



### Top Stories

#### US declares vital interest in space



President Bush has declared space to be essential to US defence in a new National Space Policy. Not only has the United States declared that it has rights in space, but, if necessary, it will deny its adversaries access to space.

#### Indian fighter aircraft crashes in West Bengal, pilots eject safely



The IAF plane crashed in Cooch Behar district at around 10:15 local time. Both pilots ejected safely, one is being treated at a local hospital for injuries to his leg. There are no reports of property damage or casualties on the ground.

### Featured story

#### "Friday the 13" Buffalo, New York snow storm in pictures



At least 340,000 people and businesses are still without power as the City of Buffalo, New York begins to clean up after the worst October lake effect snow storm in "137 years of records" being kept, according to the National Weather Service.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- United States authorities charge

### Wikipedia Current Events

a Wisconsin man with making a hoax threat against seven American football stadiums that said they would be targeted by terrorists with radiological dirty bombs on the weekend.

- The Government of Kazakhstan is building a security fence on its border with Uzbekistan to prevent terrorist attacks in the country.

- Clare Short, the former British cabinet minister, has left the Labour Party to sit as an Independent Labour MP.

- Solomon Islands police and members of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) raid the office of Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare in Honiara.

- European Union leaders gather in Lahti, Finland, for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

- Newly convicted prisoners in the United Kingdom are to be held in police cells rather than prisons, as the nation's prison service faces chronic overcrowding in its jails.

#### 33 of 44 questioned Koreans not impressed by North Korean nuclear weapons test

In an unrepresentative poll conducted on the 12th of October, 33 Koreans stated they had "not", or "not really", changed their opinion on two critical issues, those of reunification with and the threat by North Korea, due to the nuclear weapons test by North

Korea on the 9th of October (the second test had not yet been conducted at that time). Of those asked, only two people stated that they had certainly altered their views, while the other nine said they didn't know or had possibly changed their opinion.

While the question of whether South Korea was threatened by the North was viewed differently by different people, the number of those that answered "yes" or "possibly" was double that of those answering "no" or "not really".

Opinions on the issue of Reunification were polarized. While a majority of 65% stated they "strongly supported" reunification, 15% said they were "strongly against" it, leaving only 20% choosing one of the softer positions (of slightly for/against or undecided).

The poll was conducted at a terminal hall in Incheon Airport and on board an airplane en Route from Incheon to Paris by a 23 year old German citizen and his 25 year old Korean friend, who were returning together from a 7 week trip to the country. Not all those asked agreed to fill in the multiple choice questionnaire, which was in Korean. All of those that gave the additional information on nationality, age and occupation stated "Korean" or "South Korean" as their nationality.

#### Burrito claims to sport holy figure

A woman in Sacramento, California

claims to have spotted to holy figure of Jesus Christ in her burrito.

Valencia Phillips said while she was real hungry and not so religious, she didn't dare bite into the chimichanga bearing the holy mark. "I've had an amazing, amazing experience. It's been something else," Phillips said.

It's not immediately clear what will become of the holy burrito.

### **Earthquake measuring 4.5 shakes Northern California**

4.5 magnitude earthquake centered in the Northern California city of Cobb struck around 10AM Pacific Time Friday.

The earthquake reportedly shook items off store shelves. There was no immediate report of structural damage or injury.

### **Florida suffers from summerlike conditions ahead of cold front**

Most of the U.S. state of Florida is sweltering in summerlike heat and humidity ahead of a cold front, which promises to bring down polar air from Canada to cool down the state next week.

A wide swath of Florida has reported temperatures above 90° Fahrenheit (32° Celsius) over the last three days, with heat indices either approaching or topping 100°F (38° C), with similar conditions persisting into the weekend.

At the Tampa Vandenberg Airport yesterday, few clouds and south-southwest winds pushed the temperature to 93° (34° C), toppling the previous record set for that date (89° in 1993). At the Tampa International Airport, the

recorded high was 88° (31° C), just one degree shy of the record set on that date, also in 1993. Record-breaking highs were also witnessed yesterday at the Orlando International Airport: the recorded high was 93°, breaking the record of 91° set back in 1980.

In downtown Jacksonville, the recorded high yesterday was 88°, three degrees shy of the record set in 1980, but still ten degrees higher than the average high for October 19.

Even normally warm Miami flirted with record highs. On October 18, Miami recorded a high of 89° in downtown, one degree shy of the record high set back in 1993. The only part of the state receiving a respite from the high temperatures is the Panhandle, which is already feeling the effects of the nearly stationary cold front.

### **Human remains found five years later at World Trade Center site**

More than five years after the 11 September 2001 attacks, human remains from the World Trade Center's fallen towers have been uncovered at the cross of 29th Street and 11th Avenue in New York City.

Workers from Manhattan's Consolidation Edison found the remains and took them to a natural gas vehicle refueling station, where they called medical examiners to the scene. It is unclear when the remains were found or what condition they are in.

An estimated 2,749 people died in the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil, and family members of about 1,150 victims still do not know whether the remains of victims have been, or ever will be, found.

### **Sir Edmund Hillary receives honorary doctorate**

Yesterday the first person to climb Mount Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Waikato for his work in the fields of environment, education and humanitarian.

Sir Edmund said: "Receiving this so close to home is something special," as all his other doctorates he had received had all come from other countries. Sir Edmund was born in Auckland and had travelled around Waikato, and in regards to that he said: "It's a great honour to be here, and I feel that it's almost home to me."

Roy Crawford, vice-chancellor of the University of Waikato, said: "The award of honorary doctorate acknowledges Sir Edmund's outstanding achievements and qualities."

The university already has a scholarship programme named after Sir Edmund.

Sir Edmund was the first person, along with his Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1953.

### **Haze covers Southeast Asia**

The haze situation in Southeast Asia has still not subsided, despite efforts by the Indonesian government to douse the flames. In Singapore, the Pollutant Standards Index hit 103, in the unhealthy range, at 8AM (GMT+8); Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, is also covered in smoke, with the Air Pollution Index (or Air Quality Index) in the Klang Valley region registering at 103.

The latest pictures from satellites NOAA 12 and NOAA 18 show a combined total of 107 hotspots in

Borneo and 89 in Sumatra

### Today in History

1805 - Napoleonic Wars: Lord Nelson led the British fleet to victory in the Battle of Trafalgar, defeating Pierre-Charles Villeneuve and his combined French and Spanish navy.

1824 - English stonemason, bricklayer and inventor Joseph Aspdin patented Portland cement.  
1854 - Florence Nightingale and a staff of 38 nurses were sent to the Crimean War.

1944 - World War II: HMAS Australia was hit in the first kamikaze attack; 30 crewmen, including the commanding officer, were killed.

1969 - Siad Barre became President after a military coup in Somalia.

October 21 is Diwali in Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism (2006); Overseas Chinese Day in Taiwan.

### Quote of the Day

There is surely a piece of divinity within us, something that was before the elements, and owes no homage unto the sun.  
~ Thomas Browne

### Word of the Day

renege; v

1. To break a promise or commitment.
2. (cards): To break one's commitment to follow suit when capable.

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