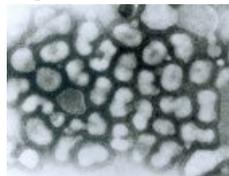




Top Stories

Major new bird flu outbreaks reported in Asia



New outbreaks of the lethal H5N1 strain of the avian influenza have been documented in

Vietnam and China. Health officers in these regions have identified more than 13,000 potentially infected birds.

Nationwide rallies against anti-terror laws held in Australia



A coordinated set of Australian protests against proposed anti-terror bills and calling on the withdrawal of troops from Iraq occurred

in Sydney on Saturday.

Featured story

Farmers hunt for missing bull semen

Authorities are looking for \$75,000 in frozen bull semen stolen Sunday from liquid nitrogen tanks at a farm in Frederick County, Maryland.

Wikipedia Current Events

- People in several parts of Germany report several fireballs in the sky, leading to speculation that they may be UFOs. Scientists report that the sightings are of the Taurid meteor shower.
- Azerbaijani citizens go to the

Wikipedia Current Events

polls in the Azerbaijan parliamentary election, 2005. Opposition parties have alleged that there is voting fraud.

•The tenth night of the 2005 Paris suburb riots is reported as being the most intense yet, and the riots are now the subject of crisis meetings in the French government.

•Terra Moya Aqua inc. has developed a new wind turbine design that is 43-45 percent efficient, creating up to 80 percent more power from the same wind than previous turbines. The blades of the turbine move slower even though they generate more electricity and the overall turbine is smaller, safer, and makes less noise.

First television channel in Esperanto launches online



A new online television channel, Internacia Televido, has been launched following just over two years of fundraising and preparation. It is the first channel ever to be broadcast entirely through the international auxiliary language Esperanto, and was launched at midnight Brazilian time on Saturday night. The name is Esperanto for 'International Television'. The channel aims to create an international television network combining professional content with the collaboration of ordinary users from around the world. Programmes will range from

news shows and documentaries to culture, educational programming and children's entertainment.

The project, supported by the World Esperanto Association amongst others, was announced in October 2003 in São Paulo by Brazilian entrepreneur Flavio Rebello, whose media business CIDCON also runs the Esperanto language web portal Ĝangalo (www.ghangalo.com, 'Jungle') and publishes music. The original intention was to establish a 24-hour streamed online channel, with four hours of original programming per day (repeated six times daily) and a daily news bulletin. A subsequent international fundraising campaign to raise the required sum of €35,000 to establish the channel involved Rebello speaking at several Esperanto events throughout Europe during the early months of 2004 through the support of an anonymous Asian donor.

The project failed to garner sufficient funds to meet its original deadline, but in August this year Rebello confirmed that a scaled-down version of the project would go ahead upon the sum of €23,000 being reached. The channel currently features 90 minutes of programming daily, with one weekly news bulletin, and three waged employees instead of the intended ten. It is intended that the channel will be funded past its initial six-month period through on-air advertising revenue and further private donations, and expanded as revenue permits.

Experimental television broadcasts in Esperanto were not first made until the advent of Internet technology. A previous online Esperanto TV project (www.esperanto.tv), under the auspices of the Italian Transnational Radical Party, failed to realise a finished product. Since the 1920s, radio broadcasts have been made regularly in Esperanto by broadcasters such as RAI, China Radio International and Radio Polonia.

Man charged in £26.5m robbery

An Irish construction worker accused of a record breaking £26.5 million (US\$45 million) bank robbery committed in December 2004 was formally charged in a court in Belfast on Friday. Dominic McEvoy was charged with possession of a firearm and false imprisonment in connection with the case.

On December 20, 2004, McEvoy allegedly held an assistant bank manager's family hostage while the manager and a colleague were forced to admit thieves to a branch of the Northern Bank in Belfast. The thieves then emptied the vault. Police have blamed the robbery on the IRA which has repeatedly denied any connection to the theft. Sinn Féin, a political party linked with the Provisional IRA, has protested the arrests, accusing police targeting IRA sympathizers and supporters in their investigation.

The Northern Bank heist is one of the largest in Europe since the theft of more than US\$65 million from a London bank in 1987.

Farmers hunt for missing bull semen

Authorities are looking for \$75,000 in frozen bull semen stolen Sunday from liquid nitrogen tanks at a farm in Frederick County, Maryland. Eric Fleming, the owner, says the semen took 4 to 5 years to collect from 40 to 50 bulls. He had planned to sell the semen at an upcoming Denver cattle show.

The collection and storage of semen can be a very profitable business—the ease of transportation reduces the costs normally associated with insemination, namely the transport of bull and cow to one another. Collection can be tricky, however, as bulls do not always produce as expected and the process is not particularly easy.

"I will give a nice fat reward for any information on semen that was stolen from my tank today," Fleming posted to a livestock breeder's message board. "It was a mother lode of semen," he said.

Today in History

- 1665: The London Gazette, the oldest surviving English newspaper, was first published.
- 1885: Construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the first transcontinental railroad across Canada, concluded with Sir Donald Smith driving in the "last spike" in Craigellachie, British Columbia.
- 1917: Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin (pictured) led a coup d'état against the Russian Provisional Government of Alexander Kerensky, starting the October Revolution.
- 1940: In the U.S. state of Washington, the middle section of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapsed in a windstorm.
- 1987: Zine El Abidine Ben Ali deposed Habib Bourguiba to

become President of Tunisia.
1996: NASA launched the Mars Global Surveyor.

Quote of the Day

"I feel for all faiths the warm sympathy of one who has come to learn that even the trust in reason is a precarious faith, and that we are all fragments of darkness groping for the sun." ~ Will Durant

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