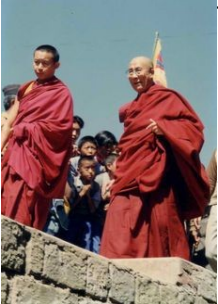




### Top Stories

#### **Dalai Lama threatens to resign if situation in Tibet worsens**



*Credit: John Hill (GFDL)*

The Dalai Lama has vowed to step down from his position if Tibetans continue to use violence against China. He also responded to accusations made by Chinese premier Wen Jiabao.

#### **NASA: Old Arctic sea ice continues to melt**

NASA has stated that recent



satellite images have shown that despite an unusually cold winter in the Arctic, the old or perennial ice on both the North and South Poles has continued to melt while the level of 'new ice' has increased.

#### **Barack Obama gives speech on racial division**

United States presidential candidate Barack Obama gave a speech on



*Credit: jurvetson (cc-by 2.0)*

Tuesday concerning racial division, which has become a major issue in his campaign after his former pastor's racially-charged statements were widely reported in the media last week.

### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

#### **Wikinews interviews Corrado Giustozzi, security consultant and author**

Corrado Giustozzi, who has



*Credit: Agatino Grillo (CC-BY 3.0)*

written many books, in addition to Information security consultant for many Italian law

enforcement agencies, was recently interviewed for Wikinews, in Italian as part of Wiki@Home. A translation of an abridged version of the interview can be found in the main article.

### Wikipedia Current Events

are killed in the attack.

#### **Climate change impacts Wyoming**

Cheek numbing, eye watering winds whip across the plains of the Laramie Basin, Wyoming. The ground is yellow brown with patches of recalcitrant snow. Sheep Mountain is losing its winter coat. All normal affairs for March. The March edition of the Wyoming Basin Outlook Report, also reports, based on February accumulations, that Snow Water Equivalent is at 99% of average.

The SWE is a measure of the snow pack that feeds the streams, rivers and reservoirs that Wyoming, Nebraska and other states depend upon for water. Current averages are compared to the average SWE for 1971-2000. In recent years, snow pack in this region has been anything but normal.

The Outlook Reports are issued January to June. Since March 2000, only five of 46 months have been above normal. While many of the winter months have been near normal, June's snow pack is far below average. Even in 2006, the wettest year of the millenia, June snow pack was only 37% of the average.

In an e-mail interview with Wikinews, Lee Hackleman, Water Supply Specialist, said "The snowpack is melting out several weeks earlier than average. The higher temperatures in the spring

### Wikipedia Current Events

In an address to the Israeli Knesset, German Chancellor Angela Merkel says "Germany will always stand by the Jewish state."

- French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner says the EU should consider punishing China's crackdown in Tibet with a boycott of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Beijing.
- The Netherlands sets a new world record in the 400-metres relay at the European swimming championships in Eindhoven.
- The US Federal Reserve System cuts the federal funds rate by 75 basis points to 2.25%.
- The United States embassy in Yemen is closed after three mortar shells detonate near the embassy compound. Two people

are responsible for this. There seems to be a significant drop in the amount of runoff that we are able to retain in our reservoirs, a lot of runoff seems to be soaking into the ground. We do not have the June flood events any more. We use to be cool then hot, not cool warm then hot."

—Lee Hackleman, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

In a phone interview with Wikinews, Myra Wilensky of the National Wildlife Federation in nearby Colorado, also commented on changing snow patterns

"In the west, nothing is ever clockwork, the patterns shift, a can get a good amount of snowfall in the season and then a quick warm up. We don't get the prolonged snowpack that we used to have. May have a really wet snow year, then really dry with rain.

Can't count on getting estimated amount of snow anymore. March and November have historically been our snowiest months, but this year it's been a fairly dry in March and November. Winter is shorter now."

—Myra Wilensky, National Wildlife Foundation.

This is part of a general increase in temperature in the region. An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change cited by the National Wildlife Federation estimates that the temperature will rise almost 7 degrees (F) by 2100.

"This will likely cause most, if not all, of the state's glaciers to disappear. Wildfires may increase, droughts could get worse and rains--when they do come--will likely come in more severe downpours that may cause more

flash flooding. Warmer temperatures also mean less snowpack in the mountains, leading to more winter runoff and reduced summer flows in many Wyoming streams."

—National Wildlife Federation.

The NWF's main concern is the fate of the wildlife in the region, particularly how the impact of pine bark beetles. Warmer winters have led to mass infestations in Western lodge pole pine forests and the York Times reports that they are now moving on to white bark pines in Yellowstone particularly impacting grizzly bears there. They are shifting to feeding on Canadian thistle, an invasive species that might be choking out native plants.

Changing weather patterns have also affected large migratory animals.

"This year winter came late. When the heavy snows hit, the mule deer and the elk were spread out, had to be fed. Feeding isn't newsworthy, happened before like in 1982 but it wasn't as successful this year because they were so spread out." —Myra Wilensky, National Wildlife Foundation.

Water for people has also become a major issue in the region.

"There is a much greater concern for water rights than there used to be. There is not enough late season water to satisfy everyone all the time." —Lee Hackleman, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Kansas has long fought Wyoming over rights issues. Currently, Montana is suing Wyoming over water rights. On February 18, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the lawsuit.

"At the heart of the disagreement are the states' different interpretations of the Yellowstone River Compact. The 1950 agreement spelled out how states were to share water from the Tongue, Powder and other rivers within the Yellowstone River basin. Wyoming officials say they are adhering to the compact and that the drought has meant less water for both states.

But Montana says Wyoming is storing more water in reservoirs than the compact permits and allowing excessive pumping of groundwater reserves that feed into the two rivers.

Those "groundwater" reserves are tapped by some Wyoming farmers to irrigate their fields. Energy companies discharge large volumes of groundwater during production of coal-bed methane, a type of natural gas prevalent in northern Wyoming." —U.S. Water News Online, March 2008.

Authorities do not seeing this issue going away.

"Everyone is going to have to learn to get by with less."

—Lee Hackleman, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### **Barack Obama gives speech on racial division**

United States presidential candidate Barack Obama today gave a speech concerning racial division, which has become a major issue in his campaign after his former pastor's racially-charged statements were widely reported in the media last week.

The 45-minute speech, which Obama's advisers say was written by Barack himself, was delivered at the National Constitution

Center, a history museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was broadcast live on national television.

Obama said Rev. Jeremiah Wright's statements "expressed a profoundly distorted view of this country – a view that sees white racism as endemic, and that elevates what is wrong with America above all that we know is right with America". In one of Wright's more controversial sermons, he said blacks should damn America for mistreating and ignoring them.

"Reverend Wright's comments were not only wrong but divisive, divisive at a time when we need unity; racially charged at a time when we need to come together to solve a set of monumental problems," Obama said.

However, Obama says he will continue to embrace his former pastor, if not his words. "I can no more disown him than I can disown the black community," he said. "I can no more disown him than I can my white grandmother ... a woman who once confessed her fear of black men who passed by her on the street ... These people are a part of me. And they are a part of America, this country that I love."

"Reverend Wright's comments were not only wrong but divisive, divisive at a time when we need unity; racially charged at a time when we need to come together to solve a set of monumental problems." —Barack Obama

Obama, the son of a Kenyan man and a white woman, discussed how his race has affected his campaign. "On one end of the spectrum, we've heard the implication that my candidacy is

somehow an exercise in affirmative action; that it's based solely on the desire of wide-eyed liberals to purchase racial reconciliation on the cheap," he said.

"On the other end, we've heard my former pastor, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, use incendiary language to express views that have the potential not only to widen the racial divide, but views that denigrate both the greatness and the goodness of our nation".

He also discussed the larger issue of race, and said that it is still an issue in the United States. "The anger is real," he said, referring to the anger expressed by Wright and other blacks. "It is powerful, and to simply wish it away, to condemn it without understanding its roots, only serves to widen the chasm of misunderstanding that exists between the races."

He also mentioned the resentment felt by many whites because of welfare and affirmative action. Though he says this resentment has often distracted America from the real problems whites and others face, he said that to label it as misguided or racist would only "widen the racial divide".

Obama described the current state of racial affairs in America as a "stalemate we've been stuck in for years", but he says he has a conviction that "we can move beyond some of our old racial wounds" and "continue on the path of a more perfect union".

Hillary Clinton, also campaigning in Philadelphia, gave a positive comment about Barack's speech. "Issues of race and gender in America have been complicated throughout our history, and they are complicated in this primary

campaign," said Clinton. "There have been detours and pitfalls along the way, but we should remember that this is a historic moment for the Democratic Party and for our country. We will be nominating the first African-American or woman for the presidency of the United States, and that is something that all Americans can and should celebrate."

The Internet's reaction to Obama's speech was immediate and pronounced. Adam Whittaker, a blogger from Brooklyn, New York, posted a supportive comment on Obama's campaign site. "Obama went straight to the wound today," he wrote, "but he didn't go with a bottle of acid or with the intentions to open the wound deeper. He went to the wound with precision and healing power of a surgeon, and he even sewed a stitch to begin the healing."

A user from Yukon, Oklahoma named Brint said, "Here we have a man who is half black, half white; a man who has experienced and embodies the concerns shared by both sides in racism, speaking frankly and intelligently on the issue."

Others were not so supportive. One YouTube user questioned why Obama had stayed close to Wright for so long. "His words are not enough - he should have taken action years ago," the user commented. "There's no room in this world for Wright's divisive teachings, and his financial and spiritual support of them over 20 years does not help his electability.

Another user wrote, "Actions speak louder than words and Obama sat and listened to hate for a long time. Not even one of his great speeches can erase that."

### **NASA: Old Arctic sea ice continues to melt**

NASA has stated that recent satellite images have shown that despite an unusually cold winter in the Arctic, the old or perennial ice on both the North and South Poles has continued to melt while the level of 'new ice' has increased as compared to last March.

On March 18 the scientists said they believe that the increased area of sea ice this winter is due to recent weather conditions, while the decline in perennial ice reflects the longer-term warming climate trend and is a result of increased melting during summer and greater movement of the older ice out of the Arctic.

According to NASA-processed microwave data, whereas perennial ice used to cover 50-60 percent of the Arctic, this year it covers less than 30 percent. Very old ice that remains in the Arctic for at least six years comprised over 20 percent of the Arctic area in the mid to late 1980s, but this winter it decreased to just six percent.

"Although this March the area is slightly larger than last March, the area of [thick] perennial ice has reached an all time low. So the volume of Arctic ice continues to decrease," said NASA's Cryospheric Sciences Program manager Seelye Martin.

Arctic sea ice grows and declines seasonally, ranging from an average minimum extent in September of 2.5 million square miles to an average winter maximum extent of 5.9 million square miles in March. This March, instruments on NASA's Aqua satellite and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States

Defense Department satellites showed the maximum sea ice extent slightly increased by 3.9 percent over that of the previous three years, but it is still below the long-term average by 2.2 percent. Increases in ice extent occurred in areas where surface temperatures were colder than the historical averages. At the same time, as a result of the export of ice from the Arctic, the area of perennial ice decreased to an all-time minimum.

Joey Comiso of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., the lead author of a 2007 related study, used data from NASA's passive microwave data set to establish that the perennial ice cover at the summer Arctic ice minimum in 2007 was about 40 percent less than the 28-year average. According to the latest observations from the National Snow and Ice Data Center (an organization partially funded by NASA), perennial sea ice dropped from about 40 percent of the total ice pack last year to 30 percent of total ice this winter. The perennial ice is also growing younger, meaning that it is thinner and will be more vulnerable during the summer melt period.

According to Walt Meier of the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder, as ice ages it continues to grow and thicken, so that older ice is generally also thicker ice. This winter the ice cover is much thinner overall and thus in a more vulnerable state heading into the summer melt season.

"It's becoming thinner and thinner and much more susceptible to melting during the summer - much more likely to melt away. It may look OK on the surface, but it's like looking at a Hollywood movie set - you see the facade of a building

and it looks OK, but if you look behind it, there's no building there," said Meier.

NASA's ICESat satellite has contributed to understanding of the changes in ice thickness. To get a better understanding of the behavior of sea ice, NASA is planning a follow-on satellite mission, ICESat II, to launch in 2015.

### **Indonesia grounds Adam Air; may be permanently shut down in three months**

Indonesia has suspended the operating license of PT Adam Skyconnection Airlines, who trade as Adam Air, over safety concerns. The airline has recently suffered safety problems and financial difficulty.

Formed in 2003, Adam Air hit financial crisis on Monday when two major shareholders, investment companies who control 50% of the airline, announced they were pulling out and selling all shares back to the original owners, who still control the other half. The reasons given were a lack of improvement in safety and alleged financial mismanagement.

The shares were bought after two major accidents hit the budget carrier last year. On New Year's day Adam Air Flight 574 disappeared and was found to have crashed into the ocean near Sulawesi, leaving 102 missing and presumed dead. Shortly afterwards, another company aircraft snapped in half during landing, but fatalities were prevented because the compromised airframe held together. Both were Boeing 737 (B737) aircraft. At the airline's height, it operated 22 of these, serving domestic routes across the Indonesian archipelago and

daily international flights to Malaysia and Singapore.

Adam Air also had a serious incident in early 2006, when all navigational systems on a B737 failed, causing the plane to inadvertently enter an accident blackspot. The aircraft was lost for several hours before performing an emergency landing hundreds of miles from its intended destination.

On March 10, another Adam Air B737 overshot the runway during landing at Batam island's airport. Since then, Adam Air has been issued two deadlines in rapid succession by the authorities - one to solve safety issues, and one to prove its financial viability. They have cut routes from 52 to 12, and defaulted on all payments on their aircraft to the leasing companies, who have seized back 12 of them.

Gustiono Kustianto, director of one of the two leasing companies, said the carrier's "life expectancy is less than a month," and that it owes US\$14 million to leasing companies compared to \$4.8 million of free capital.

Aviation director general Budhi Mulyawan Suyitno said that Adam Air had been grounded due to inadequate Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) standards and poor pilot training. He said that investigations into last week's crash, which injured five people and severely damaged the aircraft, had revealed "the pilot had no idea what to do in an emergency situation." The airline will spend three months grounded, after which it will be shut down entirely if it does not show it has improved.

"The Transport Ministry has decided to revoke Adam Air's

operational specification, effective 12am Wednesday (4am AEDT), said Suyitno. "With this, Adam Air is banned from operating its aircraft. All of its planes must be automatically grounded." He commented that a quarterly evaluation had uncovered "violations that could put passengers' safety at risk".

The news coincides with a two-day ultimatum from Adam Air's insurance provider. Failure to pay the insurance premiums would also have resulted in grounding.

Founder Adam Suherman - whose family owns half the airline alongside Sandra Ang - commented today that the situation with the shareholders had demoralised pilots. "That in turn would affect their performance. It is very dangerous." He also said that he was not surprised Adam Air had been grounded. Yesterday, he said that there were no plans to file for bankruptcy.

His immediate reaction to the news from the insurance - which preceded the grounding by several hours - was that his airline likely could not insure the entire fleet, saying "There have been warnings from the insurance companies... Because every aircraft that is in operation must be insured, the operational activities will be temporarily suspended until there is a further decision from shareholders."

Adam Air's 2007 accidents, coupled with Garuda Indonesia Flight 200, sparked an industry review that determined none of the nation's air carriers were safe. The United States subsequently warned against using Indonesian airlines, and they were all added to the list of air carriers banned in

the EU.

### **Dalai Lama threatens to resign if situation in Tibet worsens**

Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, has vowed to step down from his position if things "get out of control" in Tibet, where violent demonstrations against China have killed anywhere from 13 to 100 people.

At a news conference in Dharamsala, India, the Dalai Lama said he was opposed to the use of violence against China's rule. "Violence is almost suicide," he said. "Even if 1,000 Tibetans sacrifice their lives, it will not help." However, he acknowledges that many radical Tibetans have criticized his policy of non-violence, and says that his only option is to "completely resign" if the bloodshed continues.

After making these statements, his secretary Tenzin Taklha said it would be impossible for him to resign as Tibet's spiritual leader, and that he will only be able to resign as their political leader. "If the Tibetans were to choose the path of violence, he would have to resign because he is completely committed to nonviolence," Taklha said. "He would resign as the political leader and head of state, but not as the Dalai Lama. He will always be the Dalai Lama."

The Dalai Lama responded to accusations made by China's premier, Wen Jiabao, who said there was evidence proving that the riots were "organised, premeditated, masterminded and incited by the Dalai clique". The Dalai Lama asked Chinese officials to come to his headquarters in Dharamsala and investigate. "Check our various offices," he said. "They can examine my pulse, my urine, my stool, everything."

He also suggested that the Chinese themselves may have orchestrated the protests as a way to discredit him. "It's possible some Chinese agents are involved there," the Dalai Lama said. "Sometimes totalitarian regimes are very clever, so it is important to investigate."

Wen Jiabao's remarks came at an annual news conference at the end of China's national legislative session. He said the intent of the riots was to "undermine the Beijing Olympic Games" and "serve their hidden agenda". He added, "This has all the more revealed that the consistent claims made by the Dalai clique that they pursue not independence but peaceful dialogue are nothing but lies."

Wen said China will be open to negotiation with the Dalai Lama if he recognizes Tibet and Taiwan as "inalienable parts of the Chinese territory". The Dalai Lama responded by inviting Wen to speak with him. "If the Chinese side ... accepts the reality and addresses the Tibetan problem realistically, within a few hours we can solve this problem," he said

"If the Tibetans were to choose the path of violence, he would have to resign because he is completely committed to nonviolence"  
—Tenzin Taklha

Although China suspects the Dalai Lama and his followers wish to break away from Chinese control, Tenzin Gyatso said that "independence is out of the question" and instead advocated greater autonomy within China. "We should not develop anti-Chinese feelings," he said. "We must live together side by side."

He said he plans to meet with

Tibetan exiles who are currently marching from India to Lhasa, as he believes their ambitions to be futile. "Will you get independence? What's the use?" he asked, calling for them to stop at the border.

Meanwhile, China continued with efforts to arrest those involved in the Lhasa demonstrations, after a midnight deadline for protesters to turn themselves in passed without any apparent surrenders. Witnesses reported 4 army trucks carrying off dozens of handcuffed prisoners. Urgen Tenzin, executive director of the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy, said about 600 Tibetans were arrested Monday.

Police were seen patrolling the streets of Lhasa, carrying batons or rifles and checking for identification papers. "When the fighting began, you saw no Chinese," said John Kenwood, a Canadian tourist. "Now you see no Tibetans on the streets. The young Tibetans are probably hiding."

The protests, which began in Lhasa, have since spread to neighboring provinces. In Aba, Sichuan, one witness reported 17 deaths. "Earlier today, the whole town was teeming with police and soldiers," he said. "All the shops have been closed. There are no arrests that I know of ... People are anticipating that something big is going to happen." Elsewhere in Sichuan, thousands of Tibetans turned out in the streets of Seda, according to the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy.

The international community has repeatedly urged China to use restraint in dealing with protesters, and to start talks with the Dalai Lama. United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Monday, "We have

really urged the Chinese over several years to find a way to talk with the Dalai Lama, who is a figure of authority, who is not a separatist, and to find a way to engage him and bring his moral weight to a more sustainable and better solution of the Tibet issue."

### **2008 Taipei Cycle: Interview with Fma International about the design of "Champion Cheongsam"**

The leader of the 2008 Tour de Taiwan gets a yellow jersey. But every tour winner gets assistance from a "Miss Etiquette," a tour assistant and a brand new part of the Tour de Taiwan. Miss Ettiquette has become a key feature at the awards ceremonies for every stage. Fma International Co., Ltd., the jersey sponsor of 2008 Tour de Taiwan, and a participant of the 2008 Taipei Cycle, has designed 4 different cheongsams (dresses) for "Miss Etiquette," each matching the colors of the four leader jerseys. These cheongsam made a big hit with the Taiwanese and international media in Taiwan.

But what led to these champion jerseys and cheongsams? Wikinews Journalist Rico Shen visited the booth of Fma International and interviewed Martin Hsueh-po Cheng, General Manager of Fma International, to uncover the background of their design at the 3rd Day of Taipei Cycle, just after the finish of the 7th Stage of the Tour de Taiwan (March 15).

Wikinews: Why did you cooperate with the Chinese Taipei Cycling Association (CTCA) to design the leader jerseys and cheongsams?

Martin Cheng: We [Fma International] are proud of our sponsorship of the 2008 Tour de

Taiwan. Before the race, we contacted Tour executives and in conjunction with the Taiwan Textile Research Institute (TTRI), the well-known research academy,...were able to contribute a brand new material for CTCA's design. Because the Tour de Taiwan is a famous world-class competition, we can get this wonderful chance to market our brand and our design to the world.

WN: Usually designs such as the champion cheongsam for "Miss Etiquette", are only available at world-class competitions such as the Olympic Games or the World Games. Why did Fma International think to design these champion cheongsams?

Martin: The champion cheongsams, whose colors matched the four leader jerseys, are exclusively designed for the award ceremony to make these simple ceremonies more vivid and colorful...

WN: Before the design, did you coordinate with the CTCA on the design?

Martin: Coordination was a necessity because the design had to be approved by the Union Cycliste Internationale. Only after their approval, it could these designs be part of the Tour de Taiwan awards ceremonies. of the race. By the way, we also did a number of alterations to customize these important champion cheongsams for each "Miss Etiquette" chosen by the CTCA.

WN: Do you do trial runs with these new products and designs that your industry produced?

Martin: We cooperated with the TTRI for a long time on rematching and rearranging new materials

when designing and did several trial runs with our newly-designed jerseys and jerseys produced with similar materials. Generally, these materials have been certified by the TTRI other some other international verification group including from Taiwan.

WN: Other comments? Or some other significant feature?

Martin: We [the public] know that an emperor in China dressed a yellow robe to symbolize as the royalty. Originally, our company [Fma International] hoped our design would include not only our brand new fabric technology but also a traditional element, well-known as part of Taiwanese high fashion. After discussions with several senior designers, we introduced the "dragon", an animal symbolizing our traditional culture here in our Chinese-language countries, into our design and created a logo symbolic of a coiled dragon. In general, we hope this new design can be of great significance.

### **St. Patrick's Day around the world**

Monday marked St. Patrick's Day, a national holiday in Ireland and a cause for celebration in many other nations.

Australia's Irish pubs were expected to do booming business, while Sydney hosted one of the world's many St. Patrick's Day parades on Sunday.

In the United States, Chicago's main river was coloured green on Saturday.

A memorial to the Flight of the Earls was dedicated at Andermatt, Switzerland to mark the day. Early in the 17th Century, the last of the Gaelic Earls fled Ireland for Spain,

travelling through Andermatt during their journey.

St. Patrick's Day parades are conducted in many regions of Japan. The Tokyo parade began in 1992, with this year's edition held on Sunday in the city's Omotesandō neighbourhood. Elsewhere in Asia, Singapore also held a St. Patrick's Day parade, this year connected with the 140th anniversary of the introduction of Guinness beer to that nation.

Finally from Ireland itself, nearly all of that nation's cabinet ministers will be in various nations for promotional visits. Prime Minister Bertie Ahern was in Washington to present a bowl of shamrocks to United States President George W. Bush, among other activities.

### **Russian Wikipedia reaches a quarter million articles**

Russian Language edition of Wikipedia on Monday, March 17, reached the milestone of 250 000 articles. The collective of editors on the project issued a press release on that, according to which the jubilee article was determined to be "Гендерная лингвистика" (Gender linguistics) created by ru-wiki user Koryakov Yuri.

In the extent of 7 years of its life, the Russian Wikipedia has become the largest Russian Language encyclopedia of all time, as well as the largest in the Runet (Russian-spoken Internet). The closest printed rival is the Terra ("Teppa") encyclopedia published in 2006 which features 160 000 articles in 62 volumes. It is followed by 1906 Brockhaus and Efron Encyclopedic Dictionary which has 121 240 articles in 31 volumes.

Russian Wikipedians estimate that

around 30 thousand of people participated in one or another way in the ru-wiki so far. Russian Wikipedia is now a major source of information for Russian-speaking people: a poll indicated it recently to be 12th most visited site within the Runet, another poll of about 1000 people found out 32% of them were considering Wikipedia a crucial informational tool. During last February (2008) there were over 4.8 million hits to ru-wiki's main page registered (about 165 thousand per day).

Russian language Wikipedia is the 11th in quantity amongst other language ones, 13th in the number of participants and the 5th in "depth" parameter in 100 000+ category, says the press release.

**Wikipedia Current Events**

The Organization of American States rejects Colombia's recent raid into Ecuador's territory as "a clear violation of the OAS charter."

- Sweden's Supreme Court rules in favor of late film director Vilgot Sjöman who had sued a TV channel for copyright infringement after it ran three commercial breaks during the director's film.

- Police in Manipur, India claim a rebel group has killed seven migrant workers.

- 2008 National People's Congress: At the concluding press conference, Premier of the People's Republic of China Wen Jiabao asserts the Chinese government exercised restraint in suppressing the 2008 unrest in Tibet. Wen also accused the Dalai Lama in inciting the protests.

- Canada and Japan recognizes Kosovo's independence.

**Today in History**

1279 – The Song Dynasty in Imperial China ended with a victory by the Yuan Dynasty at the Battle of Yamen off the coast of Xinhui, Guangdong Province.

1687 – The search for the mouth of the Mississippi River led by French explorer René Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle ended with a mutiny and his murder in present-day Texas.

1915 – Pluto was photographed for the first time, 15 years before it was eventually discovered by Clyde Tombaugh at the Lowell Observatory.

1941 – The Tuskegee Airmen, the first all-African American unit of the United States Army Air Corps, was activated.

1978 – In response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the United Nations called on Israel to immediately withdraw its forces from Lebanon, and established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

1982 – Argentine forces led by Alfredo Astiz occupied South Georgia, precipitating the Falklands War against the United Kingdom.

March 19 is Saint Joseph's Day in Catholicism; Father's Day in various countries.

**Quote of the Day**

Do what thy manhood bids thee do, from none but self expect applause;

He noblest lives and noblest dies who makes and keeps his self-made laws.

~ Sir Richard Francis Burton ~

**Word of the Day**

vaunt v

1. To speak boastfully.

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Current\\_events](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Current_events)

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Quote of the Day

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page)

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