather than an arms dealer. He's never asked for my approval on the company. He doesn't always take my advice, I don't influence him. As a father of a boy genius he's hard to control."

Angelo Diveroli, Efrain's grandfather said the young man frequently accompanied him to gun shows when he was younger and became an expert at weapons.

A friend of Diveroli said to WFOR, "The government came here and checked him out and gave him the contract. How do you give someone, a 21 year old kid a

contract like that?"

The United States Army Criminal Investigation Command is continuing their investigation, according to officials.

2008 TaiSPO: Interview with Ideal Bike Corporation and Gary Silva

2008 Taipei International Cycle Show (Taipei Cycle) & Taipei International Sporting Goods Show (TaiSPO) not only did a best reunion with conjunctions of the launch of Taipei World Trade Center Nangang Exhibition and the concurrent cycling race of 2008 Tour de Taiwan but also provide opportunities and benefits for sporting goods, bicycle, and athlete sports industries to establish the basis of the sourcing center in Asia and notabilities on the international cycling race.

Although the Taipei cycle was split from the TaiSPO since 1988, but the trends of sporting good industry in Taiwan changed rapidly and multiply because of modern people's lifestyles and habits. After the "TaiSPO Innovation Award" was established since 2005, the fitness and leisure industries became popular stars as several international buyers respected on lifestyle and health.

For example, some participants participated Taipei Cycle and TaiSPO with different product lines to do several marketing on bicycle and fitness equipments, this also echoed the "Three New Movements" proposed by Giant Co., Ltd. to make a simple bicycle with multiple applications and functions. As of those facts above, Wikinews Journalist Rico Shen interviewed Ideal Bike Corporation and Gary Silva, designer of "3G Steeper" to find out the possibilities on the optimizations

between two elements, fitness and bicycle.

Wikinews What are the conceptions on the design of 3G Stepper?

Ideal: (As Gary Silva in demonstrations) We merged some basis on a elliptic and a simple fitness stepper, all designed for indoor fitness sporting. After this, the 3G Stepper became a functional bicycle with fitness and transportation. As its steppers were originally designed with lever theory and without bicycle seat, not only its speed was determined by its frequency when stepping, but also an user should use one's physical strengths and torques (turnings) to balance the 3G Stepper and make a high intensive works on sporting.

WN Although the show schedule is concurrent for TaiSPO and Taipei Cycle, but why did you participate the innovation award for the 3G Stepper at TaiSPO?

Ideal: As of mentioned functions before, it can't be fully thought as a bicycle because of fitness functionality.

WN So you [Ideal Bike] consider to participate at TaiSPO with fitness factor?

Ideal: Traditionally, a bicycle often worked on a person's lower-body, but we promoted "3G Stepper" by considering its fitness factor to hope everyone do a great full-body work with its coordination because a rider should use strengths on one's upper-body to step on the stepper.

WN Not only fitness, but also artificial intelligence? And the other features?

Ideal: Originally, we [Ideal Bike] promoted the 3G Stepper mainly to the bicycle and sporting goods market in United States for leisure and fitness because of a DAMN bad lifestyle especially not sporting and bad beverage culture, which will cause several cardiovascular diseases. By the way, we also designer a smaller version for kids because we hope 3G Stepper is not just a "simple scooter" but a great invention. With this conception, we hope kids can be interested in this stepper and do several trainings on balance. In the past, several people were afraid of a bicycle because its dynamic balance should be done when riding. Last but not least, the 3G Stepper has no limitations on a rider's heights and clothes.

WN What do you think about the concurrent schedule on TaiSPO and Taipei Cycle showcased in different venues?

Gary Silva: As you know, even though the bicycle (industry) is important, but we [Ideal Bike] chose the TaiSPO because of its nature on fitness. I hope that "a bicycle is not just a simple bicycle".

WN More than 20 years ago, the Taipei Cycle was ever included in TaiSPO, but after the maturity of export market on bicycle industry, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) finally split the bicycle (industry) from sporting goods (industry), and currently, it became the current condition as two trade shows showcased each other...

Gary: It sounds like a good idea and a proper split even though the industry natures of bicycle and sporting good are similar, and some buyers also want to gain some sourcing resources from

those two (bicycle and sporting good) industries.

WN What do you think about a combination on TaiSPO, Taipei Cycle, and Tour de Taiwan?

Gary: Tour de Taiwan?

WN A cycling race.

Gary: Very nice, this combination will bring visitors on those two shows.

WN Will this combination provide benefits on sporting good, bicycle, and athlete sports industries?

Gary: Yes, surely. Because buyers and visitors from those three main activity can understand their each own backgrounds, and this optimization will improve notabilities on two shows and the cycling race.

Woman, 87, raped in her own home in UK

Between the hours of 3:00 pm and 8:45 pm GMT on Monday, March 24, 2008, an 87-year-old woman was raped in her own home in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England.

Specially trained officers interviewed the victim, who is described as being in a vulnerable state, and a team of 20 detectives are working on the case. House-to-house inquiries are being made in the area of the attack between St Peter's Road and Victoria Road, Great Yarmouth.

A 41-year-old man arrested for an unrelated incident of rape in the nearby town of Gorleston is being questioned regarding last Monday's crime.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Insp. Armes at Yarmouth CID on 0845-4564567.

Tom Cruise spoofed in 'Superhero Movie'

Producers of the film *Superhero Movie*, out today, released clips from the film on the Internet parodying a Church of Scientology promotional video featuring Scientologist Tom Cruise.

Superhero Movie is written and directed by Scott Mazin, director of the 2000 comedy about superheroes *The Specialists*. The film stars Drake Bell, Sara Paxton, Christopher McDonald, Pamela Anderson, Tracy Morgan, Regina Hall, Craig Bierko, Simon Rex, Leslie Nielsen, Marion Ross, Kevin Hart, Jeffrey Tambor, Ryan Hansen, Brent Spiner and Keith David.

Drake Bell plays Rick Riker, a young man figuring out how to use his superpowers. The film parodies blockbuster superhero movies including *Spider-Man*, *Batman*, *X-Men*, and *Fantastic Four*.

In the original Scientology video, Cruise discusses his faith and his opinion on what it means to be a Scientologist, while the theme music from his *Mission: Impossible* series of films plays in the background. The video, which was not intended for public distribution outside of the Church of Scientology, is nine minutes long and contains heavy use of Scientology terminology. The video appeared on YouTube January 15, two days before the release of a biography on Cruise by Andrew Morton: *Tom Cruise: An Unauthorized Biography*.

The Church of Scientology sent legal letters to YouTube and to Gawker.com, sites which were hosting the Cruise video at the time, and requested that they take it down. YouTube complied, but Gawker.com did not, and Nick

Denton of Gawker.com commented: "It's newsworthy, and we will not be removing it." The video later appeared on websites other than Gawker.com, including the *New York Post*, *Independent Television News* and the BBC.

Attempts by the Church of Scientology to remove the video from the Internet motivated an Internet-based group known as "Anonymous" to take action in a movement called Project Chanology. Members of Anonymous bombarded Scientology websites and were successful in taking some of them down, including *Scientology.org*. Anonymous later changed tactics towards legal measures, and held international protests against Scientology on February 10 and March 15, with another international protest planned for April 12.

According to Scientology critic David S. Touretzky, the Scientology terms used in the video by Cruise have "entered the national lexicon", and the Scientology video itself has become something of an Internet phenomenon. Touretzky also referred to the negative effect on Cruise's publicity as a consequence of the leak.

"Miles Fisher does an eerily dead-on impersonation of Cruise's infamous leaked Scientology indoctrination video."

—Liz Shannon Miller, *NewTeeVee*

In the excerpt released online from *Superhero Movie*, actor Miles Fisher imitates Cruise in what Liz Shannon Miller of *NewTeeVee* described as "an eerily dead-on impersonation of Cruise's infamous leaked Scientology indoctrination video". She also compared the clip to a different spoof of the Cruise

video, by actor Jerry O'Connell. Craig Ferguson also spoofed the video in a clip on his show on CBS, *The Late Late Show*, as did the comedy website *Super Deluxe*.

Christopher McDonald plays the villain "Hourglass" in *Superhero Movie*, and told *MTV News* he was surprised at some of the parodies that successfully appear in the film: "The thing I didn't think we'd get away with was the actual Tom Cruise stuff. There may be lawsuits there."

A post at *Slashfilm* wrote positively of Fisher's performance: "Slashfilm would like to salute young actor and Harvard alum Miles Fisher for easily giving the best impression of Tom Cruise we've ever seen in the yuk-yuk comic book spoof." A post at *MoviesOnline* commented: "The actor hits every point he needs to and it is almost scary how close he is to the actual Tom Cruise way of thinking." Thomas Leupp of *ReelzChannel.com* called the scene "a dead-on spoof of Tom Cruise's now-infamous Scientology video". Ryan Parsons of *CanMag* wrote that Fisher impersonates Cruise "perfectly", and Ryan Tate of *Gawker.com* called the clip "the slickest crazy-Cruise imitation yet, as well as one of the funniest".

Cassini discovers organic material on Saturn moon

The Cassini–Huygens spacecraft has discovered "organic material" and water spewing from a geyser on one of Saturn's moons, Enceladus. According to NASA, the discovery was made when Cassini flew by the moon on March 12.

"A completely unexpected surprise is that the chemistry of Enceladus, what's coming out from inside, resembles that of a comet. To have primordial material coming out from inside a Saturn moon

raises many questions on the formation of the Saturn system," said Hunter Waite, principal investigator for the Cassini Ion and Neutral Mass Spectrometer at the Southwest Research Institute located in San Antonio, Texas.

The Ion and Neutral Mass Spectrometer saw a much higher density of volatile gases, water vapor, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, as well as organic materials, some 20 times denser than expected. This dramatic increase in density was evident as the spacecraft flew over the area of the plumes.

New high-resolution heat maps of the south pole by Cassini's Composite Infrared Spectrometer show that the so-called tiger stripes, giant fissures that are the source of the geysers, are warm along almost their entire lengths, and reveal other warm fissures nearby. These more precise new measurements reveal temperatures of at least minus 93 degrees Celsius (minus 135 Fahrenheit.) That is 17 degrees Celsius (63 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than previously seen and 93 degrees Celsius (200 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than other regions of the moon. The warmest regions along the tiger stripes correspond to two of the jet locations seen in Cassini images.

"Enceladus has got warmth, water and organic chemicals, some of the essential building blocks needed for life. We have quite a recipe for life on our hands, but we have yet to find the final ingredient, liquid water, but Enceladus is only whetting our appetites for more," said Dennis Matson, Cassini project scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

At closest approach, Cassini was only 30 miles from Enceladus. When it flew through the plumes it was 120 miles from the moon's surface. Cassini's next flyby of Enceladus is in August.

Russian oil depot burning after explosion

An oil depot in Russia is burning after an explosion at the facility near the Caspian Sea in Dagestan. A female worker has been hospitalised with burns covering her entire body.

A 10,000 tonne oil reservoir has been burning since the explosion at 4:10 p.m. local time (13:10 GMT). Eyewitnesses describe thick plumes of smoke rising from the area.

At least 20 fire engines are using foam to try and quench the blaze. Dagestan's Emergencies Minister Murtazali Gadzhiev went on Russia's Vesti-24 channel to discuss the current situation. "We managed to open the taps ... and now this oil is being pumped out," Gadzhiev said. "We are trying to keep the fire away from other reservoirs."

Today in History

1461 – Yorkist troops defeated Lancastrian forces at the Battle of Towton in Yorkshire, England, the largest battle in the Wars of the Roses up till that time with approximately over 20,000 casualties.

1638 – Swedish settlers founded New Sweden near Delaware Bay, the first Swedish colony in America.

1807 – German astronomer Heinrich Wilhelm Matthäus Olbers discovered 4 Vesta, the brightest known asteroid and the second-most massive body in the asteroid belt.

1831 – Bosniak general Husein

Gradaščević began an uprising against Sultan Mahmud II and the Ottoman Empire.

1911 – The M1911 single-action, semi-automatic pistol developed by American firearms designer

John Browning became the standard-issue side arm in the United States Army.

March 29 is Earth Hour (20:00 local time in various areas).

Quote of the Day

I have known exile and a wild passion

Of longing changing to a cold ache.

King, beggar and fool, I have been all by turns,

Knowing the body's sweetness, the mind's treason;

Taliesin still, I show you a new world, risen,

Stubborn with beauty, out of the heart's need.

~ R. S. Thomas ~

Word of the Day

pervasive adj

1. Manifested throughout; penetrating or affecting everything

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