



Top Stories

Pakistan and China sign free-trade deal

Chinese president, Hu Jintao has signed a free-trade deal with his Pakistani counterpart, General Pervez Musharraf during ongoing talks in Islamabad.

Pope Benedict to visit Turkey among anti-pope protests

Security concerns are on the rise as protests progress following a trip from the Pope. On his visit, the Pope is expected to make peace with Muslims and meet with other Religious leaders. Police are taking full measures to ensure the Pope is safe during his trip.

Featured story

Judging the Courts: Wikinews interviews Prof. Lawrence Douglas

Wikinews interviews Lawrence Douglas, Professor of Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought at Amherst College about the trial of Saddam Hussein and the purpose, conduct and impact of courts trying crimes such as genocide.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Michael Grade, the Chairman of the BBC, is hired as the new boss of its biggest rival ITV.
- The Supreme Court of the Democratic Republic of the Congo confirms that Joseph Kabila had won the 2006 presidential election.

Wikipedia Current Events

- A U.S. F-16 fighter aircraft has gone down near the city of Fallujah in western Iraq. The United States Air Force said the plane's pilot was missing and an investigation into the cause of the incident had been launched.
- Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations warns that Iraq is close to civil war unless "something is done drastically and urgently to arrest the deteriorating situation".
- Somali Civil War: The Islamic Courts Union that controls much of southern Somalia has revealed they would attack Ethiopian forces in Galkayo in Mudug province, central Somalia.
- Just weeks before he was poisoned, former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko travelled to Israel with a secret oil dossier on the Kremlin's takeover of bankrupt oil company Yukos, which had been one of the world's largest energy providers.
- The British government rejects proposals to increase the length of sound recording's copyright protection from 50 years to 95 years. This means that Sir Cliff Richard's earliest songs will come out of copyright in 2008, and the earliest songs recorded by Beatles in 2013. Songs composed and/or written will still have copyright for 70 years after the author's death.
- An airplane crashes in Tehran killing 28 members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps

Wikipedia Current Events

- including high-ranking officers.
- Australian Attorney-General Philip Ruddock tables the multi-volume Cole Inquiry report. It finds that the Prime Minister of Australia John Howard, his ministers or Australian government departments were not aware of AWB Limited paying kickbacks to the regime of Saddam Hussein to buy Australian wheat under the Oil for Food program.
- John Key is elected leader of the opposition New Zealand National Party, with Bill English as his deputy. Both were unopposed.

Canadian Cabinet Minister resigns over Harper's Quebec motion

Michael Chong, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister of Sport, and MP for the riding of Wellington—Halton Hills, has resigned over Stephen Harper's Quebec motion. The motion asks MPs if Quebec is a nation "within a united Canada".

Chong opposed the vote saying that it was akin to ethnic nationalism, which he opposes.

"It is nothing else but the recognition of ethnic nationalism, and that is something I cannot support. It cannot be interpreted as the recognition of a territorial nationalism, or it does not refer to the geographic entity, but to a group of people," Chong said.

"I am resigning as minister so I can abstain from the vote tonight," Chong said at a news conference in Ottawa, the nations capital. "While I am loyal to my party and to my leader, my first loyalty is to my country. I believe in one nation undivided called Canada."

Chong remains a Conservative member of Parliament.

Michael Ignatieff, the front-runner in the Liberal leadership race, has proposed a similar motion. Liberal leadership candidate, Gerard Kennedy, said he opposes the motion and finds it divisive to national unity and could advance the separatist agenda.

The vote will be held tonight in the House of Commons.

Korea: Multilateral negotiations may resume soon

Negotiations, about the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula may be resumed soon. Talks which had included China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in Norther Korea, the Republic of Korea (ROK) in South Korea, the United States, Russia and Japan broke down last November when USA took sanctions against the DPRK alleging that it had engaged in money laundering.

The DPRK alarmed the world and provoked international denunciation by conducting an underground nuclear test on October 8, 2006. Since then the DPRK has indicated its willingness to resume talks on nuclear disarmament, but no date has yet been fixed for a formal meeting.

Kenichiro Sasae, head of Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau has arrived in Beijing to meet Wu

Dawei, vice foreign minister of China

The DPRK's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, may also visit Beijing shortly.

Spanish cyclist Isaac Gálvez dies after crash in Ghent, Belgium

World Madison champion Isaac Gálvez Lopez died in the early hours of Sunday morning after crashing on the fifth day of the Six Days of Ghent track cycling race.

He collided with Belgium's Dimitri DeFauw during the second Madison of the evening and hit a metal barrier. He was immediately knocked unconscious, and despite being resuscitated, he was pronounced dead at the Gent University Clinic hospital.

The race was immediately suspended, and the final day's racing was cancelled.

At the time of the accident, Gálvez and team-mate Juan Llaneras were lying second in the overall standings, one lap behind the Belgium/German pair Iljo Kisse and Robert Bartko.

Greg Chappell under fire for his remarks on Indian MPs

Members of Indian Parliament have attacked cricket coach Greg Chappell over his comments about the criticism levelled against him by certain politicians.

Chappell fuelled the controversy by making controversial statements and said that he was not surprised by the sharp criticism from the MPs over the team's poor performance in one-day international matches. He added that they were doing the "job they were paid for".

Seven Members of Parliament attacked him for his controversial statements. One of them even threatened a privilege motion against the coach.

Minister for Women and Child Development Renuka Choudhary said, "If Members of Parliament are willing, a privilege motion can be moved against Chappell,".

On Sunday, after 106-run defeat in Capetown, Chappell said that the key players are not playing well enough and that many players are out of form.

Rajnath re-elected as chief of Bharatiya Janata Party

Bharatiya Janata Party chief Rajnath Singh has been re-elected as the president of the party second time.

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and opposition leader Lal Krishna Advani proposed him to retain the post of the party president.

Singh filed his nomination to O P Kohli, at the party headquarters in New Delhi. Kohli recieved other 15 nominations to support Rajnath as party chief.

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Singh has been holding the position from December, last year after taking charge from Advani.

New term for singh is expected to follow the saffron brotherhood agenda to tighten the RSS control.

Eden Park to be upgraded for New Zealand's Rugby World Cup

he New Zealand Government has announced that it is ditching its preferred option of building a new stadium on Auckland's waterfront

and instead is going to upgrade Auckland's current stadium of Eden Park for the 2011 Rugby World Cup final that New Zealand is hosting.

The decision is only if Eden Park can do a "...redevelopment design, and on governance and funding issues going forward, with a report back to Cabinet by December 13. This report back date will not affect building timelines," Trevor Mallard, minister for sport, said.

The waterfront stadium was to cost NZ\$497 million compared to the upgrade of Eden Park which will cost \$385 million.

John Alexander, chief executive of Eden Park, said: "This decision is the right one for Auckland and for New Zealand. The Eden Park of 2011 will make Auckland and New Zealand proud. Not only will it preserve our rich sporting and social history, and provide sports viewing of an international quality, our plans will put the Park back into Eden Park."

Mr Mallard said: "The decision on a stadium had always been one for Auckland to make but unfortunately Auckland has been unable to agree to a preference, with Auckland City Council in favour of a waterfront site, and the Auckland Regional Council not favouring such a site."

The North Harbour stadium has been announced as the back up option, "It has also been agreed that North Harbour be considered as a reserve option for the time being..." Mr Mallard said.

"Cabinet today considered two options given this lack of unanimity - either to convene a group of all key parties to see whether issues with the waterfront

could be overcome, or to support a redevelopment of Eden Park, which was the Auckland City Council's second option, subject to further work," Mr Mallard said.

"Cabinet decided to explore an alternative stadium site after it became clear - in August - that the cost of an Eden Park redevelopment had gone from around \$150 million when the hosting bid was won, to an estimated \$320 million. The latest Eden Park version is estimated to cost \$385 million. If the government had been advised of the escalation of these costs earlier, then the timeframe would not have been so tight, and the process of evaluating options and consultation would have been much different," Trevor Mallard noted.

John Key new leader of New Zealand National Party

Today at a special caucus meeting, member of parliaments (MP) for National agreed that the new leader of the opposition, New Zealand's National Party, is John Key and the deputy leader is Bill English. They are taking over from past leader, Dr Don Brash and past deputy leader, Gerry Brownlee.

Dr Brash quit last week as he thought he was damaging the image of the National Party and Gerry Brownlee didn't seek leadership or to continue being the deputy.

Bill English, 45-years-old, is the former leader of the National Party. He was outed in 2003, for a bad performance at the 2002 New Zealand elections, and replaced by Dr Brash. Mr English only managed to get 22% of the votes cast.

John Key, also 45-years-old, said

at the announcement of the new leader and deputy leader that he was honoured that he was chosen to be the new leader of the National Party and also honoured that Mr English would be his deputy. "Can I tell you I think we will make a formidable team," he said. Key said the public placed a high value on unity.

"The new leadership represents the future," and Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and deputy PM, Michael Cullen "represent the past," Mr Key said.

Mr English had supported Mr Key as long as he was promised the position of deputy.

Murray McCully, strategy manager, met Mr English, Mr Key and Simon Power, supporter of Mr English, in Auckland where they discussed and finalised the takeover of the party.

Mr Key said: "...It was critical that we proved we can manage ourselves. If we do that successfully then we can earn the right to manage the country. People definitely took the view they were putting the party before themselves."

Mr English said that he believes that he and Mr Key will be the leaders for several elections.

The political editor for Newstalk ZB and Prime News, Barry Soper, said: "The two forty-somethings give the party a new, young look. It is a meteoric rise for John Key. The 45-year-old only rejoined the National Party less than 10 years ago, and became an MP just over four years ago. However, it is still not as meteoric as Don Brash's rise to the job - he had only been an MP for a year when he was made leader."

Dr Brash will however stay on the National Party. He is at number 3 on the list of National MPs, behind Key and English. His new caucus responsibilities will be Spokesman for the Security and Intelligence Service and Spokesman for Relationships with Non-Government Parties. His select committee responsibility is Security and Intelligence.

Since 1999 when New Zealand Labour Party took power, National has had four leaders which has given an image to the public of instability. Mr Key is the fifth leader.

Mr English will now be the finance spokesman taking over from Mr Key.

U.S. Supreme Court to hear arguments on global warming

The United States Supreme Court will hear arguments this Wednesday to determine whether the Bush administration must regulate carbon dioxide emissions to deal with the global warming threat. The case is presented by a group of environmentalists and leaders of some large cities.

The coalition, led by Massachusetts, demanded to review the case and insisted to check whether carbon-dioxide is harmful to the environment as much as lead and smog-causing elements. The Bush administrator is expected to argue before the court that the EPA has lacked the power under the Clean Air Act to regulate CO2 as a pollutant.

Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly and others have argued that this case is very important from the point of view of the Environmental Protection Agency's statutory responsibilities to deal

with the most pressing environmental problem.

The case comes just a few weeks after a federal government report concluded that far fewer polar bear cubs are surviving off Alaska's northern coast, something many environmentalists are blaming on global warming. Also earlier this month the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said that signs of warming continue in the Arctic with a decline in sea ice, an increase in shrubs growing on the tundra, and rising concerns about the Greenland ice sheet.

Today in History

1660 - At London's Gresham College, Robert Boyle (pictured}, John Wilkins, Christopher Wren and other leading scientists founded a learned society now known as the Royal Society.

1905 - Irish nationalist Arthur Griffith first presented his Sinn Féin Policy, declaring that the 1800 Act of Union of Great Britain and Ireland was illegal.

1925 - The country music radio program Grand Ole Opry was first broadcast on WSM radio in Nashville, USA.

1943 - World War II: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin met at the Tehran Conference to discuss war strategy against the Axis powers.

1979 - Air New Zealand Flight 901 crashed into Antarctica's Mount Erebus, killing all 257 people on board.

Quote of the Day

Whatever nature has in store for mankind, unpleasant as it may be, men must accept, for ignorance is never better than knowledge.

~ Enrico Fermi

Word of the Day

quixotic; adj

1. Acting with the desire to do noble and romantic deeds, without thought of realism or practicality.

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