



### Top Stories

#### Reports: DNA tests do not link John Mark Karr to murder of JonBenet Ramsey

According to reports by MSNBC and a local television station in Denver, Colorado, KUSA, tests performed on blood samples taken from John Mark Karr, a man who confessed to killing JonBenet Ramsey in 1996, do not match DNA recovered from Ramsey's body.

#### Amnesty: "looming human rights crisis" in Darfur

Amnesty International added its voice to growing international disquiet over the situation in the troubled Darfur region in Sudan.

### Featured story

#### TV3 banned from New Zealand Parliament for three days

The Speaker of New Zealand Parliament has banned television station TV3 from recording in the Parliament for three days after the station aired footage of an MP making a rude gesture during debate.

### Wikipedia Current Events

• A DNA test of John Mark Karr does not match the DNA found on the body of JonBenét Ramsey, and prosecutors in the U.S. state of Colorado say they will not charge Karr with murder.

• Mexico's Federal Electoral Tribunal rules unanimously that results in contested polling

### Wikipedia Current Events

stations only marginally affected the lead of Felipe Calderón of the ruling National Action Party over Andrés Manuel López Obrador in July's disputed presidential election.

• United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan tells the Lebanese government that he wants the two Israeli soldiers abducted by Hezbollah to be handed to the Red Cross.

• The State Comptroller of Israel Micha Lindenstrauss releases a report stating that Ehud Olmert made political appointments of Likud Party members while serving as Industry & Trade Minister.

• Three bombs explode in the Turkish coastal town of Marmaris following an explosion in Istanbul shortly after midnight local time (2100 UTC Sunday). At least 22 people have been injured in the explosions. A further explosion occurred hours later in nearby Antalya, killing at least three people.

#### Austrian teenager mourns captor's suicide

An eighteen year old girl - who had been kept captive in the basement of a 44 year-old telecoms technician - is mourning the suicide of her captor.

Natascha Kampusch was abducted on her way to school eight years ago. There was not a trace of her following the disappearance. Natascha's abductor, Wolfgang

Priklopil, committed suicide hours after Natascha's escape by throwing himself in front of a train. Natascha had escaped from Priklopil after he left her cleaning his car to answer the telephone.

Kampusch cried after hearing of Priklopil's death, saying "... (Priklopil) was part of my life, that's why in a certain way I'm mourning him". Police believe Kampusch may be suffering from Stockholm Syndrome, a psychological condition in which captives begin to feel empathy for their captors. After eight years with the man she was forced to call "master" Kampusch is spending time in a secure location, away from the media and her parents.

Kampusch's parents have expressed frustration on not being allowed to have access to their daughter. Psychiatric staff at the secure location have said that Kampusch needs time to re-adjust to life in the outside world. In a letter to her parents, Kampusch stated that they would have "...all the time in the world..." once she had become re-accustomed to the outside world.

#### Iraq; Another day of violence in Baghdad and the south

In the southern city of Diwania, Iraqi troops battled members of the Shia minority's Mehdi Army, killing 40 gunmen and wounding another 40 civilians. The fighting claimed 19 Iraqi Army troops. Internal Iraqi forces had lost control of parts of Diwaniya city in

Iraq's south after members of the Mehdi Army rejected a call to participate in peace negotiations. In response the Mehdi Army setup checkpoints in parts of the city, sparking the violence that saw the Iraqi government send in large numbers of reinforcements to re-take control of the city.

In Baghdad a mid-morning blast injured about a dozen people, and killing at least eight police officers. The blast was aimed at the heavily securied Iraqi Interior Ministry, which has been the frequent target of attacks. No claim of responsibility has been reported.

This morning's violence contrasted statements by Maj Gen William Caldwell, who claimed "Insurgents and terrorists are hitting back in an attempt to offset the success of the Iraqi government and its security forces," the general went on to say that violence had fallen by half since July, but had increased suddenly in the last two days. Yesterday five US soldiers were killed in three separate bombing incidents, killing four and one respectively, the US military announced today.

Sectarian violence has flared in Iraq since the US-led invasion, leading some to speculate that Iraq is now in the throwes of a civil war. Calls to partition the country are becomming louder, bringing into question the future of Iraq as a unified state. The assasination of the chief prosecutor in Saddam Hussein's trial for genocide highlights the deep divisions between Iraq's cultural factions, lending credance to speculation that Iraq has a long way to go before the safety of civilians can be assured. Factions still loyal to the Hussein Regieme remain under cover, undermining the reported progress

of western forces.

### **Pentagon considering preemptive non-nuclear ICBM capability**

The Pentagon is considering replacing the nuclear warheads on some ballistic missiles with conventional munitions so that they can be used for "pre-emptive" strikes against alleged terrorists, Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld told reporters after a meeting with Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov.

"If either of our countries or friends and allies were threatened at some number of years into the future with a weapon of mass destruction or a capability that was that lethal, I think any president, whether of Russia or the United States, would like to have available a conventional weapon that could attack that target swiftly and accurately and precisely and not feel that the only thing they had might be a nuclear weapon, which they would not want to use.", Rumsfeld said. He urged Russia to consider the idea too, but Ivanov said a pre-emptive strike was not the only solution.

The Pentagon has considered such strategies before. In February 2003 a similar plan was suggested, and in May 2006 it was recommended that Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs) be used for such a purpose. Critics wondered what the risks would be for setting off accidental nuclear war: it would be impossible for another nation to tell whether a Trident II or Minuteman III launch was conventional — or nuclear-armed until it had actually detonated.

### **Reports: DNA tests do not link John Mark Karr to murder of JonBenet Ramsey**

According to reports by MSNBC and KUSA, a local television station in Denver, Colorado, tests performed on DNA samples taken from John Mark Karr, the man who confessed to killing JonBenet Ramsey in 1996, do not match DNA samples recovered from Ramsey's body. Networks are reporting that charges against Karr for Ramsey's murder have been dropped.

KUSA says it "has confirmed from two sources that the DNA taken from John Mark Karr does not match the DNA samples taken from the crime scene in the JonBenet Ramsey murder case. No charges will be filed against Karr in connection with the Ramsey case by the Boulder County District Attorney's office," in the report on its website.

DNA from Karr's hair and saliva were tested in the Denver, Colorado Police Department's lab over the weekend.

"This information is critical because ... if Mr. Karr's account of his sexual involvement with the victim were accurate, it would have been highly likely that his saliva would have been mixed with the blood in the underwear," said Colorado District Attorney, Mary Lacy. Lacy noted that Karr had become a suspect after exchanging e-mail with a professor in California .

Karr's attorney has requested that all DNA evidence be handed over to the defense for examination. His attorney has also requested additional testing of Karr's DNA; however, there is confusion about who represents Karr. Seth Temin, a public defender claims to

represent Karr, but at least two other attorneys in California, Jamie Harmon and Patience Van Zandt, are also claiming to represent him.

"The warrant on Mr. Karr has been dropped by the district attorney. They are not proceeding with the case," said Timen.

"We're deeply distressed by the fact that they took this man and dragged him here from Bangkok, Thailand, with no forensic evidence confirming the allegations against him and no independent factors leading to a presumption he did anything wrong," added Timen.

In California, Karr still faces charges of possessing child pornography.

Karr was to have appeared in court this afternoon, in front of Judge Roxanne Bailin.

### **South Dakota killer wants to drop death sentence appeals**

A 24-year-old Texas man is set to be the first person executed in South Dakota in 59 years after asking to fire his lawyer and drop further court appeals.

Elijah Page of Athens, Texas, may die by lethal injection tomorrow for the brutal murder of Chester Poage, 19, in Higgins Gulch, in the Black Hills region of South Dakota.

It's all up to the judge who has sentenced him to die. The court will weigh whether or not Page is competent to fire his lawyers and drop appeals, and a decision is expected today.

Page, along with Briley Piper, 25, of Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in 2001 for the March 13, 2000, killing. Both were sentenced

to death. A third man, Darrell Hoadley, 26, of Lead, S.D., also pleaded guilty and testified against Page and Piper. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Hoadley told prosecutors the men planned to steal a stereo, TV, and other items from Poage's mother's house. Prosecutors said Piper and Page killed Poage because they wanted to eliminate a witness to the theft.

Hoadley described brutal details to authorities how Piper stabbed Poage three times in the head and neck and Page then kicked Poage 30 to 40 times and then tore Poage's ears off. Page then bashed Poage's head in with large rocks. Hoadley finished the job by striking Poage with two large rocks.

Piper and Page then threatened to kill Hoadley if he told police about the crime, Hoadley told authorities.

Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, said it is rare for someone to receive a death sentence after they've pleaded guilty to the crime. But in this case, the judge, Warren Johnson of Deadwood, opted for the death penalty, saying he considered the crime to be "vile and depraved".

### **Afganistan: 17 killed, 47 injured in Afghan suicide attack on market**

Seventeen people were killed today and another 47 injured when a suicide bomber detonated a hidden explosive in a market. Local hospital officials have confirmed that another six people are in critical condition, undergoing treatment.

The market was owned by a

former police chief in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province. The bomber detonated the explosives — apparently strapped to his body — outside the busy market, which is close to a police station.

There are conflicting reports that the bombing may have been the work of al-Qaeda related groups, or it may have been done by a group of men meeting to settle a dispute.

Afganistan's southern provinces have seen a surge in violence in recent days, making them the bloodiest since 2001. The NATO ISAF forces have taken a number of casualties, sparking internal investigations amid reports of friendly fire incidents that have killed several members of the Afghan National Police.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has ordered an inquiry into the killing of civilians in the insurgent attacks as residents and troops brace for what could be more violence in the days to come.

### **Ministry of Defence names dead British soldier**

The British Ministry of Defence named the soldier who was killed in Afghanistan yesterday. He was Lance Cpl. Jonathan Hetherington and was shot dead by insurgents during an attack on his platoon residence in Musa Qaleh, northern Helmand.

The 22-year-old joined the army in September 2000. During his career he served in Germany, Kuwait, Iraq and the Falkland Islands. He was dispatched to Afghanistan this year.

His commanding officer, Lt. Col, Steve Vickery, said: "Lance Corporal Jon Hetherington had

only been in Afghanistan for a short time. In this period his commitment to his profession was first-class and he stood out as a young man of stature and great enthusiasm. He was a very bright junior non-commissioned officer who had integrated extremely well into regimental life since his arrival in February of this year." He also said that Lance Cpl. Hetherington was "an outstanding soldier, trusted comrade and valued friend."

Defence Secretary Des Browne said yesterday: "The sad news... has reminded us of the challenges we face in Afghanistan. We are there as part of the Nato mission to help rid Afghanistan of these terrorists and provide security to help rebuild."

He is the eighth British soldier to have died in Afghanistan this month. Since military operations began in November 2001, 21 British soldiers have died.

### **Amnesty: "looming human rights crisis" in Darfur**

A "peacekeeping gap" is likely to plunge Sudan back into major conflict in the Darfur region, according to Amnesty International. The group today added its voice today to a growing disquiet over the worsening situation in that country, as expressed by the International Rescue Committee.

In a statement, the body's Executive Deputy Secretary General Kate Gilmore, confirmed concerns that the Sudanese government are arming soldiers in preparation for conflict, despite signing a peace deal in May.

"Eyewitnesses in el-Fasher in North Darfur are telling us that Sudanese government military

flights are flying in troops and arms on a daily basis," Gilmore said, urging the international community to act.

The U.N. is discussing a draft resolution today to send 20,000 troops into western Sudan to protect the 2.5 million displaced people. But the Sudanese government has rejected calls for foreign intervention, instead suggesting a 26,000-strong domestic force, which Amnesty opposes.

"How can Sudan — which appears to be about to launch its own offensive in Darfur — realistically propose being a peacekeeper in a conflict to which it is a major party and perpetrator of grave human rights violations," Amnesty officials asked.

Evidence that Khartoum is arming in preparation for further fighting in Darfur is causing concern among governments about a future genocide. Yesterday the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Jendayi Frazer flew to the Sudanese capital to urge the government, led by Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, to accept the U.N. force.

"Darfur is on the verge of a dangerous downward spiral," Frazer said, criticizing the U.N. for "foot dragging" on the issue.

The Sudanese government are wholly against the U.N. intervention. National Congress Party chairman Ghazi Salah Eldin Atabani told journalists "any state that sponsors this [U.N.] draft resolution will be regarded as assuming a hostile attitude against the Sudan."

If Darfur does descend into further government-sponsored conflict,

the consequences would be devastating for the civilian population, according to Eric Reeves of Democracy Now:

"If this offensive takes place, there will be massive, massive civilian destruction. I think we're also likely to see a withdrawal of virtually all humanitarian workers. This will leave some 1.2 million people completely dependent on humanitarian aid, without any assistance whatsoever," Reeves told the Coalition for Darfur on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the situation for the millions of refugees on the ground is deteriorating rapidly, according to the International Rescue Committee. On Wednesday, the group released statistics which suggest as many as 200 women have been sexually assaulted since the start of July, often as they leave settlements in search of firewood and food.

"This is a massive spike in figures," said the IRC's Kurt Tjossem, "we are used to hearing of 2 to 4 incidents of sexual assault per month in Kalma camp [in southern Darfur]".

### **Pakistan on high alert as violence spreads in Balochistan**

Widespread protests and violence were reported across parts of Pakistan after the Baloch Alliance declared a general strike following the killing of its leader, Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti.

Shops and establishments in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province, remained closed as angry mobs vandalised government vehicles and offices in retaliation for the separatist leader's slaying. The main Quetta-Karachi highway and Quetta-Punjab highway have remained

closed to traffic since Monday. A curfew was imposed by the authorities in Quetta, leading to the closure of educational institutions there.

A high-alert also was sounded in the commercial capital of Karachi, where the opposition plans to hold a protest later today. Pakistan's Deputy Information Minister Tariq Azim Khan said that the Pakistani Army had not intentionally targeted Mr. Bugti and that he died when the cave he was in collapsed following a land-mine explosion. President Pervez Musharraf, however, congratulated his army following the Balochi leader's death.

Balochistan, which became a province of Pakistan following the Partition of India, has been waging a low-key struggle for autonomy for quite some time, but the rebels stepped up their attacks over the past year. Pakistan has, in the past, blamed Indian intelligence agencies such as the Research and Analysis Wing for fuelling unrest in Balochistan.

### **TV3 banned from New Zealand Parliament for three days**

House Speaker Margaret Wilson told New Zealand television station, TV3, owned by Canwest, they are banned from recording New Zealand Parliament for three days.

The ban comes after they showed footage of the New Zealand First Member of Parliament (MP) Ron Mark repeatedly pulling his middle finger at National MP Tau Henare on August 1.

TV3's ban will come into force tomorrow.

The Parliament's media rules state that only the Speaker or a MP who

is standing and speaking can be recorded. TV3 broke this rule as Mark was sitting during his gestures.

"The rules are arcane. We were only showing what would have been observed by members of the public if they had been sitting in the public gallery on that day," said the Director of News and Current Affairs for TV3, Mark Jennings. "Politicians behaving badly is a news story, and the public have a right to see what is really going on in the debating Chamber."

"We will accept our punishment and get on with our job, but it is time politicians took responsibility for their behaviour and stopped shooting the messenger," Jennings said.

"That argument was not accepted last year, and I do not accept it now", Ms Wilson says referring to a breach of the rules last year.

"In addition, this time TV3 repeated the shots in question even though it knew they were in breach of the rules. This was clearly a premeditated breach."

### **Multiple bombs set off in Turkish resort**

The Turkish resort of Marmaris was hit by at least 3 bombs and one bomb went off in Istanbul's Bagcilar district on Sunday injuring at least 27 people. The blasts come two days after four people were injured in a separate bombing in Adana.

"We heard one of the bombs and it sounded just like a gunshot. The bus had exploded outside a McDonald's restaurant. We saw its remains: it had been ripped apart," said one witness, Danielle Pearson.

The second explosion happened 45 minutes later, in a residential district near the harbour.

"Ambulances and police cars were going everywhere. The streets were really busy with people running everywhere. Before the explosions people were being typical holidaymakers and just enjoying themselves," added Pearson. Of the injured, 10 are Britons, all of whom are in hospital, four of whom are in serious condition.

A fifth bombing has been reported in the European section of Istanbul. Six people are reported to have been injured, none seriously. The bomb was reportedly in a package left near a school.

Reports from southern Turkey at 17:16 say that yet another round of bombings have killed three people and injured a score of others.

There is no official word on who is responsible for the blasts, but responsibility has been claimed by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Other militant groups are warning tourists not to visit Turkey. "We had warned before, Turkey is not a safe country. Tourists should not come to Turkey" - website of the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (Tak)

Tourism is a mainstay of the Turkish economy, bringing millions of dollars of foreign money to the country. Deterring tourism constitutes a serious threat to jobs for thousands of Turks.

Bureaucrats from the British Foreign and Commonwealth office have not advised tourists to leave, but continue to follow events as

they unfold - "Ten British nationals have been injured and are in hospital," quoted a spokeswoman for the British Foreign Office, "We have consular staff on the ground."

The Foreign Office has set up a telephone hotline for concerned relatives on 020 7008 0000.

### **49 dead after Comair regional jet crashes in Kentucky**

A Comair commuter jet crashed on takeoff from Lexington, Kentucky yesterday, killing 49 people on board and seriously injuring the plane's first officer, James M. Polehinke.

Among the dead was couple who just got married the night before and were off to their honeymoon.

The early-morning Flight 5191 was operating as Delta Connection and was headed from Lexington's Blue Grass Airport to Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. It crashed about a mile west of the airport at 6:07 a.m. Eastern Time. The plane was a Canadair Regional Jet CRJ-100.

Polehinke was taken to the University of Kentucky's Chandler Medical Center, where he was listed in critical condition.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board, the aircraft departed from a shorter runway than it was cleared to take off from.

According to Gary Ginn, the Fayette County coroner, there was a significant fire on board the aircraft after impact, after which it continued to move forward several hundred yards before coming to a stop. The aircraft, however, is largely intact, Ginn said, and most of the passengers remained inside the cabin. Ginn said he expects

the cause of death to be fire for the majority of the victims. The tail number has been confirmed as N431CA.

Based on information recovered from the flight's data recorder and physical evidence on the scene, the National Transportation Safety Board is focusing on the theory that the pilot attempted to take off from a 3,500-foot runway that is not certified for airline traffic. That runway is only for general aviation aircraft.

Investigators believe the plane did not get enough speed to lift off the ground before running out of runway. Air traffic controllers in the tower had cleared the flight for takeoff from an adjacent 7,000-foot runway used for commercial airlines.

Local police and fire fighters responded to the scene within minutes, and it has been reported that two off-duty police officers helped pull Polehinke from the cockpit of the burning jet.

Laura Brown, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration told CNN that there is no indication that terrorism was involved in connection with the crash.

Family members and friends who suspected that their loved ones may have been on Flight 5191 began arriving at Blue Grass Airport shortly after the crash. They have been taken to a local hotel, where staff from Comair as well as airport officials are caring for them and providing them with information. Comair has also set up a hotline where family and friends can receive information: the number is 1-800-801-0088.

A moment of silence was held for

the crash victims before the Los Angeles Dodgers-Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game in Phoenix, where Brandon Webb, a former Kentucky baseball teammate of newlywed passenger Jon Hooker, is a pitcher. Another passenger, Charles Lykins of Naples, Fla., wanted an early flight so he could get home to his two young children after visiting friends and family in the Lexington area, said Paul Richardson of Winchester. Mike Finley, 52, who lived in Corbin and owned the Finley Fun Centers, was headed to Reno, Nev., for a rollerskating convention, said his son, David Taylor. "I'd say there's thousands of kids who grew up with our father," he said.

Rick Queen, who works for Turfway Realty in Lexington, said his father-in-law, Les Morris, was on the flight. Queen and Taylor were both frustrated with how Comair handled the families. "I just felt Delta ran families around this morning for three hours. I finally got some help from a Lexington firefighter," Taylor said.

Flight attendant Kelly Heyer was single and lived in the Cincinnati area. He had been working for the airline since 2004 and was recently appointed base representative for the flight attendant union said Tracy Riley, a union secretary and fellow Comair flight attendant. "He was a standup individual," Riley said. "He was very professional, loved the job."

Bornhorst described his own reaction as "complete devastation" and he lamented the frustration of the families as they awaited word. "When tragedies like this happen, information can just not be relayed fast enough and I certainly understand the frustrations related

to that," Bornhorst said.

### **PlayStation 3 will be used to help cure cancer and Alzheimer's**

The upcoming Sony PlayStation 3 game console is going to assist scientists in finding cures for cancer and Alzheimer's disease using the Folding@home distributed computing program.

Folding@home is already used on more than 150,000 personal computers nationwide and scientists hope to create a super computer faster than IBM's BlueGene/L System which currently calculates more than 280.6 trillion bits of information per second. The new calculations are expected to process a thousand trillion bits of information a second.

Folding@home runs a series of simulations which predict the shape of proteins and how they "fold" and scientists say that the program could determine the formation of some diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

"Using the Cell processor of the PS3, we should be able to do more folding than what one could do on a PC. Also, since the PS3 has a powerful GPU, the PS3 client will offer real time visualization for the first time," said a statement on Folding@home's website.

A small program will be downloaded to the users PlayStation 3 console and will then begin to calculate "work units" when users are not playing games.

The program is expected to be available at the end of September.

"We will release more details on all of this as the new software rolls out. We are beta testing the ATI GPU client software internally at

the moment and will likely announce an open beta in four to five weeks (end of September)," said the statement.

### **Today in History**

1533 - Emperor Atahualpa was executed by Conquistadors in Cajamarca during the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire.

1756 - Frederick II of Prussia launched an invasion of Saxony, starting the Seven Years' War.

1907 - The Quebec Bridge, the longest cantilever bridge in the world, collapsed during construction, killing 75 workers.

1944 - Slovak troops turned against the pro-Nazi regime of Jozef Tiso and the German Wehrmacht, starting the Slovak National Uprising.

2005 - Storm surges of Hurricane Katrina caused multiple breaches in levees around New Orleans, flooding most of the city.

August 29 is Feast day for the Beheading of St. John the Forerunner (Christianity)

### **Quote of the Day**

Quote of the Day"Who is the happiest of men? He who values the merits of others, and in their pleasure takes joy, even as though 'twere his own."

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

### **Word of the Day**

make a mountain out of a molehill; v

1. To treat a problem as larger than it is; to blow something out of proportion unnecessarily.

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