Top Stories

38 miners killed in Russian mine explosion
At least 38 miners are dead after methane exploded in a coal mine in Russia. At least 180 people have made it out of the mine, and at least 7 of those have been seriously injured.

Reports say body of missing US soldier found in Iraq
Reports say that a body of a United States soldier has been found in the Euphrates River in Iraq and that it is the body of one of three U.S. soldiers who were believed to be taken captive by Iraqi insurgents on May 12.

Featured story

Exclusive video interview with New Zealand Opposition leader, John Key
John Key, New Zealand’s Leader of the Opposition, and leader of the National Party, posted a video response after being sent questions by Wikinews. Key discusses how and why he participates in video blogging, and shares the details of his video blogging activities and future plans to make use of so-called ‘new media’.

Wikipedia Current Events

• Israeli soldiers arrest 33 Hamas figures in Nablus, West Bank, including one cabinet member, Palestinian Education Minister Naser al-Shaer.
• Palestinians fire eight Qassam rockets from the Gaza Strip towards the western Negev.
• The IAF makes two air strikes in the Gaza Strip, destroying housing used by the Hamas Executive Force and another post in Deir al-Balah.
• At least 28 Siberian miners are killed and dozens more trapped after a methane explosion in the Yubileinaya coal mine in the Kemerovo Oblast in Russia.
• Voting is underway in the Republic of Ireland for a general election after a closely fought campaign.

38 miners killed in Russian mine explosion
At least 38 miners are dead after methane exploded in an underground coal mine in Russia. 180 people made it out of the mine, and at least 7 of those were seriously injured. At least 217 miners were inside when the explosion occurred.

"Up to 45 people could have been at the epicenter of the blast. One hundred and eighty people have been brought out. Of these, five have life-threatening injuries. The fate of the other [trapped] miners is unknown. According to the (mining) company’s information, there were 194 workers and 23 engineering inspectors underground [when the mine exploded]," said a spokesman for Russia's Emergency Ministry.

The explosion occurred at the Yubileinaya Mine located in Novokuznetsk, Russia in the Kemerovo Oblast at approximately 7:40 a.m. local time on Thursday [11:40 p.m. eastern time on Wednesday]. Yuzhkuzbassugol currently owns the mining facility.

The mine has already received several violations, and according to Russia’s industrial safety agency the mine would likely lose its license to operate. "Such a decision could be taken after an inquiry into all the circumstances of the accident at the Yubileinaya mine. Particularly since we have already found violations at Yuzhkuzbassugol mines."

California Senator Carole Migden says medication may have caused car crash
California Senator Carole Migden has revealed that she is suffering from leukemia and that medication prescribed to her may have contributed to a car accident she caused on May 22. Earlier Migden said that she was driving her state-leased SUV while reaching for her cell phone.

The announcement comes when witnesses called police to say that Migden was weaving along Highway 12 in Solano County, California. They also reported that she drove over the center median.

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on several occasions and that after
the accident she got out of her car
and proceeded to yell, "I'm a
senator!." Witnesses say that she
"didn't seem all there at the time."

According to Migden, doctors
diagnosed her with leukemia in
1997, but did not reveal to the
public her disease because she did
not want "pity" from anyone.
Migden also says that back in
February, she was pronounced as
"disease free."

Migden says that she had an
unexplained medical event and
that her medication claim is not an
excuse for her driving.

"I owe an explanation to the public
and myself and, in particular, the
person I hurt. I don't have a
recollection of what happened. I
can only conclude I had a medical
event I can't explain. It's not an
excuse; it may be an explanation," said Migden.

Authorities have stated that they
recommended charges of "unsafe
driving" be filed against Migden,
but that the incident still be
investigated.

Lebanese Army and Fatah al-
Islam resume fighting
Days after Palestinian refugees
fled the Nahr al-Bared refugee
camp in Tripoli, northern Lebanon,
fighting resumed between the
Lebanese Army and the terrorist
group, Fatah al-Islam. The
fighting, ongoing since Sunday,
has so far claimed 69 lives. Elias
Murr, the Lebanese defense
minister, told Al Arabiya as quoted:
"The army will not
negotiate with a group of terrorists
and criminals. Their fate is arrest,
and if they resist the army, death.
There are two choices: The first
one, which we prefer, is that they
surrender ... the other, which we
don't like ... is military action"

Earlier today in Beirut, the
Lebanese Prime Minister, Fouad
Siniora, addressed the nation over
the current battle in Nahr al-
Bared; televised at the Grand
Serail. Fouad Siniora issued an
ultimatum against Fatah al-Islam,
saying that Lebanon would not
give in to terrorism. “We will put
an end to the terrorist
phenomenon without hesitation”

Fouad Siniora went on by
describing Fatah al Islam as
"attempting to ride on the
suffering and the struggle of the
Palestinian people." He went on to
address the Palestinian refugees
within the country: "You are our
brothers. We share with you the
bad times before the good ones"

However, Fatah al-Islam fired back
on Fouad Siniora's ultimatum,
saying that more bombing would
take place unless the Lebanese
Army backs down. On Wednesday
evening, a bomb exploded in a
north-eastern Druze district of
Aley. Five people were wounded
according to a senior security
official.

Daughter of U.S. vice
president, Mary Cheney, has
baby boy
Mary Cheney, the openly lesbian
daughter of United States Vice
President Dick Cheney, has a given
birth to a son, named Samuel
David Cheney. The baby was born
weighing 8 lbs and 6 ounces (3.9
Kg).

Cheney intends to raise the child
with her partner, Heather Poe.

Samuel David is the sixth
grandchild of the Vice President.
The grandparents, Dick and wife,
Lynne, posed for pictures with the
newborn within hours of Samuel
David's arrival.

In February, while pregnant, Mary
said: "This is a baby. This is a blessing from God. It is not a political statement. It is not a prop to be used in a debate by people on either side of an issue. It is my child."

**NHL: Schedule set for playoff finals**

The Anaheim Ducks closed out their series with a win over the Detroit Red Wings Tuesday night, taking the Western Conference finals in six games. The Ducks will meet the Ottawa Senators in the Stanley Cup finals. The schedule for the series was released by the league on Wednesday.

The Senators will visit the Ducks at the Honda Center in Anaheim, California for Game 1 on Monday, May 28 with an 8:00 p.m. EDST (00:00 UTC) start time.

The upcoming series between the Ducks and Senators cannot be compared to any recent history between the two teams. They didn't meet at all during this year's regular season and met only once since the 2004-2005 lock-out and twice since 2002-2003.

When asked for his thoughts on the Ducks, Senators Captain Daniel Alfredsson didn't have much experience to go on. "I haven't seen them much," said Alfredsson. "I've seen them here and there in the playoffs. I think it will be the most physical series we've played in the playoffs so far. They're a bigger team and they've got some skill guys as well."

When asked for an opinion on the Senators, two of the Ducks players weren't much more expressive. "I haven't thought a second about them," said Ryan Getzlaf of the Ducks. "I haven't been watching their games," suggested Teemu Selanne, right-winger for the Ducks.

The Ducks win over the Red Wings indirectly provided some good fortune to the Edmonton Oilers hockey club. Due to a clause in the trade contract that saw the Oilers send Chris Pronger to the Ducks last year, the Oilers were to receive the Ducks first-round draft pick in 2008, if the Ducks made it into the finals.

All games in the finals will have a 8:00 p.m. start time.

**Today in History**

1521 - Martin Luther was declared an outlaw and a heretic by the Diet of Worms.

1810 - May Revolution: The Primera Junta, the first independent government in Argentina, was established in Buenos Aires.

1946 - Abdullah bin Husayn, Emir of the Emirate of Transjordan, was proclaimed King of the renamed "Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan".

1961 - Project Apollo, with the goal of "landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth before the decade is out" was announced.

1966 - The first prominent DaZiBao during the Cultural Revolution in China was posted at Peking University.

May 25 is Independence Day in Jordan (1946); Towel Day; African Liberation Day in various African countries.

**Quote of the Day**

Is pain a promise? I was schooled in pain, And found out what I could of all desire; I weep for what I'm like when I'm alone In the deep center of the voice and fire.

~ Theodore Roethke ~

**Word of the Day**

soliloquy; n

1. (drama) The act of a character speaking to himself so as to reveal his thoughts to the audience.

2. A literary discourse written as a conversation of the author with himself.

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