



Top Stories

Snow hits New Zealand

New Zealand has been hit by a huge amount of snow and it is still continuing. Up to a half-metre of snow is expected to fall.

Second fire in 24 hours hits Muslim building in the Netherlands

A second fire has broken out in the Muslim building which was set on fire last night. Arson is suspected again and police do not rule out an attack. After the murder of Theo van Gogh, in late 2004, many Muslim buildings were set on fire in the country and a bomb exploded on a Muslim school.

Featured story

Scientists discover new kind of shark in northwest Atlantic

A new species of hammerhead shark has been found in the northwest Atlantic Ocean off the coast of South Carolina.

According to scientists, the species, classified as genus *Sphyrna*, looks much like the scalloped hammerhead, but is "genetically distinct" from it.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Iraqi eye-witnesses say Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed by U.S. military kicking him in the chest.
- The first named storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season forms, Tropical Storm Alberto, from Tropical Depression One.

Anti-Tubby Smith ad rejected by University of Kentucky student paper

The Kentucky Kernel, the University of Kentucky student newspaper, rejected a full-page ad calling for Tubby Smith's dismissal as the men's basketball head coach. Richard Cheeks, a professor at the school, and a group called Concerned Fans for UK Basketball sought the \$1,700 ad.

Cheeks said "We see the program in decline. ... We don't want it to decline the way the Louisville program did in the latter years when Denny Crum was there. So we decided that we were going to begin to get our message out."

A spokesman for Kentucky basketball, Scott Stricklin, said "Being that he's one of the nation's winningest coaches, he pretty much knows what it takes to win championships because he's done it here," Stricklin said.

The Kentucky Kernel's general manager, Chris Poore, the decision to reject the ad was without the influence from the University of Kentucky's administration.

In the past nine seasons at Kentucky, Smith has obtained a 241-71 record, including winning the 1998 national championship.

Australian cabinet discounted potential security risks with nuclear energy

Australia's justice minister, Chris Ellison has said that the Australian federal cabinet did not consider

security issues when it decided to setup an inquiry into nuclear power.

Speaking to the Nine Network, Senator Ellison said when considering energy, security concerns are not an issue. "When you look at sources of energy you don't look at any potential terrorist threat," he said.

The justice minister said that cabinet discussed measures for protecting crucial infrastructure but denies that a nuclear power station is any more of a target than the electricity grid or rail system.

Senator Ellison said that restricting the country's use on nuclear power because of the threat of terrorism was giving in to terrorists. "Energy sources are very important for the future of any community and I think we're not about to be stymied or restricted in that approach because of any threat of terrorism,"

"I mean, we're going to continue living in the way we do. Once we change that, the terrorists win," he said.

Leader of the Australian Greens Bob Brown says that the failure to consider security implications associated with nuclear power generation is "daft".

Senator Brown accused the government of failing to consider the possibility of nuclear material becoming available to terrorists.

"It's daft to say the least and it's really pig-ignorant of the dangers of nuclear material coming into the hands of terrorists," he said.

Senator Brown said he is concerned that the move encourages Indonesia, a country that he claims to have a terrorist problem to build nuclear reactors. "The Government doesn't understand that their paving the way for nuclear enrichment or reactors in Australia encourages Indonesia, which has plans for up to 12 nuclear reactors and which the Government knows has real problems with terrorism."

The Greens leader said that there is a possibility a nuclear reactor could become a terrorist target. "It does make the threat of terrorists getting nuclear materials or targeting a reactor real, and it must be a consideration for any inquiry," he said.

The opposition has also raised concerns about security risks associated with nuclear energy. Stephen Smith said, "We don't think that the economics are there for nuclear power stations in Australia, let alone the national security risks that go with that and the waste disposal risks that go with that."

Portugal win against World Cup first timers in Group D

Portugal strolled out a 1-0 Group D victory against Angola while fans jeered in Koln, Germany, Sunday.

With the goal scored after 4 minutes it might have seemed the game would be a rout for the Portugal side. With attacking stars Figo, Ronaldo and Pauleta, they lined up against an Angolan team who made their first appearance at the World Cup in the Rhein

Energie Stadion.

But a score of 6-0 or 5-1 - the scores of the two times the teams had played in their recent fixtures - was not to be. And, in a defensive move, on 61 minutes Ronaldo, was pulled off by Portugal's Brazilian coach Luis Felipe Scolari.

Ronaldo in the first half had a header that hit the Angolan crossbar but it might be the yellow card the gifted 20-year-old had received which prompted the move to rest the player.

Angola did not make the game easy but when it seemed the Portugal coach was content with his side defending the lead against the former Portugal colony some in the crowd jeered loud enough to be heard on television.

This would be no disrespect to Figo who was on exceptional form, involved in almost every Portugal attack. Despite the defensive tactics he might have created more goals but for the deep-sitting Angolan defence that made it difficult to get a clear sight of goal.

Angola, in an apparent attempt to keep the score respectable, kept 11 men in their own half of the pitch for much of the game. In the second half, as the clock ticked, Angola appeared reluctant to attack the Portugal goal in numbers such that Portugal could catch them on the break.

The only goal conceded by Luis De Oliveira Goncalves side was the result of the inventive play of Portugal's famous number seven. Figo cleverly knocked the ball around a defender and ran at speed into the penalty box. His run brought Angolan goalkeeper Joao Ricardo toward him, and Figo

found Pauleta in the perfect position to pass the ball into the net.

Third former Williams trader admits manipulating natural gas prices

Daryl Brown, former trader of Oklahoma-based Williams Power Company, pleads guilty in federal court of conspiracy to manipulate natural gas prices between 1998 and 2002, during the California energy crisis. Brown is the third Williams trader to plead guilty of similar charges since 2004. Brown had agreed to cooperate in an ongoing probe.

U.S. Attorney Kevin Ryan said, "Mr. Brown admitted that approximately 75 percent of the trades he reported to industry newsletters were deliberately fabricated. These false data skewed published prices so the company could illegally profit."

Brown will be sentenced on September 22.

Mexico fire three against Iran in Group D

Two half-time substitutions by Ricardo La Volpe helped Mexico to a 3-1 win over Iran in Nuremburg, Germany, Sunday.

The first half of this Group D tie ended 1-1 and it appeared to be a close contest between two hard-working teams. Then the Mexican coach Ricardo La Volpe, who was observed smoking a cigarette during the game, made two substitutions at half time. This seemed to change the game.

Shifting from three to two forwards, in the second half the central Americans won the ball more often in midfield; they then piled pressure on the Iranian goal with an effective short passing

game. Iran failed to adequately adapt to this tactical change.

With 15 minutes remaining an Iranian defensive error led to the game-winning goal. And a great flowing move 4 minutes later made the result look convincing for Mexico.

The Mexican team did lose experienced striker Jared Borgetti to what seemed to be a leg muscle injury on 46 minutes. This will be a concern to the coach. But the majestic performance of captain Rafael Marquez, who seemed to be nearly everywhere, ensured onfield leadership was unaffected.

His team had to wait a while for the go-ahead goal. On 75 minutes Ebrahim Mirzapour's clearance fell short; his centre back then failed to control the ball and Omar Bravo was put through to slide the ball in for his second goal. In the first half Bravo had deflected a Guillermo Franco header into the net for his first.

Iran, in all red kit, had a good first period but was out-played in the second. Iran equalised from a goalkeeper error on 36 minutes. Centre back Yahya Golmohammadi poked into the top of an empty net after Mexico keeper Oswaldo Sanchez had leaped and missed at a ball crossed in from a corner kick.

Branko Ivankovic's Iran side conceded the third goal on 79 minutes, Mexico's familiar green and white shirts now swarming all over the Iranian defence. Zinha passed the ball wide to the right of the penalty area. Zinha, surging forward, rose unmarked on the penalty spot to greet the cross and guided the ball into the bottom right corner of Mirzapour's net.

Lauren Nelson crowned Miss Oklahoma

Lauren Nelson, sophomore at University of Central Oklahoma, was crowned Miss Oklahoma last night at the Oral Roberts University Mabee Center. Nelson is the youngest contestant to become Miss Oklahoma. She will receive a \$16,000 scholarship and represent Oklahoma in the Miss America pageant.

Nelson is the daughter of Mark and Sherrell Nelson of Lawton. Competing for the first time in the Miss Oklahoma pageant; she became qualified for the pageant at the Oklahoma State Fair. In 2004, Nelson was Miss Teen Oklahoma.

Lindsay Miller from Tulsa, Miss Grand Lake, won an \$8,000 scholarship for being the first runner-up.

Netherlands ease to 1-0 win in Group C

Arjen Robben was the difference as the Netherlands won its first World Cup match 1-0 against Serbia and Montenegro in Leipzig, Germany, Sunday.

The attacking midfielder, who plays for English club side Chelsea, dazzled in the Zentralstadion; almost as bright as the sunlight which had split half the field into dark shadow by the end of the match.

The shadows the Serbia and Montenegro team chased in the game were that of the Flying Dutchman. The goal Robben scored, enough to win the game for his side, was tucked away in a one-on-one with Dragoslav Jervic after he had out-sprinted the defence to reach a through ball.

In the second half Marco Van

Basten's team seemed to suffer with the heat as opposition got more offensive play; but a goal for Serbia and Montenegro did not look likely.

Serbia and Montenegro gave up 60 percent of the ball possession to the Netherlands, which also restricted the Balkan's team to just 4 shots on target.

And with its accurate passing, skill and pace the team, known as the "Orange men" for the colour of their kit, still threatened. In the second half Robin Van Persie's free kick was driven low across the goal and missed the far post, as well as Holland's forwards, by centimeters.

The match was decided by a single goal partly because it was tightly contested in midfield; of the 6 yellow cards issued by German referee Markus Merk, they all went to defenders and midfield players.

Robben's individual display, which included a moment when he evaded two opposition players only for his shot to be blocked, earned him the man of the match award from Fifa's technical study group. He was the bright spark that exposed Serbia and Montenegro's lack of pace in defence.

Ilija Petkovic's team did not create enough goal-scoring chances and might think to beat Ivory Coast and Argentina, the two other teams in Group C, they need to work on the attack game.

Three inmates commit suicide at Guantanamo detention facility

Three inmates hanged themselves with nooses made from their bedsheets at the U.S. base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. According to the U.S. Military, the time of

death is not yet clear; the men were "found unresponsive and not breathing in their cells by guards." Two of the men are reported to be Saudi, the third being Yemeni. According to Admiral Harry Harris, one of the prisoners was a mid-to-high level Al-Qaida operative, another belonged to a splinter group, and the other was captured in Afghanistan.

Commander of the U.S. Southern Command, General John Craddock, said the three men had left suicide notes, but Craddock refused to discuss the contents.

Base commander Navy Rear Adm. Harry Harris said the suicides were acts of "asymmetrical warfare". According to Reuters he called the suicides an act of war.

"They are smart. They are creative. They are committed. They have no regard for life, neither ours nor their own. I believe this was not an act of desperation, but an act of asymmetrical warfare waged against us," he told reporters.

Ken Roth, Human Rights Watch in New York, said "These people are despairing because they are being held lawlessly" Mr Roth continued "There's no end in sight. They're not being brought before any independent judges. They're not being charged and convicted for any crime."

Moazzam Begg, 37, who was released in 2005 after spending two years under detention at Guantanamo told the Associated Press: "We all expected something like this but were not prepared. It's just awful. I hope the Bush administration will finally see this is wrong."

Barbara Olshansky, of the Center

for Constitutional Rights which represents about 300 Guantanamo Bay detainees, said "I think people [detained at Guantanamo] have this incredible level of despair that they will never get justice. Olshansky said the US government "not only failed these people but pushed them on the road to death".

The United Nations recently asked the U.S to close down the detention centre after reports of abuse were made, including the flushing of Quraans down toilets, force-feeding of inmates, sleep deprivation and beatings of underage prisoners.

Fernando Alonso wins British Grand Prix

Fernando Alonso for the first time in his career won the FIA Formula-1 British Grand Prix at the Silverstone Circuit. Alonso was in the lead for the most of the race. Michael Schumacher started third, but finished before Kimi Raikkonen. Alonso teammate Giancarlo Fisicella beat Felipe Massa on the second pit stop and finished on the back of Raikkonen. Bad luck for Jenson Button, ruefull race for English fans.

Australia defeat England in rugby

Australia defeated England 34 points to three in the first of two rugby union test matches at Sydney's Telstra Stadium. The game was another meeting of the 2003 Rugby World Cup finalists, which saw Jonny Wilkinson land a field goal in extra time to win the Rugby World Cup, although the sides have played each other since then, it was the first return to Telstra. In the lead up to the game, England coach Andy Robinson slammed the condition of the pitch of Telstra Stadium. He visited the stadium the day before

the test and said he had fears that scrums could be affected by the condition of the pitch. Scrums played a powerful role in the sides last contest at Twickenham last year when the English almost embarrassed the Wallabies with its impressive scrummaging. Since their last clash, John Connolly has been appointed the head coach of Australia, and the game against England will mark his debut. With a new-look team, the Wallabies entered the game having lost eight of its previous nine matches.

England's Olly Barkley kicked off the match, and just three minutes in, Australia was awarded a penalty. Stirling Mortlock's kick is wide of the posts, and the score remains nil-all. England's scrum prospered in the first twenty minutes, and Australia missed a few oppoortunities to score tries. In the 18th minute, England was penalised for not releasing the ball in the tackle. Mortlock was successful with the shot at goal, and Australia moved ahead, 3 points to nil. Just after twenty minutes England looked dangerous as Mike Catt throws a long pass to speedster Tom Varndell near their own goaline, but a stray pass to Tom Voyce led to little. Three minutes later Australia was awarded another penalty, and England found itself a little further behind on the scoreboard when Mortlock was successful with another penalty kick. Shortly after Iain Balshaw goes in for England off a Barkley kick, but being wrapped up by Australian captain George Gregan, the television match official ruled a no try. After an unsuccessful scrum on the Australian scoreline, Barkley misses a penalty kick just left to the posts. English captain Pat Sanderson makes an optimistic break shortly after though a pass is intercepted. Mortlock misses a

penalty goal soon after, but on the stroke of half time he kicks another penalty goal to put Australia nine points in front as the game goes into half time.

Barkley got England's first points a few minutes into the second half, being successful with a penalty kick, taking the game to nine to three, with Australia still in front. Though shortly after Barkley is penalised for not releasing the ball, and Mortlock kicks a penalty goal to take Australia's lead to 12 points. Australian fullback Chris Latham scores the first try of the match in the 54th minute, with Mortlock's conversion, Australia takes a convincing 19 to 3 lead over the English. Australia furthered its lead to 22 points as Mortlock lands another penalty goal, with under 15 minutes remaining in the game, an English comeback seemed unlikely. Australia sealed the victory when Clyde Rathbone makes a break up field and passes to Mark Gerrard who regathers his own kick to score a try. Mortlock converts Gerrard's try, and Australia lead 29 points to three with around seven minutes remaining in the game. On debut, Rodney Blake charges over to score another try for the Wallabies and although Mortlock misses the conversion, Australia won 34 to three.

Australian opposition promises to scrap workplace agreements

Kim Beazley leader of the Australian opposition has promised to scrap workplace agreements introduced as part of the Howard government's controversial Workchoices industrial relations reforms.

Speaking at the New South Wales Australian Labor Party today, Mr Beazley promised that a government under his leadership

would create "a land of decency and fairness". Mr Beazley said such a plan has no place for individual Australian Workplace Agreements (AWA). "I believe AWAs are nothing more than a means to cut wages, cut conditions, undermine decency and fairness in our workplaces," he said. "So today delegates I announce that a Beazley Labor government will abolish John Howard's Australian Workplace Agreements."

The opposition leader told his party faithful that AWAs can not be fixed. "I know AWAs can't be fixed, they can't be made good, they must be rejected," said Mr Beazley.

Mr Beazley said a government under his leadership would reward hard work and effort. "The government I lead will be guided by one core principle - when you put in, you get back," he said.

"That's my pact with middle Australia. When Australian workers put in a good day's work they'll get job security, decent wages, decent conditions, decent protections against unfair dismissal."

The announcement comes as the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) launches its multi-million dollar advertisement campaign against the government's changes. The unions say their ads portray the stories of real Australians who have been affected by the government's industrial relations reforms.

ACTU leader Greg Combet welcomed Mr Beazley's proposal, saying they were beneficial for both the ALP and the nation as a whole.

"It means that there is a clear choice between the Liberal-National government and the Labor Party on these industrial relations issues at the next election," he said.

"More important than policy commitments, what Mr Beazley is clearly articulating are labour movement values: fairness, decency, respect for people, dignity in their workplace, the right to be represented, sharing in the economic wealth.

"These are all extremely important values that he is articulating and I think it is those values that are going to put Labor in good stead."

Mr Combet said that the ALP state conference in NSW showed the amount of support Mr Beazley has within his party, despite recent party in-fighting, leadership speculation and attempts by the government to undermine Mr Beazley's leadership.

Australian Prime Minister, John Howard accused Mr Beazley of giving in to union pressure. "It is clear from Mr Beazley's AWA rollback plan that the Labor Party will do whatever it takes to make the unions happy, even if it is at the expense of Australian workers," he said.

Mr Howard accused Mr Beazley of planning a return to an industrial relations system that left one million Australians without work. Mr Howard also said that Mr Beazley has promised to eliminate AWAs but has failed to put forward a replacement. "Mr Beazley today proposed that Labor would abandon AWAs but did not outline any replacement for the existing arrangements," said Mr Howard.

In a statement, Mr Howard said that Mr Beazley had no plan to ensure the continued growth of the Australian economy and accused Mr Beazley and his party of failing to "take advantage of an increasingly competitive global marketplace".

Defending his government's legislation that allows AWAs, Mr Howard said that AWAs give negotiating power to workers. "AWAs now play an integral role in the nation's workplace relations culture, with almost one million Australian workers since 1996 enjoying the benefits of making workplace agreements on their terms," he said

The Prime Minister also dismissed any claims that AWAs have reduced wages and satisfaction of employees. "AWAs have delivered higher wages, greater productivity and enhanced satisfaction for employees," he said.

Biarritz defeat Toulouse to win French rugby championship

Biarritz defeated Stade Toulousain to win the 2005-06 Top 14 French rugby club championship. Biarritz was able to put the loss of the Heineken Cup final to Munster behind it and run 40 to 13 winners in France's domestic championship, claiming its second title in a row. The final was played at Stade de France in Saint-Denis on Saturday. Biarritz made it to the final by defeating USA Perpignan the previous weekend, as did Toulouse with Stade Fran  sais.

Biarritz entered halftime leading Toulouse nine points to six. With the scores close, the game had the potential to go either way in the second half. However, defending champion Biarritz took control. Biarritz wings Jean-Baptiste

Gobelet and Sireli Bobo, centre Damien Traille, hooker Benoit August and number eight Imanol Harinordoquy all scored tries for Biarritz in the second half. With Dimitri Yachvili being successful with three conversions, as well as booting another three penalty goals, Biarritz stormed to victory. Toulouse was only able to put Gregory Lamboley in for their only second half try, whilst a conversion and penalty goal by Jean-Baptiste Elissalde along with a drop-goal by Frederic Michalak saw the final score at 40 points to 13. Michalak left the field around the 60th minute, which may rule him out of France's tests against the Springboks and Romania later this month.

Rice beats Oklahoma in first round of NCAA Super Regional, 10-4

The Rice University baseball team defeated the University of Oklahoma 10-4 in the first game of the NCAA Super Regional.

Brian Friday and Josh Rodriguez helped push Rice to an early lead with consecutive home runs in a four-run first inning.

Wayne Graham, Rice's head coach, said, "Obviously, I'm happy with the way we hit the ball. We attacked the ball real well. When we answered their runs, that was critical. We never got complacent."

Rice (54-10) and Oklahoma (44-21) will meet Sunday for the second game in the series at Rice's Reckling Park. If Oklahoma wins, a third game will be played Monday. If Rice wins, it would send the team to the College World Series for the fifth time, the first since winning the title in 2003.

Today in History

1864 - Union General Ulysses S. Grant pulled his troops out of the Battle of Cold Harbor.

1889 - The Armagh rail disaster killed 88 people near Armagh, Northern Ireland.

1964 - Anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in prison by the South African government.

1979 - A human-powered aircraft named Gossamer Albatross flew across the English Channel. June 12 is Independence Day in the Philippines (1898) and the Russian Federation (1990), Dia dos Namorados in Brazil

Quote of the Day

"If one is but secure at the foundation, he will not be pained by departure from minor details or affairs that are contrary to expectation. But in the end, the details of a matter are important. The right and wrong of one's way of doing things are found in trivial matters." ~ Yamamoto Tsunetomo

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