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Top Stories

Over 60 members of Chadian sect killed by troops after violence

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Chinese Wikipedia unblocked by government

According to reports, the government of China has stopped restricting access to the Chinese Wikipedia in some parts of the country. The report originated on the Wikimedia Foundation's mailing list, although other sites have now covered the development.

Judge orders YouTube to hand over video view records

This past Tuesday, a United States federal judge ordered the popular video sharing website

 YouTube to hand over a record of every video that users have watched, including registered accounts and IPs.

Search-and-rescue dog that found 9/11 survivor to be cloned

A German shepherd who recovered the last survivor of the September 11, 2001 attacks is to be cloned. His owner, former Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada police officer James Symington, entered an essay writing contest about why his dog should be cloned.

Wikipedia Current Events

The Pentagon extends the tour of duty of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit in Afghanistan.

The European Central Bank increases interest rates in the Eurozone to 4.25 per cent to tackle inflation.

French authorities charge Continental Airlines and five individuals over the Concorde disaster.

MV Princess of the Stars disaster: The Board of Marine Inquiry says that two of four ballast tanks were empty, leaving the ship unstable.

Google is ordered to divulge the viewing habits of every user to Viacom if they have watched YouTube videos.

NASA announces discovery of water in the atmosphere of Mercury by its MESSENGER probe.

Hot dog eating champion retains title after tiebreaker

For the second year in a row,

American competitive eater Joey Chestnut defeated his Japanese rival Takeru Kobayashi at the annual Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest in New York City, after a tie forced a five hot dog eat-off to be held.

After 10 minutes of hot dog eating, 2 less than in previous years, Chestnut and Kobayashi were tied at 59 frankfurters. But after the rare tiebreaker, 24 year old Chestnut emerged as the winner, claiming a \$10,000 prize and a mustard-yellow belt. "It was crazy," he said. "I'm just a normal guy eating hot dogs on the Fourth. You can't overcomplicate it."

Kobayashi, whose loss last year shattered a 6 year winning streak, said that a sore jaw and a tooth problem may have altered his performance. "If I put one more mouthful in, I could've won", the 30 year old Nagano native said through a translator. "I lost because I wasn't quick enough in the rematch."

This year, the 22 competitors were under a 10 minute time limit, unlike the 12 minutes used for previous contests. The reason for this, according to Nathan's, was the discovery of a document from 1916, which revealed that the original competition was 10 minutes long.

Thousands gathered at Coney Island to watch the annual event, which has become one of the more colorful traditions of America's Independence Day.

Íngrid Betancourt returns to France

Freed hostage Íngrid Betancourt arrived in France today, two days after being rescued from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), who had kept her captive in the Colombian jungle for more than six years.

Standing alongside President Nicolas Sarkozy at a military air base southwest of Paris, Betancourt said, "I cry with joy." The Colombian-French politician was greeted at the air base by the President and the First Lady, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, along with some supporters.

"I have been dreaming for seven years of this moment. I owe everything to you," she said, thanking France for pressuring Colombia to "think of other than military options". She added, "France is my home and you are my family." Sarkozy said her safe return shows people in difficult situations that "there is hope, light at the end of the tunnel."

After the welcome at the air base, which was broadcast live on national television, Betancourt went to the Élysée Palace, the President's official residence. Again accompanied by Sarkozy, she recounted her experiences as a hostage in the Colombian jungle, describing the lack of sunlight and hostile conditions.

"It's a completely hostile environment with dangerous animals," Betancourt said. "The most dangerous, of course, is man. Those men who were behind me with huge rifles, pushing me, telling me to walk, telling me to walk more quickly. And in this world of hostility where everything is an enemy, dangerous, against you, there is God. And above all,

there was you."

She called on Sarkozy to continue working toward freeing the hostages who were left behind. "We cannot leave them there where they are suffering, where they are alone," she stated, saying that some of them are contemplating suicide. In response, Sarkozy said, "We will carry on working to free them."

Betancourt was one of the 15 hostages rescued on July 2 by the Colombian army, who tricked FARC into handing over the hostages by pretending to be part of a non-governmental organization. She was kidnapped in February 2002 while campaigning for President of Colombia.

At a press conference, her third public event in the hours since returning to France, Betancourt condemned the actions of FARC. "I think the whole world is aware of the fact that FARC inflicts suffering on human beings", she said, calling on the guerrilla organization to "accept defeat gracefully" and "stop being terrorists." She called on the international community to help end the "terrible trend of kidnapping in Colombia".

Betancourt also rejected the idea that the rescue operation was staged to cover up ransom payments to FARC. "I think what I saw was certainly not a staged event," she said. "There was a degree of tension."

Pakistani scientist says government knew about nuclear shipment to North Korea

Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, who has been under house arrest since 2004 for his alleged involvement in exporting

nuclear technology to North Korea, Iran, and Libya, says that North Korea's shipment of gas centrifuges in 2000 was under the supervision of Pakistan's army.

In a phone interview with the Associated Press, Khan said that the centrifuges, which are used in the process of enriching uranium, were loaded in a North Korean plane under supervision of Pakistani security officials. He claims the shipment must have had the consent of President Pervez Musharraf, who at that time was chief of the army.

"It was a North Korean plane, and the army had complete knowledge about it and the equipment," Khan said. "It must have gone with [Musharraf's] consent." The Pakistani government has repeatedly denied any knowledge of the nuclear shipments.

Khan's claims contradict his 2004 confession, in which he reportedly admitted to providing North Korea, Iran, and Libya with nuclear materials and designs without authorization. He was put under house arrest after his confession, but was pardoned by Musharraf. He is still seen as a hero by many Pakistanis for his efforts in creating Pakistan's nuclear program.

"It was a North Korean plane, and the army had complete knowledge about it and the equipment."

—Abdul Qadeer Khan

In recent weeks, Khan has begun retracting his confession, claiming he had been promised complete freedom for becoming a "scapegoat", promises which he says were "not honored". He says that some of his friends, including PML-Q leader and former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat

Hussain, had persuaded him that it was in the national interest.

"In the interests of the country, I agreed to take the blame," he said. "A statement was given to me to read with the understanding that it would be followed by a presidential pardon, total rehabilitation and full freedom to move and meet anyone within the country. That promise was not kept on the part of the president."

Khan now denies ever traveling to Iran or Libya, and he says that North Korea's nuclear program had already been "well-advanced" before he arrived. He admits to making two trips to North Korea for the exchange of missile technology, but says the trips did not involve nuclear secrets and were government-sanctioned.

Musharraf's spokesman, Rashid Qureshi, denies Khan's allegations. "I can say with full confidence that it is all lies and false statements," he said. United States officials are also skeptical of Khan's recent claims. "We have not changed our assessment that A.Q. Khan was a very major and dangerous proliferator," an unnamed U.S. official said.

Khan's wife Hendrina has challenged her husband's house arrest, hiring attorney Mohammad Iqbal Jaffry to argue the case in court. Jaffry will petition for an end to Khan's restriction of movement, which his wife says constitutes an "illegal detention". A hearing has been scheduled for July 15.

Chinese Wikipedia unblocked by government

According to reports, the government of China has stopped restricting access to the Chinese Wikipedia in some parts of the country starting on July 3.

The report originated on the Wikimedia Foundation's mailing list quoting a website saying "Wikipedia Chinese version unblocked." Wikinews has confirmed that the reports are accurate through discussion with people attempting to access Wikipedia from China.

Despite the report, there are still some issues with accessing the site according to readers of the site. Sources tell Wikinews that although the English version is unblocked, the Chinese version still remains blocked or hard to access in many parts of the country. This comes after the Chinese unblocking of the all other language variations of Wikipedia in April.

Ian A. Holton, who is an administrator on the English Wikipedia, has confirmed that the Chinese Wikipedia is accessible in the Liaoning Province, although users in Shanghai and some in Beijing are still unable to access the site. The restriction in Beijing does not appear to cover the entire area: sources have told Wikinews the site can be accessed in many parts of Beijing.

There has been some doubt on whether Wikipedia will remain accessible after the Olympic games. Christiano Moreschi, another active contributor to the English Wikipedia, said that "I doubt this will last 5 minutes beyond the end of the closing ceremony of the Olympics."

The International Olympic Committee warned China in April that it wanted the internet freely accessible for the entire duration of the Olympic Summer Games. Unrestricted access is guaranteed to the 30,000 reporters and media staff expected for the Olympics

under Beijing's 'host city contract'.

Former US Senator Jesse Helms dead at 86

Former United States senator from North Carolina Jesse Helms has died today at the age of 86 after a long battle with vascular dementia.

"Jesse Helms was one of the most consequential figures of the 20th century. Along with Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan, he helped establish the conservative movement and became a powerful voice for free markets and free people," said Ed Feulner, president of the Heritage Foundation.

Helms was born Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr. on October 18, 1921 in Monroe, North Carolina. He was a five term senator for N.C. and was also a former Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman. He also became the first U.S. lawmaker to speak in front of the United Nations Security Council.

Helms opposed the use of American troops in Bosnia saying "I will not support sending American soldiers to fight and to die for the sake of an agreement not yet reached which may offer no more than the promise of a brief pause while all sides prepare for the next round of Balkan wars."

In 2002, Helms received the Clare Boothe Luce Award, which is the foundation's highest award. The Foundation stated, "[Helms is] dedicated, unflinching and articulate advocate of conservative policy and principle."

At various times throughout his career Helms created controversy with his ties to Salvadoran death squad leader Roberto D'Aubuisson, his unflinching support of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, and statements viewed by some as

racist and homophobic.

Over 60 members of Chadian sect killed by troops after violence

Over 60 members of a Chadian sect have been killed in fighting with police that started after the group's leader announced his wish to start a holy war. The government security minister, Mahamat Bachir, said that the death toll is "a regrettable toll, but we think we now control the situation caused by the actions carried out by these terrorists, these extremists."

Ahmat Ismael Bichara, who led the sect and claimed to follow the religion of Islam, ordered his followers to attack villagers as part of the start of a holy war. As a result of this, he was arrested.

Members of the security forces were also wounded in the attack. There were ten injuries, four of which resulted in fatalities. In addition to the deaths from the sect, over 50 members of the group were also injured.

Government officials also claimed that the sect wanted the war to spread as far as Europe. "Since June 3, he [the leader of the group] has been calling on all Muslims to prepare to engage in a holy war against Christians and atheists, saying that the war would be launched from Chad to as far as Denmark," said the official.

The incident occurred in an area near the town of Kouno, which is 300 kilometres away from Ndjamen, the Chadian capital.

Threat received before Boeing 767 fire at San Francisco

As part of an update by the United States National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) into its

investigation of a fire on a Boeing 767 cargo plane at San Francisco International Airport last week, it has been revealed the operator received a threat the week before.

ABX Air, a contractor for DHL that is also known as Airbourne Express, received a threat against them, although no specific aircraft was mentioned. However, the NTSB also said that initial investigations have revealed no evidence of a bomb or an incendiary device.

The fire at 10 p.m. Saturday broke through the jet's exterior just behind the cockpit. The two-man crew had been preparing to start up the jet's engines for takeoff at the time, but escaped without injury. Both have been interviewed by the NTSB, and the Cockpit Voice Recorder and Flight Data Recorder have both been sent to Washington where they are being analysed at the NTSB's headquarters.

Records kept by the NTSB and the Federal Aviation Authority indicate that the aircraft, which was manufactured in 1987, had had no previous issues. It had transported passengers until 2004, when Israel Aerospace Industries converted the plane for cargo transport. Israel's Ministry of Transport has sent a representative to assist the investigation, and Israel Aerospace Industries will serve in an advisory capacity.

Also assisting with the investigation were the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, the Transportation Security Administration, the San Francisco Fire Department and the San Francisco Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting division. Under International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 13

other firms involved with the aircraft, such as Boeing and ABX, will also be party to the investigation.

The NTSB expects the on-scene portion of the investigation to be completed by July 6.

Judge orders YouTube to hand over video view records

This past Tuesday, a United States federal judge ordered the popular video sharing website YouTube to hand over a record of every video that users have watched, including registered accounts and IPs.

Viacom, which owns several U.S. television networks such as MTV and Nickelodeon, launched a \$1 billion lawsuit last year alleging that YouTube wasn't doing enough to stop its copyrighted material from appearing in over 160,000 unauthorized clips that have been viewed over 1.5 billion times. Viacom argued that since they claimed that copyright material is more popular than user-made videos, they needed access to the information to strengthen the case, in which US District Court judge Louis L. Stanton agreed and ordered Google to turn over such information.

Google argued that this would cause privacy issues, but Stanton said it was just speculation. The Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based privacy advocate group, said the ruling was "a setback to privacy rights, and will allow Viacom to see what you are watching on YouTube," said EFF's senior staff attorney Kurt Opsahl.

Viacom had also requested for the code used to search keywords for each video and access to Google's advertising database to see if Google was receiving revenue from

ads from the alleged videos, but these requests were denied by the judge, arguing that code and ad data was too valuable.

There are concerns that Google is violating the Digital Millennium Copyright Act which allows a video provider service to not to be sued if it removes copyrighted material.

Today in History

1687 – Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica by Isaac Newton (\was first published, describing his laws of motion and his law of universal gravitation.
 1946 – Named after Bikini Atoll, the site of the nuclear weapons test Operation Crossroads in the Marshall Islands, the modern bikini was introduced at a fashion show in Paris.
 1950 – The Israeli Knesset enacted the Law of Return, granting Jews around the world the right to migrate to and settle in Israel and gain citizenship.
 1977 – General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq overthrew Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan in a military coup d'état.

2004 – Indonesia held its first direct presidential elections in its history; Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono would later be elected president during the second round of the elections on September 20.
 July 05 is Independence Day in Venezuela (1811), Algeria (1962) and Cape Verde (1975); Saints Cyril and Methodius Day in the Czech Republic and Slovakia; Tynwald Day on the Isle of Man

Quote of the Day

Take a commonplace, clean it and polish it, light it so that it produces the same effect of youth and freshness and originality and spontaneity as it did originally, and you have done a poet's job. The rest is literature. ~ Jean Cocteau

Word of the Day

Pyrrhic victory n

1. A very costly victory, wherein the considerable losses outweigh the gain, so as to render the battle unfavourable.

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