



Top Stories

W. Axl Rose arrested near Stockholm

Swedish police arrest former lead singer of Guns 'N Roses for disturbance outside of hotel.

Hamas strikes deal with Fatah

Hamas appears to have broken the silence between them and Fatah with an agreement of the implicit recognition of Israel and the ability of the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, to negotiate with the Israelis. This comes at a time when a capture of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian militants and Israel launching ground and air strikes against the militants in Gaza.

Featured story

Film project aims to raise £1 million to make a Creative Commons-licenced film

Matt Hanson aims to raise £1 million to fund the production of a feature-length film which would be distributed freely via the internet under a Creative Commons licence, all funded through 50,000 people each donating £25 to the project, which he's called 'A Swarm of Angels'.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Israel launches an offensive into the Gaza Strip.
- Armenian President Robert Kocharian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Eliyev agree to allow the residents of Nagorno-

Wikipedia Current Events

Karabakh to decide the region's future status through a popular vote.

- The most recent attempt in the United States to adopt a flag desecration amendment fails in the Senate by one vote.
- Earlier reports that the Hamas-led government had agreed to recognise Israel's right to exist are refuted by that organisation's officials.
- Israel launches an air strike on bridges in the Gaza Strip as it prepares troops for a possible offensive.
- Popular musician Axl Rose is arrested in Stockholm, Sweden, for alleged violent conduct including biting a security guard on the leg.
- Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says Iran does "not need" to talk with the United States over its nuclear program.
- The Hamas-led Palestinian government has agreed to implicitly recognise Israel and pave the way to reopening peace talks with it.
- A Palestinian militant group reportedly kidnaps an 18 year old Israeli yeshiva student. His medical condition has not been disclosed.
- The Iraqi Special Tribunal announces that Saddam Hussein and six co-defendants will face trial on August 21 in relation to

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the 1980s Anfal campaign in which 100,000 Kurds are estimated to have died.

- A vote in the Legislative Yuan to recall Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian, who is implicated in numerous corruption scandals, fails to gain the necessary two-thirds majority.
- Nguyen Minh Triet becomes President of Vietnam with Nguyen Tan Dung expected to become the new Prime Minister of Vietnam.

W. Axl Rose arrested near Stockholm

Singer W. Axl Rose, formerly of the band Guns 'N Roses, was arrested early Tuesday morning for assaulting and allegedly biting a security guard on the leg outside the Stockholm, Sweden hotel where he was staying.

Rose, who performed in Stockholm on Monday, was held by the Swedish police on the suspicion of threatening and attacking the guard, as well as causing damage to the hotel. According to a police spokeswoman, Rose was intoxicated and threatening to the arresting police officers, necessitating the use of handcuffs. He was later jailed due to the potential flight risk he posed.

At approximately 7 p.m. CEST (1700 UTC), Rose was released, having admitted his guilt in the crimes. The likely punishment will be a fine, most likely to the sum of

40 thousand Swedish crowns, as well as an additional 10 thousand crown restitution for the bitten security guard. The incident followed Rose's concert at the Globen Arena in Stockholm.

Chinese government levies hefty 'sudden event' fines

Chinese media outlets, including news websites, could be fined up to \$12,500 every time they report on "sudden events" without government permission, under a proposed law under consideration by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

"The law, revealed today in most state-run newspapers, would give government officials a powerful new tool to restrict coverage of mass outbreaks of disease, riots, strikes, accidents and other events that the authorities prefer to keep secret," says The New York Times.

"More than 100 million Chinese have access to the Internet, and hundreds of commercially driven newspapers, magazines and television stations provide a much wider selection of news and information than was available in the recent past. As a result, Chinese authorities have also sought fresh ways to curtail reporting on topics and events they consider harmful to social and political stability."

Editors and journalists, "say they receive constant bulletins from the Propaganda Department forbidding reporting on an ever-expanding list of taboo topics, including 'sudden events'," says the story, adding:

"Journalists say local authorities are likely to interpret the law broadly, giving officials leeway to restrict coverage of any social and political disturbance that they consider embarrassing, like

demonstrations over land seizures, environmental pollution or corruption."

France out-wit Spain 3-1 and clinch quarter-final spot

France came from a goal down to win their round of sixteen game 3-1 against Spain in Hanover, Tuesday.

The win was a tactical triumph for the French coach Raymond Domenech whose team gave up 61 per cent of ball possession yet restricted their opponents to seven shots - two on target - and ran out three goal winners.

Nor did the French have many chances as for the majority of the game Spain patiently passed the ball around them. When they did have the ball they constantly pruned at the Spanish offside line and therein found the weakness that lead to victory.

Though the French were offside eight times the crucial equaliser came from a Frank Ribery run on to a Patrick Viera pass that beat the line of Spaniards close to half time. At speed Ribery rounded Iker Cassilas to slot home.

So solid were the French in defence intercepting passes, blocking shots and making tackles the only goal conceded - which put them behind - was from a penalty kick. This was slammed in low by David Villa on 27 minutes after Pablo had been clattered from behind by Lilian Thuram.

Ten minutes into the second half the score was at 1-1 but the French continued to test the Spanish offside trap. A worried Luis Aragones brought on two substitutes and changed his system from 4-3-3 to 4-2-3-1. The Spanish defence sat closer to their

penalty area so their was less room to pass balls behind them.

But still the Spanish line was caught on 82 minutes when Thierry Henry was fouled by Puyol as he attempted to connect with another through ball. Zinedine Zidane floated the resultant freekick into the box, there was a flick on and Viera nodded in at the far post off Sergio Ramos.

As the Spanish pressed for a last minute score the French broke through again, Zidane this time cut back to lose Puyol, and with the keeper off balance he reversed his shot to the near post to put the game out of reach.

So efficient was the French performance Fifa statisticians logged the team with just 19 minutes actual playing time. Brazil, who the French will play in the quarter-finals, too conceded the majority of possession in their game but in comparison beat Ghana 3-0 with 27 minutes actual playing time, Tuesday.

iPod manufacturer Foxconn broke labour laws

Chinese iPod maker Foxconn, apparently named by the local Shenzhen government as a "role model," has admitted employees work about 80 extra hours each month, "which is against the law in China," says China CSR.

Britain's the Mail on Sunday said the Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd, aka Foxconn, paid workers at its Longhua plant, "mostly young women from rural areas of China," only Â£27 (\$50) a month, "about half what another electronics maker pays its workers who assemble other iPods".

They laboured in, "15-hour shifts," were housed in dormitories, "from

which outsiders" were banned, and regularly paid, "about half their wages for room and board charges," the Mail said.

Now, Foxconn's Li Zong says the company's, "complicated salary structure has caused misunderstanding among the media, and the company has paid the workers according to the minimum salary standards of the Shenzhen local government," states China CSR.

"Li also says Apple has sent a special team to investigate, but has found no problem with Foxconn".

Apple says it's, "committed to ensuring that working conditions in our supply chain are safe, workers are treated with respect and dignity, and manufacturing processes are environmentally responsible".

Hamas strikes deal with Fatah

Since the capture of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian militants, both the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) have been under pressure, with Israel now moving many forces near Gaza. Reuters was told by a Hamas MP, Salah al-Bardaweel, that Hamas does not fully recognize the current Israel, but would "accept a state [in territory occupied] in 1967 - but we did not say we accept two states". This shows an important shift, albeit a fairly small one, from Hamas' previous view which does not recognise Israel's right to exist. As of now, the United States has not made any positive comment on the shift in policy from Hamas. The statement made by U.S. press secretary Tony Snow gave the strong implication that Hamas will continue to be shunned by the U.S. and others until they

renounce their stance on terror.

Another important aspect of these events is that Hamas appears to have broken the silence between them and Fatah, the other major Palestinian party. Hamas, controls the parliament after a recent election victory, forming a government led by PM Ismail Haniya, while Fatah controls the presidency with Mahmoud Abbas as president. Hamas and Fatah, after recent strife and violence between the parties, have agreed to a document that may help, even slightly, the relationship between Hamas, the PA and Israel with a step towards recognition of their neighbor.

Hamas states that they still pay no explicit recognition towards Israel but they do implicitly. The agreement between Hamas and Fatah on the yet-to-be-revealed document is still in place and looks fairly stable. The agreement of Hamas to let the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, negotiate with Israel, among other things that Hamas and Fatah are in agreement on, gives the strong implication that Hamas does implicitly recognize Israel. At the same time, Israeli PM Ehud Olmert has given warning to the Palestinian militants that military force is about to be used as Israel moves forces near Gaza if the captured soldier is not released. The statement of even an implicit recognition of Israel with the 1967 border plan shows that Hamas has still had a fairly substantial change in their policy. This policy change comes at a time when Palestinians are worried about the recent movement of Israeli troops in response to the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier. The Israelis have appeared to launch their offensive, with a bridge in Gaza being attacked by planes. It has now

been confirmed that Israel to launch a ground offensive against the militants in Gaza.

Mauritians vote for new constitution

Mauritians voted in favour of a new Constitution by an overwhelming majority in a referendum held on June 26, according to results announced by Interior Ministry officials today. The new Constitution sets limits on the number of presidential terms a leader can serve, in contrast to several sub-Saharan countries, where several leaders have amended their Constitutions to retain power.

The Interior Minister, Mohamed Ahmed Ould Mohamed Lemine said that over 96 percent votes cast were in favour of the new Constitution. The turnout was over 76 percent of the close to One million registered voters, who constitute about a third of the country's population.

The referendum is being held as part of a transition from the country's present military government to a civilian one. The present government was formed in August 2005 in a bloodless military coup led by Col. Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, which ended then President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's 21 years of strong-arm rule. The reforms voted upon must now be approved by the country's constitutional council. The new Constitution is to replace the 1991 one.

The referendum will now lead to municipal and legislative elections to be held in in November, folowed by elections to the parliamentary upper house and the President's post in 2007.

The new Constitution provides for

a presidential form of government, with the President commanding significant powers, including the appointment of the prime minister. The Parliament though, can vote for no confidence in the government or censure it. The Constitution disallows members of the present junta from running for the President's post and requires future leaders to swear on the Qur'an that they will not amend the Constitution to stay in power.

International observers from the African Union and the Arab League said that the referendum appeared to have gone smoothly, but have yet to make their final reports.

President Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, who also voted in the referendum said, "This is a great day and a rebirth for Mauritania ... I am sure that all Mauritians feel the same way and that for this reason the Constitution will receive massive support." and reiterated that "whatever the result I shall respect my promise" to return power to civilians in 2007.

The Constitution has the backing of most civic and political groups, though two small parties called for a boycott of the referendum, saying the proposed Constitution ignores slavery, which is officially banned but still persists according to activists; and issues of "cohabitation between the different national communities" (such as Blacks and Arabs).

Brazil knock-out Ghana 3-0 to grab quarter-final place

Brazil are through to the quarter-finals of the Fifa World Cup after a comfortable 3-0 win over Ghana, Tuesday.

Ghana seemed to dictate the style of this match; with their defensive back four near to the half-way line

Brazil was kept out of shooting range. While Ghana could not stop the reigning champions scoring on three counter-attacks they achieved slightly more ball possession and shots on goal over the game.

The Africans out shot the South Americans 18:11 but were not very accurate, often wide from long range. Brazil looked much more deadly going forward and got ten out of their 11 shots on target.

Ratomir Dujkovic's team's offside trap was brittle and beaten after just five minutes. Kaka sent Ronaldo sprinting through. The forward did a step over in front of Richard Kingston and put in his fifteenth World Cup goal, his third in this championship - a total which surpassed the German Gerd MÅ¼ller as the highest scorer in the history of the World Cup.

Another counterattack before half time led to Adriano's tap-in from Cafu's low pass across goal.

Ghana came closest to a goal when John Mensah headed a corner straight down at Dida's feet. The Brazilian keeper reacted quickly to save and kick the ball out of harm's way.

The third goal was from a simple long ball from full-back Ricardinho over the Ghanian defence. Ze Roberto ran on to it and nicked it by the on-rushing keeper Kingston and coaxed it over the line.

At this point in the match the Brazilians had received boos from some of the crowd who thought football's traditional crowd pleasers were deliberately playing within themselves.

But as the clock ran down there

were a number of exciting Brazilian attacks and Richard Kingston had to make three outstanding saves to keep the score respectable for Ghana.

Asamoah Gyan was sent off when he got a second yellow card for foul simulation.

In the next phase Brazil would play the winner of Match 56, either Spain or France, in a game held in Frankfurt on July 1.

Drunk woman hits police car in Sydney

A woman with a blood alcohol reading of 0.14 has been arrested and charged after crashing into a police car in Kings Cross, a suburb of Eastern Sydney early this morning.

Police officials claim the 27 year old woman was driving a Volkswagen the wrong way down a one way street when she collided with a police car parked outside Kings Cross Police Station. Following the collision, the woman drove off. Police later found the woman's car in a nearby alleyway where she and a male were standing.

Both the woman and her companion were taken to Kings Cross Police Station where they were questioned about the incident. While at the station, police conducted a breath test on the woman, which returned a reading of 0.14 - almost 3 times the blood alcohol limit of 0.05 in New South Wales. Further investigation revealed that the woman did not hold a driver's licence.

The woman was charged with mid-range PCA (driving under the influence of alcohol), driving whilst unlicensed and failing to give

particulars after an accident.

The woman was not injured in the accident and the police car suffered only minor damage.

Australian government provides \$15.8 million for North Adelaide Technical College

Australian Minister for Vocational Education and Training, Gary Hardgrave has announced the government will provide AUD\$15.8 million to establish a Australian Technical College in North Adelaide. The minister said the government was entering into a partnership with the Archdiocese of Adelaide and consortium of industrial and manufacturing companies.

The North Adelaide college will be located in Elizabeth and be operated as an independent non-government school. The college is one of 25 to be established across the country.

Enrolments at the college will begin in 2007 and will offer courses in areas where identified skills shortages exist in the North Adelaide region, specifically - engineering, construction, electronics and cooking.

Mr Hardgrave said that the proposed college had been popular among the North Adelaide business community. "This important initiative has been well received by North Adelaide business and industry, and will help to address skills needs and provide opportunities for those in greatest need, including a lot of Indigenous students in the region," Mr Hardgrave said.

"The fact that this College is being led by local employers, local government and other key

stakeholders, means it will be truly industry and community driven," he said.

Australian Technical Colleges were established to cater for year 11 and 12 students who wish to do an apprenticeship as part of their school education.

The Australian Education Union has expressed a number of concerns about the model put forward by the government. In a report, they claim that trade facilities at TAFE colleges (operated by state governments) will deteriorate as funding is diverted to the ATCs. The union is also concerned that ATCs are supposed to be selective VET schools. According to the union they will have selective entry and preferential funding. It is feared that teachers will be lured away from schools and TAFE colleges to higher paid positions in ATCs.

The Education Union suggested that the government invest in schools that already offer vocational education programs.

Dung appointed Vietnam's new PM

Nguyen Tan Dung has been confirmed as Vietnam's next prime minister, winning by a majority vote of 92% by the National Assembly. He is the country's youngest Prime Minister since 1975, when Vietnam was unified, and is replacing the 72 year-old Phan Van Khai.

63 year-old Nguyen Minh Triet, who is an economic reformer and the Communist Party Chief for Ho Chi Minh City, was appointed as the country's president yesterday, with a majority vote of 94% by the Assembly. He replaces the 69 year-old Tran Duc Luong.

In a speech to the National Assembly, Mr Dung said: "Our urgent task is to quickly develop in a sustainable way and pull the country out of backwardness and fight corruption". It is expected that Mr Dung and Mr Triet will be looking ahead to the countries' expected entry into the World Trade Organisation, and dealing with the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) conference being hosted in Vietnam in November.

The two appointments mark major changes in the Communist leadership of Vietnam in order to bring in younger leaders for the country. The two appointments also mark the first time that the country has been ruled by two people from Southern Vietnam since the unification.

Canterbury farmers to get aid because of snow

The New Zealand government officials have announced that it will give NZ\$160,000 in aid to help farmers who were affected by the huge amounts of snow in Canterbury, New Zealand two weeks ago.

The aid package will provide four regional offices for co-ordination, food supplies and ongoing support.

The Federated Farmers for mid Canterbury say that the aid will be a start to what looks like a tough winter. President of the mid Canterbury Federated Farmers Rupert Curd says, "It is too early to say exactly how much help the relief package will provide."

The snow has not yet reached a crisis point.

The Insurance Council has estimated the cost of the snow

storm has reached \$35 million so far. Chief Executive of the Insurance Council says, "There has been damage to homes, commercial premises both on farms and in town and vehicles. Businesspeople who have been without power are also claiming for loss of income."

The Minister of Agriculture Jim Anderton has said that they are not ruling out giving further aid.

King's Cross railway station in London evacuated

LONDON - A fire close to the King's Cross railway station in London, England has led to the station being evacuated because of fears that the fire could cause the explosion of fuel close to or in the station area. London's subway, or "tube", system is still functioning normally. At this time, one person has been injured from burns and has been hospitalized.

In a recent update on June 27, it appears that, for a second day, King's Cross will continue to be closed to passengers. The explanation for the close is because gas cylinders near the fire and rail station were heated up and could explode. Many homes are within the 200 m radius around the site, and the station itself is about 100 m away from the fuel. The estimated 60,000 passengers per day on the station's rail lines will probably have to wait until around tomorrow (Wednesday) at noon, when the station is expected to re-open.

Today in History

- 1880 - Australian outlaw and folk hero Ned Kelly was captured in Glenrowan, Victoria.
- 1914 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was killed by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip in the Assassination in Sarajevo, catalysing the outbreak of World War I.
- 1919 - The Treaty of Versailles was signed, ending World War I.
- 1978 - The United States Supreme Court, in Regents of the University of California v. Bakke 438 US 265 1978, barred quota systems in college admissions but affirmed the constitutionality of programs giving advantage to minorities.
- 1990 - Paperback Software, a company founded by Adam Osborne, was found guilty by a U.S. court of copyright violation for copying the appearance and menu system of Lotus 1-2-3 in its competing spreadsheet program.
- June 28 is Vidovdan in Serbia

Quote of the Day

"Hatred, as well as love, renders its votaries credulous."
~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Word of the Day
tantalize; v

1. To tease someone by offering something desirable but keeping it out of reach.

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