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Ma Ying-jeou wins 2008 Taiwan presidential election



Ma Ying-jeou, former Mayor of Taipei, has been elected as the new President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) with a landslide victory of 58.45% of the popular vote.

Major US presidential candidates have passport files breached

Just hours after firing two contract employees for inappropriately examining the passport file of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Hillary Clinton that her passport file was also breached. John McCain, the Republican candidate for president, also had his file breached.

Scientists say that a 'global layer of water' exists on Saturn's moon Titan

NASA's Cassini spacecraft has discovered evidence that points to the existence of an underground ocean of water and ammonia on Saturn's moon Titan. If the findings turn out to be true, this will be the fourth such moon in our solar system found to have



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some form of water on it.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Wikinews interviews author and filmmaker John Gaspard

Author and filmmaker John Gaspard spoke with Wikinews on his three low budget feature films and books. He told us how he was able to make his latest movie, Grown Men, for under \$13,000 and how his popular book, Digital Filmmaking 101, came to be. He even had a few tips for the amateur filmmakers reading this.

Wikipedia Current Events

Ma Ying-jeou is elected President of the Republic of China with more than 58% of the votes in the 2008 presidential election, handing the presidency back to the Kuomintang after eight years under the Democratic Progressive Party

•Magdi Allam, the most prominent Muslim in Italy, converts to Catholicism and is baptized by Pope Benedict XVI .

Pakistan Peoples Party names candidate for Prime Minister

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has nominated Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, former Speaker of the National Assembly, as their candidate for Pakistan's next Prime Minister.

His nomination was announced by party spokesman Farhatullah Babar at a news conference in

Islamabad. "Yousaf Raza Gilani is not afraid to lead and he knows the way," he said, reading a statement from Asif Ali Zardari, widower of late PPP leader Benazir Bhutto and party co-chairman.

"I have great pleasure in calling upon Yousuf Raza Gilani in the name of martyr Benazir Bhutto to accept the heavy responsibility to lead the coalition government and the nation," Babar said. The announcement was expected to be made by Bhutto's son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, but party officials said he wasn't feeling well.

The parliament will vote for the Prime Minister on Monday. Gillani is widely expected to win the vote because of the majority coalition formed by the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League (N), the latter of which is led by former PM Nawaz Sharif. The new Prime Minister will be sworn in by President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday.

If Gillani becomes Prime Minister, analysts say he might soon be replaced by Asif Ali Zardari, co-chairman of the PPP and Bhutto's widower. He is currently ineligible for the position of PM, as he is not currently a member of Parliament, but he could win a seat in a matter of months by contesting a by-election. However, the party spokesman's statement offered no indication that Gillani would serve as a temporary Prime Minister.

PPP vice chairman Makhdoom Amin Fahim was long presumed to

be the front-runner for the party's nomination, but after Gillani's name was announced, he said, "I have the best wishes for him." Some party members had reportedly viewed Fahim as being too close to Pervez Musharraf.

Meanwhile, the Musharraf's allies have still not picked their candidate for Prime Minister. The Muttahida Qaumi Movement decided to withdraw their candidate Farooq Sattar as "gesture of goodwill" towards the PPP. "We have decided to extend unconditional support to the PPP nominee," said Sattar.

Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (Q), says the race will not be uncontested, and that his party will nominate Sattar's replacement on Sunday. "We have decided to contest the election for prime minister and not to withdraw from the political process," Hussain told reporters.

Ma Ying-jeou wins 2008 Taiwan presidential election

Ma Ying-jeou, former Mayor of Taipei, has been elected as the new President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the fourth contested election of the independent state with a landslide victory of 58.45% of the popular vote (7,658,724 votes). He defeated his opponent, Frank Hsieh, who received 41.55% of the popular vote (5,445,239 votes). The results of the election has been confirmed by the Central Election Commission of the ROC.

Ma represented the Pan-Blue Coalition, which consists of the Kuomintang, the People First Party, and the New Party and generally supports maintaining the current status quo. The coalition is in direct opposition to the Pan-

Green Coalition, which consists of the Democratic Progressive Party, the Taiwan Solidarity Union, and the Taiwan Independence Party and generally supports Taiwanese independence. Hsieh, former Premier of the ROC, was the candidate for the Pan-Green Coalition.

Born in Hong Kong, Ma studied at New York University and Harvard Law School and once held an American permanent resident "green card". Hsieh implied during the election that Ma might flee the country during a time of crisis. Hsieh also argued that the photogenic Ma was more style than substance. Despite these accusations, Ma won handily on a platform advocating closer ties with the Chinese mainland.

Ma Ying-jeou will be inaugurated as the new President in May 2008, with Vincent Shew being the new Vice President, replacing the current president Chen Shui-bian and ending the DPP's 8-year rule of Taiwan. Ma has promised to increase economic ties with Mainland China by increasing tourism, air flights and relaxing rules that govern Taiwanese investments in the mainland. Ma, however, does not argue for political union. He called Chinese Premier Weng Jiabao's recent call for "one China" talks "rude, unreasonable, arrogant, absurd, and self-righteous."

George W. Bush, President of the United States, has issued a statement congratulating Ma on his success and reasserting that the U.S. will continue to maintain unofficial ties with Taiwan.

Two referendums regarding Taiwan's involvement in the United Nations and other international organizations were also held along

with the presidential election. The ROC Central Election Commission also confirmed that both referendums have failed due to low turnout.

Texas police: 2-year old crushed by relative

According to police investigating the death of a 2-year old boy in Hidalgo County, Texas, the boy's death may have been caused by a morbidly obese relative who fell on him, fracturing his skull.

"It didn't look like there was any foul play," according to Justice of the Peace Bobby Conteras. The boy was pronounced dead on Tuesday.

The boy was dropped off at the relative's house to spend the day there, according to the boy's mother. County Sheriff Lupe Treviño, who called the death "suspicious," is reported to be waiting for an official cause of death before making a decision to file charges or not.

The identity of the child is not yet known.

ETA set off car bomb in La Rioja, Spain

40 families have been evacuated from their homes in the Guardia Civil barracks in Calahorra, La Rioja, today after a car bomb exploded, because of the damage done to the building. There were only some slight cuts and bruises caused by the blast which happened around 2pm. Among the injured is a Civil Guard who suffered a neck injury when he threw himself to the ground. National Radio says that eight people were treated in the local hospital, and all had been allowed home after treatment.

The device was placed by the

Basque terrorist group ETA. A warning was given in the form of a phone call to the DYA road assistance association in Vizcaya in the name of ETA half an hour before it went off. The bomb was placed in a blue Honda Civic which was blown across the street by the force of the explosion. The owners of the vehicle were found later this afternoon, tied up in a building in a mountainous region some 100kms away. They have told the police that their car was taken from at gunpoint during the morning.

The place where the bomb exploded is a busy one, not least because one of Spain's famous Holy Week processions had only just finished. The same barracks suffered another ETA attack, again without victims, back in 1983. The Civil Guard feared that a second device may have been placed in the same area today.

A demonstration against the outrage has been called for outside the Calahorra Town Hall at 8pm tonight. The President of the La Rioja regional government, Pedro Sanz, will visit the scene and take part in the demonstration. He said that a massacre could have taken place had the area not been cleared.

Today's attack comes just two weeks after the last ETA victim, the ex Socialist councillor, Isaías Carrasco, was shot out his home in Mondragón.

Today in History

- 1775 – American Revolution: Patrick Henry made his "Give me liberty or give me death" speech to the Virginia House of Burgesses, urging the legislature to take military action against the British Empire.
- 1801 – Tsar Alexander I acceded

to the Russian throne after his father Paul I was murdered in his bedroom at St. Michael's Castle. 1933 – The Reichstag passed the Enabling Act, giving Chancellor Adolf Hitler dictatorial powers in Germany.

1940 – Pakistan Movement: The All India Muslim League adopted the Lahore Resolution, calling for greater autonomy in British India.

1996 – Lee Teng-hui was elected President of the Republic of China in the first direct presidential election in Taiwan.

March 23 is Easter in Western Christianity (2008); Republic Day in Pakistan; Day of Hungarian-Polish Friendship in Hungary and Poland.

Quote of the Day

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.
 ~ Yeshua (Jesus Christ) ~

Word of the Day

- lorem ipsum n
- 1. A pseudo-Latin text used in printing and website design in place of English in order to emphasise design elements over content.

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