



### Top Stories

#### Strong earthquake hits near Vanuatu

United States Geological Survey announced that a magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck near the island nation of Vanuatu at 22:18:55 UTC on August 7, 2006, only 75 km (50 miles) east-southeast of Luganville, or 215 km (135 miles) north-northwest of the nation's capital, Port-Vila.

#### Flooding kills dozens in North Korea, leaves thousands more homeless

Flooding due to heavy rains has left over a hundred dead and has caused severe damage to North Korea's rice crop, prompting concerns over food scarcity.

### Featured story

#### Apollo Moon landings tapes reported missing

The magnetic tapes containing the original video recordings of the five Apollo Moon landings have been reported missing.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- A strong 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck the island of Vanuatu at 9:18AM local time.
- Airplanes are backed up at Los Angeles International Airport, the world's fifth busiest airport, after a landing system failure on one of its two runways occurred at 9:30 AM local time
- Israeli troops have detained another Palestinian member of parliament during an overnight

### Wikipedia Current Events

- raid in the West Bank.
- Reuters has withdrawn 920 photographs by a Lebanese photographer after a review of his work showed that he had changed two images from the 2006 Israel-Lebanon conflict.
- Lebanon's government meets today, to decide to send the Lebanese army to the southern end of the country, according to political sources. It decides unanimously to send 15,000 troops to the south of the country as Israeli troops pull out.
- IDF planes have shot down a UAV suspected to be Hezbollah controlled as it flew over Israeli territory.
- An Israeli air strike has killed 1 person in the southern Lebanese border village of Houla. Lebanon's prime minister has retracted his earlier statement that more than 40 were killed.
- The futures price of Brent crude hits a record high on news that BP has shut down half of Alaska's Prudhoe Bay oil production, after finding oil transit pipe "corrosion-related wall thinning appeared to exceed BP criteria for continued operation."
- Tens of thousands are evacuated from around the Mayon Volcano in the Bicol Region of the Philippines as local volcanologists anticipate an imminent eruption.
- AOL accidentally publicly releases 20 million unfiltered search keywords for 500,000 users,

### Wikipedia Current Events

containing personally identifiable information about users' search habits. The inevitable backlash has yet to hit the mainstream media, although the blogging community and other tech-related websites are abuzz with the scandal.

#### Canadians contacting PM Stephen Harper about the war in Afghanistan

Canadians contact Stephen Harper about the war in Afghanistan, newly released records of telephone calls, letters, and emails to the Prime Minister reveal.

"Callers would like him to resign and run in a byelection," says a report, citing 73 such calls.

In February, most were congratulatory messages for the new prime minister, and other matters.

In April, 1,805 pieces of correspondence and another 422 telephone calls dealt with Afghanistan-related issues.

In May, the PMO (Prime Minister's Office) received 1,453 letters, and emails about Canada's Afghan deployment, more of them calling on the government to pull out and get the troops home. Another 114 telephone callers said the same. A lot of them criticized the government's decision to not lower the flag at the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill to honour fallen soldiers. Almost 200 callers said

that the media should not be banned from reporting the return of the bodies of soldiers.

Calgary Northeast conservative MP Art Hanger said, most correspondence from his constituents is supportive of the government's deployment of troops in the war-torn country. "I would have to say there's a fair amount of support for the party's position out here," said Hanger.

Three dozen bureaucrats are employed full time to wade through some 2 million items each year and categorize them by subject.

### **Resolution won't end conflict in Lebanon**

Lebanon warned the U.N. today that the U.S.-French drafted UN Security Council resolution will not end the on-going conflict in Lebanon. The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has left thousands homeless and threatening more. The resolution calls for a long-term buffer zone between Southern Lebanon and Northern Israel. Also the draft demands full cessation of all hostilities but makes no mention of any Israeli withdrawal. Mitri who is Lebanon's ministry of culture demands a clear statement that Israel must withdraw.

Yesterday U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was quoted as saying, "We're trying to deal with a problem that has been festering and brewing in Lebanon now for years and years and years, and so it's not going to be solved by one resolution in the Security Council." Rice also emphasized that the resolution is a first step for a better future in the on-going conflict.

### **5th Canadian soldier in a week killed in Afghanistan**

Over 2,000 NATO troops stood at attention at Kandahar Airfield Monday morning to mourn the death of the fifth Canadian soldier in a week to die in Afghanistan. Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt, a 32 year-old reservist from Peers, Alberta, was killed in a traffic accident August 5th when the G-Wagon he was travelling collided head-on with a civilian truck 35 kilometres southeast of Kandahar. The vehicle was part of a convoy delivering medical supplies. Three other soldiers were injured in the crash which occurred as the military was preparing to transport home the bodies of four other Canadian soldiers who were killed August 3rd during heavy combat with Taliban insurgents. Sgt. Vaughn Ingram, Cpl. Bryce James Keller, Cpl. Christopher Jonathan Reid and Pte. Kevin Dallaire, all members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, were killed by a rocket-propelled grenade near the village of Pashmul, west of Kandahar. Their bodies were returned to Canadian Forces Base CFB Trenton on Sunday where a memorial service was held. Master Cpl. Arndt's remains will arrive at the eastern Ontario military base on Tuesday.

In all, 24 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed since the beginning of Canada's military presence in Afghanistan in March 2002. Sixteen soldiers have died in the past six months. Canada has approximately 2,000 soldiers stationed around Kandahar in the south of Afghanistan where Taliban resistance is strongest.

### **Rare photograph of Florence Nightingale on display**

A recently discovered photograph of Florence Nightingale went on

display in a special exhibition at the Florence Nightingale Museum in London. She was rarely photographed, both for religious reasons, as well as fear that if she were easily recognized, it would interfere with her work.

### **Israeli air strike killed one, not 40, in village; Lebanese PM says**

The Lebanese Prime Minister, Fouad Siniora, told a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Beirut that an Israeli air strike killed more than 40 people in the village of Houla in southern Lebanon. However, he later revised the figure down to one.

"An hour ago, there was a horrific massacre in the village of Houla in which more than 40 martyrs were victims of deliberate bombing", Siniora told the meeting. "If these horrific actions are not state terrorism then what is state terrorism?" he asked rhetorically.

65 survivors have been pulled out from the rubble, half of them children. It was feared that the air strike had led to a reprise of the bombing of Qana last month.

"They thought that the whole building smashed on the heads of about 40 people and it turned out, thank God because we are not happy if someone is killed, they have been saved", Siniora told reporters later on Monday.

There have been several strikes on Lebanese cities, towns and villages today as Israeli warplanes have hit targets in Beirut, Tyre, Qassmieh, Ghaziyeh, Ghassaniyeh, Nabatiyeh, Naqoura and Ras al-Biyada. Meanwhile, skirmishes on the ground between Hezbollah and Israeli troops are continuing in the border village of Bint Jbail.

### **Newsletter from Australian council causes confusion over by-election**

Residents of Kelso, New South Wales - a suburb of Bathurst in the state's Central West - may have been confused by a newsletter sent by the local council giving an incorrect date for the council's by-election.

A by-election was called by the New South Wales State Electoral Office to fill vacancies left by the resignation of councillors Janice McGilcrist and Kath Knowles.

Bathurst Regional Council dispatched a newsletter in Kelso on Friday which gave the date of the by-election as August 8. The information in this newsletter was incorrect - the correct date for the by-election was August 5. Wikinews has been told by some Kelso residents that they thought the date for the by-election must have been changed.

Prior to the newsletter being sent out, residents received only a single flyer informing them of the by-election. Many received the newsletter and were confused, believing that the original flyer must have been incorrect as the newsletter was sent so close to the planned polling day.

As voting is compulsory for council elections, those who did not vote on Saturday may now be liable for a AUD \$55.00 fine.

The same newsletter also lists the date for the 2006 Australian Census being held on August 8 as August 9.

### **British soldier killed in Afghanistan named**

The name of the British soldier killed in southern Afghanistan during a joint operation with

Canadian-led NATO troops has been revealed by the Ministry of Defence to be Private Andrew Barrie Cutts, from the Royal Logistics Corps. Private Cutts was killed in the Musah Qualeh area of northern Helmand.

Pte Cutts, who was killed yesterday during a planned operation against insurgents, was part of the 13 Air Assault Support Regiment. Since May, ten British soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan.

Defence Secretary, Des Browne, said yesterday, "I was saddened to hear of the death today of a British soldier who was supporting the NATO mission in Afghanistan. This is a huge loss for his friends and family - my thoughts are with them. UK forces are making a vital contribution to bringing security to the people of Afghanistan. Today's tragic incident underlines the challenges they face in carrying out this important task."

Yesterday, commandos told the Sunday Telegraph British troops in Afghanistan are on "the brink of exhaustion". But Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Mike Jackson, who retires at the end of this month, yesterday defended Britain's military strategy in Afghanistan.

### **190 dead in Ethiopia floods**

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### **Oil prices rise after Alaskan field shuts down**

Oil prices rose dramatically on Monday after a major Alaskan oil field shut down operations, halving the total output of oil from Alaska. Coming on top of the ongoing violence in the Middle East, the price of Light, sweet crude for September delivery rose by \$1.23 to US\$75.99 a barrel in early afternoon Asian trading at the New York Mercantile Exchange.

London Brent crude peaked at \$77.73/barrel.

The shutdown of the Prudhoe Bay oil field "caught traders by surprise", says Victor Shum, an energy analyst in Singapore. "The Middle East violence is a threat to the oil supply, but Alaska is a real disruption".

The oil field began shutdown procedures on Sunday due to severe corrosion and a minor leakage from an oil transit line. The total shutdown process is expected to take a few more days. BP Exploration Alaska, Inc, the company running the field, has said that oil production will be reduced by 400,000 barrels per day, or nearly 8% of the total U.S. oil production.

BP officials do not know how long the field will stay offline.

### **TVNZ allowed to show Rainbow Warrior court footage**

Television New Zealand (TVNZ) has today won a legal battle in which they will now be able to broadcast footage of two French spies pleading guilty to manslaughter in relation to the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior.

The two French spies, Alan Mafart and Dominique Prieur, have been fighting TVNZ to keep it from broadcasting footage where they are shown pleading guilty of manslaughter for the killing of freelance photographer Fernando Pereira during the 1985 bombing of Rainbow Warrior.

Three Court of Appeal judges decided unanimously to uphold a 2005 High Court judgement. They ruled that "The privacy interests of the two spies did not outweigh the public interest in the the [sic] case, given its historic significance." The Appeal Court also added that the reason they dismissed the appeal was because the two spies "Have published books about their actions, saying they have effectively courted publicity and diminished their privacy interests."

TVNZ had originally wanted to

broadcast the footage on its Sunday 20-year anniversary special on the July 10, 1985 bombing of the Rainbow Warrior. Damien Comerford, executive producer of TVNZ's Sunday programme, said "The footage is hugely significant."

### **Today in History**

1876 - Thomas Edison received a patent for his mimeograph machine.

1938 - Holocaust: Construction of the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp, one of the largest labour camp complexes in German-occupied Europe, began.

1946 - The first prototype of the B-36 Peacemaker, the first nuclear weapon delivery vehicle to be mass-produced, flew for the first time.

1967 - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand founded the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

1991 - The Warsaw radio mast, the tallest structure ever built, collapsed.

August 08 is Ghost Festival in the Chinese calendar (2006); Father's Day in Taiwan.

### **Quote of the Day**

"One of the primary tests of the mood of a society at any given time is whether its comfortable people tend to identify, psychologically, with the power and achievements of the very successful or with the needs and sufferings of the underprivileged."  
~ Richard Hofstadter

### **Word of the Day**

egress; n

1. The action of going out of a place.
2. A means of going out of a place; an exit.

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Today in History

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Quote of the Day

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

Word of the Day

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