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Top Stories

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation gets new chairman



Canadian Heritage Minister Bev Oda has appointed Timothy W. Casgrain as the new chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. "Mr. Casgrain's credentials will bring

strong leadership to the CBC," said Oda.

Casgrain is to succeed Guy Fournier who resigned on September 19, 2006.

Democrat submits resolution to impeach Cheney



Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) has submitted a resolution for the impeachment of U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney.

Featured story

Arrest warrant issued for Richard Gere for kissing actress Shilpa Shetty



A court has issued an arrest warrant for both American actor Richard Gere and Indian actress Shilpa Shetty for public obscenity. If charged, Gere could be fined or sent to jail for three months.

Wikipedia Current Events

• A petition has been submitted to the United States Food and Drug Administration by various food industry lobbyists to change the U.S. standard of identity of chocolate to permit the use of any of a number of vegetable fats and oils in place of cocoa butter.

• A Russian Mi-8 military transport helicopter is shot down near Shatoy, Chechnya, resulting in the death of 17 Russian soldiers.

• The US Pentagon says that the CIA has arrested a senior al-Qaeda operative, Abdul Hadi al Iraqi, and transferred him to the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

• Saudi Arabia arrests 172 terrorist suspects in a series of raids after uncovering a plot to carry out suicide air attacks on oil and military installations. \$32.4m in cash was also uncovered, as were many weapons.

Funeral held for two Lebanese youths found slain

Lebanese mourners held a funeral on Friday for two Sun'ni Muslims slain this week in an attack linked to sectarian tensions.

The two Lebanese youths were abducted on Monday, and their bodies were later found on the field on Thursday. Ziad Qabalan, age 25, and Ziad Ghadour, age 12, were kidnapped and shot on the head and their bodies. Police found the two lying dead in a field in Jadra, an area between south Beirut and Sidon on Thursday evening.

Qabalan had been a member, along with Ghadour's father, of the pro-government Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), of the Druze leader Walid Jumblatt. It is suspected that Shi'a Muslims abducted the boys in revenge of the killing of Adnan Shamas, a Shi'a Muslim, back on January 25 of this year, during clashes between supporters of the government, which has Sunni backing, and the opposition, which includes Lebanon's main Shi'a groups.

The Lebanese Prime Minister, Fouad Siniora condemned the assassination and asked for calm. In a telephone interview with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) he said, "This act aims at dragging the Lebanese toward civil strife. We are in need of calm, patience and discipline."

Strong 6.3 earthquake reported in Sumatra, Indonesia

According to the United States Geological Survey, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake has been recorded in northern Sumatra, Indonesia at 3:02 p.m. local time [08:02 (UTC)].

The epicenter was approximately 83 kilometers [51 miles] WSW of Banda Aceh, Sumatra, at a depth of 30 kilometers [18.6 miles].

There are no reports of damages, injuries or deaths, according to the Jakarta geophysics agency, but the USGS does report that there is a potential for "light to moderate damage" on the northwest end of the island.

No tsunami warning has been issued, and according to the Jakarta geophysics agency, no tsunami warning will be issued because the quake did not meet the magnitude 6.5 requirement. Despite there being no tsunami threat, residents started to panic and began to leave their businesses and homes.

In 2004, a massive tsunami struck the island after a magnitude 9.2 quake rattled the region killing over 200,000 people.

One killed in clashes over World War monument in Estonia

One man was killed and 44 hurt in clashes between demonstrators and police in Tallinn, Estonia last night after authorities removed a controversial Soviet monument.

The Bronze Soldier of Tallinn is seen as a remainder of Soviet occupation by Estonian nationalists, while veterans and Russian-speaking Estonians view the monument as a symbol of the liberation of Eastern Europe from Nazism. Police special units were used to force away the pro-monument protesters, screaming "Disgrace to Estonia!". Police clashed with protesters during the night riots, some cars were burnt and store front windows in the center of Tallinn were broken by the demonstrators. Demonstrators broke in to several liquor stores, a Hugo Boss store, and a photography equipment selling shop where they stole everything; the whole thing turned into mass robbery in couple of hours.

Russian authorities, who often supported the monument as a symbol of victory over Nazism, denounced Estonian police actions and the monument removal.

Sergey Lavrov, Russia's minister of foreign affairs, threatened to break the diplomatic relations with Estonia.

According to Russian radio station Echo of Moscow the number of casualties has increased to three.

Arrest warrant issued for Richard Gere for kissing actress Shilpa Shetty

American actor Richard Gere, 51, kissed Indian actress Shilpa Shetty, 31, on the cheek several times during an AIDS awareness event in Delhi, India. A court has issued an arrest warrant for both Gere and Shetty for public obscenity.

Gere, who starred in an American remake of the original Japanese version Shall We Dance, was doing a ballroom dancing act with Shetty.

"He especially told me to tell the media that he didn't want to hurt any Indian sensibilities," Shetty said.

The act came to issue when a local lawyer complained to a court in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It is being called "an obscene act" by the court in Jaipur, Rajasthan. In India, showing affection in public is frowned upon. People in India protested against the act saying it went against their culture.

Gere appeared in an interview with Jon Stewart on The Daily Show last night. "Me kissing the girl on the cheek was nothing," he said. "To be honest, this recent media storm has taken me by complete surprise. End the circus around this episode."

They are scheduled to appear in court on May 5. If convicted, Gere could be fined or sent to jail for three months.

Stephen Hawking goes weightless

65-year-old scientist Stephen Hawking took a ride on the "Vomit Comet", an airplane producing weightlessness by following a parabolic flight path. He did this to show awareness for space exploration. The flight took off and landed at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Hawking, who is confined to a wheelchair due to a degenerative disease, was unstrapped from it while the plane made eight free-fall maneuvers that simulate zero-gravity to those on-board. Hawking told reporters he enjoyed the zero-gravity part of his flight and other people with him said he "didn't want to come back".

Hawking made the flight to draw attention to the importance of space exploration. "I believe the human race has no future if it doesn't go into space," he said.

Saudi Arabia arrests 172 militants

Saudi police have arrested 172 militants planning to attack Saudi Arabia's oil fields. They also planned to free inmates and use an aircraft.

"They had the personnel, the money, the arms. Almost all the elements for terror attacks were complete except for setting the zero hour for the attacks," said Brig. Mansour al-Turki, a Ministry of Interior spokesperson. "They had reached an advance stage of readiness and what remained only was to set the zero hour for their attacks."

Abdullah Güл does not get presidency in first round

Turkey's Foreign Minister Abdullah Güл failed the first round of voting in parliament on Friday. He

reviewed 357 votes. About 367 is required to win. Opposition parties asked the Constitutional Court to stop the voting. If the Constitutional Court rules in favor, a general election could be called.

A second round will be on May 2. If Güл doesn't pick up the additional ten votes then, the process will move on to a third and if necessary a fourth round. During those rounds, only a simple majority is needed so Güл seems assured of getting the presidency.

Chinese cat reportedly gives birth to 'poodle'

A cat in Zhengzhou, China gave birth to four kittens of which one reportedly looks like a white poodle, says owner Zhang Qiming. People from around the city are making visits to the house where the cat gave birth.

"It looks very different from the other kittens, and its mouth, nose and paws are all dog-like," said owner Zhang Qiming. "Also, its tail is one centimetre shorter than that of the other three kittens."

There appears to be no proof other than the owner's statements that "kitten" is a dog or that the cat in fact gave birth to it.

Top al-Qaeda operative reported in US custody

Bryan Whitman, a spokesperson for the US Department of Defense, said today that the United States has captured Abdul Hadi al-Iraqi, whom it says has worked directly with the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Whitman said al-Iraqi was captured when trying to enter Iraq, presumably for the purposes of taking over al-Qaeda operations there. He was taken to Guantanamo Bay about a week ago.

A US State Department website described al-Iraqi as "being a skilled, intelligent, and experienced commander and is an extremely well-respected al-Qaeda leader."

Today in History

1192 - Third Crusade: Conrad of Montferrat, the elected King of Jerusalem, was assassinated by the Hashshashin.

1789 - Fletcher Christian led a mutiny aboard HMS Bounty against Commander William Bligh.
1923 - Wembley Stadium, then known as Empire Stadium, was opened to the public for the first time and held the 1923 FA Cup Final between Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United football clubs.

1952 - The Treaty of San Francisco entered into force, ending the occupation of Japan by the former Allied Powers of World War II.
2001 - Dennis Tito became the world's first fee-paying space tourist, riding the Soyuz TM-32 spacecraft to the International Space Station.

April 28 is International Workers' Memorial Day

Quote of the Day

The Truth Shall Make Ye Fret.
~ Terry Pratchett

Word of the Day

schism; n

1. A split or separation within a group or organization, typically caused by discord.
2. A formal division or split within a religious body.

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