



Top Stories

Johnson ousts Livingstone in London mayoral election

Boris Johnson has been declared the winner in the London mayoral elections, ending Ken Livingstone's eight years as the mayor of the United Kingdom's capital.



Credit: Adamprocter2006 (cc-by-sa-2.0)

Multifaith council commends Malaysian politician's comments on conversion to Islam

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism issued a statement Friday praising comments made Wednesday by Malaysian politician Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan on conversion to Islam. Malaysian Consultative Council president Datuk A. Vaithilingam said that Ong's views are shared by Malaysians from all religious faiths in the country.

Footage of 7/7 bombers shown to court

A court in the United Kingdom has been shown footage of the bombers that attacked London on July 7, 2005. The jury were told that the footage, taken by a CCTV camera, was taken just nine days before the bombings.

ORIGINAL REPORT

New Zealand Music Month kicks off for 2008

May marks the start of the month-long music festival dedicated to celebrating homegrown New Zealand music. The up and coming band, Spyte, helped to open New Zealand Music Month 2008 by playing a concert at the Cathedral Square in the centre of Christchurch. A reporter for Wikinews sat down and talked to the members of Spyte after watching their gig.

Wikipedia Current Events

May 2008 tornado outbreak: Tornadoes affecting the south-central United States kill at least seven in Arkansas.

- Over 10,000 people gather in Seoul, South Korea, to protest the importation of US beef, which is alleged to have a danger of mad cow disease.
- The opposition Movement for Democratic Change proposes a power sharing arrangement with the President of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe's party, the Zimbabwe African National Union, but not involving Mugabe.
- Robert Mugabe proposes a run-off election to determine the outcome.
- The foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, United States, Germany, France, Russia and China agree to make a new offer to Iran over its nuclear program.
- A plane crash kills more than a

Wikipedia Current Events

- dozen in Southern Sudan, including defense minister Dominic Dim Deng.
- United States non-farm payrolls fall by 20,000 jobs with the unemployment rate falling to 5 per cent. The United States dollar strengthens on the news which indicates that the economy of the United States may not be entering a recession.
- A \$38 million compensation deal is completed for victims of the I-35W Mississippi River bridge collapse.
- Teams in both Russia and the US identify the remains of Tsarevich Alexei of Russia and his sister Grand Duchess Maria after the discovery of their bone shards on August 23, 2007.
- The Olympic flame is back on Chinese soil as the Olympics torch relay continues in Hong Kong.
- Ian Strachan and Sean McGuigan are jailed for five years each for attempting to extort money from the unidentified royal.

Odense SC win Danish squash championship

Odense Squash Club (OSC) won the Danish team club championship in squash. During the weekend of April 26 and 27, the final four of the Danish championship were played at OSC home stadium, Squash Center Danmark, due to OSC winning the league system this season. OSC beat Herlev/Hjorten Squash

(Herlev) 6-1 in the final.

OSC was the favourite to take the gold this weekend, as they had already won league play with a comfortable lead over København Squash Klub (KSK), and therefore had home court and could pick their opponent in the first semi-final. OSC chose to play Åbyhøj Squash Klub (ÅSK) in the first semi final, and beat them with ease 6-1, only losing the women's second to Ditte Nielsen (ÅSK).

During the other semi, the favoured professionals from KSK, ran in to serious problems, as injured star player Alex Stait was not able to play for KSK giving the young Herlev team a chance in this semi. After 5 matches and down by two matches, Mikkel Kragholm (Herlev) and Thomas Pilak (Herlev) became double match winners when they each beat their opponents by 3-0 and 3-1, winning the match 4-3 for Herlev.

The final was, however, dominated by OSC, and Herlev wasn't ever in the match. Only Danish individual champion Morten Sørensen was able to win for Herlev. Herlev lost the rest of the matches. OSC's players proved to be too strong for last years bronze winners from Herlev. OSC won the Danish championship 6-1 in the final at Squash Center Danmark in Odense.

MT duo & Robot Taiwan 2008: Vast opportunities for machinery industry

The 2008 Taipei CNC Machine Tools & Manufacturing Technology Show (MT duo) and Taiwan International Robot Exhibition (Robot Taiwan 2008) both began yesterday. These events are both taking place in the build up to

Taipei International Machine Tool Show (TIMTOS 2009) at TWTC Nangang, which is due to take place next year.

The 2008 MT duo and Robot Taiwan mainly focused on software designed for industry, rather than consumers. This is in contrast to the choice of software displayed in many Japanese Trade Shows, which often displays products designed for consumers.

Robotics is a major industry in Taiwan. As a result the organizer of the event decided to refine "Manufacturing Taipei" and split it into the "Robot & Industrial Automation" of Manufacturing Taipei and "Robot Taiwan".

There was also a "Taiwan International Robotics Forum" and a "Seminar on MT duo" at the event. It was designed to attract executives from IT, manufacturing, and machinery industries to promote the worldwide use of robotics in industry.

Johnson ousts Livingstone in London mayoral election

Boris Johnson has been declared the winner of London's mayoral election. The Daily Telegraph called the victory overwhelming, given how close recent opinion polls had been. Results were delayed by record turnout.

Johnson thanked his family and party activists for helping him win what he termed a "marathon election." The mayor-elect also paid tribute to Livingstone by saying the incumbent had the "thanks and admiration of millions of Londoners" for his years of service as mayor.

The people of the United Kingdom's capital city of London

voted yesterday in mayoral elections.

In the London elections voters chose both their first and second preference for Mayor of London. The incumbent mayor is Ken Livingstone.

Many polls were carried out before the election. One of the earliest, carried out by YouGov and the London Policy Institute showed a clear lead for Livingstone. A poll carried out near the end of 2007, however, showed that Livingstone was only one percentage point clear of Boris Johnson.

More recent polls, including one carried out by YouGov for Evening Standard showed a narrow lead for Johnson. Other polls, however, like the one taken for UNISON continued to show a clear lead for Livingstone.

Results of British local elections announced

The result of yesterday's local elections in the United Kingdom has been announced. It shows gains for both the Liberal Democrats and the Conservative Party, while the Labour Party has seen a significant fall in its share of the vote.

The Conservatives made the largest gains, with their number of councils increasing by 12. Below is a quote from the Conservative website, on the results:

"David Cameron has described the Local Election results as "a very big moment for the Conservative Party".

We have achieved our best local government showing since 1980:

- 256 seats and 12 councils gained, including Bury, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and the Vale of

Glamorgan

- 44 per cent of the national vote won
"

Labour made significant losses in the elections. Gordon Brown, who leads the party, agreed that the result was poor for the party. Below is part of his quote: "First of all I congratulate all those who have been successful in being elected as Labour councillors and say how sad I am about those Labour councillors who have done a tremendous job, fought a very hard campaign and have been unsuccessful.

It's clear to me that this has been a bad night for Labour. We have lessons to learn and then we will move forward. My job is to listen and to lead and that is what I will do."

Several smaller parties have also made councillor gains, including Plaid Cymru, the British National Party, the Green Party, the UK Independence Party and RESPECT.

Southern Sudan's defence minister among those killed in major plane crash

A Southern Sudan Air Connection aircraft has crashed today in Southern Sudan, killing over a dozen people, including the area's defence minister.

There are conflicting reports on how many people were on board and how many died in the Bahr Gazal crash, but at least twenty people were on board. Some sources suggest nineteen fatalities and two survivors, and others say there were 26 deaths and no survivors; it should be noted that if either of these were correct then there were more than twenty on board. Lieutenant General Dominic

Dim Deng, the area's defence minister, is confirmed to be dead and it is thought at least 19 military officials are now deceased.

"The plane had been rented from a charter company and was carrying a delegation of leaders from the (former rebel) Sudan People's Liberation Movement from Wau to the capital Juba," said Luka Mariak, spokesman for the Southern Sudan president Salva Kiir. This makes the journey around 450 kilometres (290 miles), with the plane crashing in a flat region 375 kilometres (around 220 miles) from Juba. It is reported it subsequently caught fire.

The United Nations said that the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) had dispatched a helicopter to assist the emergency response effort. The UN also said that the aircraft was a Beechcraft 1900 and that they would fly in government officials and aviation experts to conduct an investigation. The site has been cordoned off.

Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, UNMIS's Secretary-General's Special Representative, offered his condolences to the government on behalf of both UNMIS and the UN as a whole.

Kiir said in a press conference "Twenty-one passengers were killed and either two or three crew members. Two engines failed and there was nothing the pilot could do."

Justin Yak and his wife are also confirmed to be dead. Yak was the minister for cabinet affairs until a 2007 reshuffle left him removed from office. He was an adviser to the president at the time of his death. Bodies were flown into Juba Airport where relatives waited for

hours for news. UNMIS is expected to fly the bodies on to their nearby airfield, to which there is no public access.

The disaster is thought to be an accident caused by mechanical trouble. The pilot had contacted Air Traffic Control (ATC) to report engine problems and requested permission to conduct an emergency landing at nearby Rumbek. ATC lost contact minutes later.

Evangelist minister and Islam critic charged with arson in Alabama

A Baptist evangelist minister and critic of Islam was arrested Wednesday and charged with first degree attempted arson for allegedly burning tax records of his religious organization in an attempt to set his building on fire. Anis Shorrosh, 75, of Daphne, Alabama, was arrested after a fire was discovered Tuesday night in the trash room of the Loma Alta Towers condominium where he lives. 50 residents had to be evacuated from the building, but no one was hurt.

After a burning plastic garbage container set off the alarm, one of the building residents put out the fire using a fire extinguisher. Law enforcement are still investigating the incident, and are not yet certain why the tax records were set on fire.

According to local police, members of the condo owners association had signed a warrant on Monday, accusing Shorrosh of criminal mischief for allegedly tampering with the security system of his building. "He had gotten frustrated with the security system, and he

took a hammer to it," said Police Lieutenant Jud Beedy.

"He endangered a lot of people."
—Police Lieutenant Jud Beedy

Lt. Beedy said that if the fire had gotten worse than it was, there could have been injuries or deaths, saying "He endangered a lot of people." According to Lt. Beedy, building security cameras caught Shorrosh on camera entering and exiting the trash room of the building. Police Chief David Carpenter told WKRG News 5, the CBS affiliate in Mobile, that Shorrosh used an accelerant to start the fire, in what police believe was an attempt to burn the building down.

Shorrosh is in custody on a US\$25,000 bond. He has spoken critically to Christian organizations and radio programs about Islam, and has claimed that Muslims in South Africa thrice attempted to kill him in 1989.

Shorrosh has appeared opposite Muslims in debates between Islam and Christianity, and is the author of 10 books including *Islam: a Threat or a Challenge*, and *Islam Revealed*. In 2006, the United States government issued a disclaimer denying that the book *The True Quran*, written by Shorrosh, was a "new American Quran". The U.S. government stated that the book was Shorrosh's attempt to convert Muslims to Christianity.

Shorrosh is a Palestinian Arab, and according to his website www.islam-in-focus.com he was born in the town of Nazareth. Nazareth is home to many of Israel's Arab citizens and is also a Christian pilgrimage center, as a historical location described in the New Testament as the boyhood

home of Jesus Christ.

2007/08 UEFA Cup: Fiorentina vs. Rangers F.C.

0-0 on aggregate. After extra time. Rangers won 4–2 on penalties.

After 210 minutes of goalless football between Italians Fiorentina and Scottish club Rangers, a penalty shootout decided who would progress to the 2007-08 UEFA Cup Final. In a match that contained thirteen shots on goal, neither team could find the back of the net, and so to penalties it went.

Barry Ferguson missed the opening spot-kick, seeing it saved by Sebastien Frey. Zdravko Kuzmanovic put the home side ahead. Steven Whittaker succeeded where his captain could not, slotting the ball home. Riccardo Montolivo maintained Fiorentina's lead before Sasa Papac put away Rangers' second. Fabio Liverani was next up, and his effort was saved by Neil Alexander. The shootout was now level, with one miss apiece.

Brahim Hemdani scored a third for Rangers, and then returned to the centre circle to witness Christian Vieri miss Fiorentina's second successive effort. It was left to Spaniard Nacho Novo to give Rangers victory, and he put his strike into the back of the net.

Rangers, who were reduced to ten men with ten minutes of extra time remaining after Daniel Cousin was sent off for an apparent headbutt on Fabio Liverani, will meet Zenit Saint Petersburg in the final in Manchester, England, on May 14, 2008. Zenit are managed by former Rangers boss Dick Advocaat.

New Zealand Music Month kicks off for 2008

May marks the start of the month-long music festival dedicated to celebrating homegrown New Zealand music. The up and coming band, Spyte, helped to open New Zealand Music Month 2008 by playing a concert at the Cathedral Square in the centre of Christchurch. Gabriel Pollard sat down and talked to the members of Spyte after watching their gig.

The annual Kiwi music showcase, which officially began yesterday, had various bands playing, ranging from jazz to heavy metal. While Spyte don't associate themselves with a particular genre as to not restrict themselves, the "unofficial leader" of Spyte, Bex Thomas, told me that they generally play heavy metal like they did today.

The band members of Spyte include Bex Thomas as guitarist, Logan Ellis as drummer and Stuart Hunter as bassist. They met each other at Christchurch's School of Rock.

They are looking to add new members after dropping some members earlier in the year, including a new drummer when Mr Ellis moves back onto guitar and a vocalist. Because they are yet to secure a vocalist, their current songs are instrumental.

Spyte played both of their songs at the Christchurch City Council-organised concert today because a third was not ready in time. Ms Thomas said they didn't have enough time to prepare if they were to play three songs.

One spectator listening to Spyte play described their performance as "awesome". Clay Shaw says, "I feel that they produced a very unique sound even though they

had to make it quieter than normal due to noise restrictions."

When Spyte formed last year they didn't have a name and quickly chose one when asked if they had a band name right before jumping on stage. When asked the origins behind the name, Ms Thomas said, "We didn't want to risk having the same name as another band and it looks better."

The band tries to practice around once a week at least, but, as Ms Thomas says, "You can't practice too much if you're a musician."

All members of the band are serious about music and all indicate they wish to have a career in music in the future. Ms Thomas says she would like to be a professional musician or a guitar technician, but failing that she would fall back on psychology. She says, "It's hard to get into the New Zealand music industry. You've got to be realistic." Mr Hunter also says he would like to be a professional musician, but is training to become a chef if the former isn't possible. And Mr Ellis says he would like to be a music producer or a session musician.

Spyte have so far had three gigs, including today's one but would be able to get many more if they "tried".

Bush calls for congress to make more money available for Food Aid

George W. Bush, the President of the United States recently discussed Food Aid in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House. He called for extra funds to be allocated by Congress to support food aid. "I am calling on Congress to provide an additional \$770 million to support food aid and development

programs. Together, this amounts to nearly \$1 billion in new funds to bolster global food security," he said.

His reasoning for asking for the increased funding was that the "funding will keep our [the US's] existing emergency food aid programs robust."

Bush declared that food aid in the past had been successful; he claimed that the US has "been the leader for providing food to those who are going without in the past, and we will continue to be the leader around the world."

On the topic of the delivery of food aid, the President commented, "as America increases its food assistance, it's really important that we transform the way that food aid is delivered. In my State of the Union address this year, I called on Congress to support a proposal to purchase up to nearly 25 percent of food assistance directly from farmers in the developing world. "

Bush then claimed that "America is in the lead" in delivering food aid, and that America will continue to be the lead in delivering Food Aid.

Furthermore, he stated that the US is "also working toward the conclusion of a successful Doha agreement that will reduce and eliminates tariffs and other barriers, as well as market-distorting subsidies for agricultural goods."

As his speech drew to a close, Bush asserted that people is the US "are generous people" and are "compassionate people."

Today in History

1791 – The Polish Constitution of May 3, one of the earliest codified

national constitutions in the world, was adopted by the Sejm.

1808 – Finnish War: Sweden lost the fortress of Suomenlinna to Russia.

1815 – Austrian troops led by Frederick Bianchi, Duke of Casalanza defeated the forces under King Joachim Murat of Naples at the Battle of Tolentino, the decisive battle of the Neapolitan War.

1945 – World War II: German ocean liner Cap Arcona, left to float defencelessly in the Bay of Lübeck with thousands of prisoners from various concentration camps on board, was attacked and sunk by RAF Typhoons.

1947 – A new Constitution of Japan went into effect, providing for a parliamentary system of government, guaranteeing certain fundamental rights, and relegating the Japanese monarchy to a purely ceremonial role.

May 03 is Constitution Day in Poland and Japan, World Press Freedom Day

Quote of the Day

The lion cannot protect himself from traps, and the fox cannot defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognize traps, and a lion to frighten wolves.

~ Niccolò Machiavelli

Word of the Day

derisive adj

1. Expressing or characterized by derision; mocking; ridiculing.
2. Deserving or provoking derision or ridicule.

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