



Top Stories

Wikimedia servers unreachable for 3 hours due to network outage

The Wikimedia servers were unreachable for 3 hours and suffered downtime due to network issues.

Indonesian health officials investigating possible human to human transmission of H5N1 Bird Flu virus

Indonesian Health officials are concerned that a 9-year-old girl who died of the H5N1 Avian Flu virus, contracted the illness as a result of human to human transmission and officials say a team of experts are on the way to the area to determine if a cluster exists.

Featured story

UK seeks pardon for executed World War I soldiers

The UK Defence Secretary announced a plan to seek a group pardon for more than 300 British soldiers executed during the First World War for offences such as cowardice and desertion, including Pte. Harry Farr, whose family had appealed for a full, posthumous pardon.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Lebanese PM Fouad Siniora has accused Israel of a "naked violation" of the five-day-old ceasefire, after a raid by Israeli commandos deep inside Lebanon.
- Reuters reports that Israeli

Wikipedia Current Events

aircraft have fired at targets in Eastern Lebanon reported to be a Hezbollah stronghold. An Israeli army spokesman said the army was checking the report.

- Israel confirms that a commando unit was operating in Lebanon early this morning. One soldier is reported killed and two wounded, one of them seriously.
- IR Leader sends congrats message to Nasrallah.
- Israeli forces have seized Palestinian Deputy Prime Minister Nasser al-Shaer in a raid on his home in the West Bank town of Ramallah.
- The Chinese death toll from Typhoon Saomai rises to 436 with 100 new deaths reported in the east of the country.

Ford announces deep production cuts in response to growing losses

Ford has announced sweeping cuts of 21% (168,000 units) in its US and Canadian production, resulting in the partial closure of ten of its plants during the fourth quarter. The measure comes on top of existing turnaround plans announced in January, in which 25,000 to 30,000 positions should be cut and 14 plants closed by 2012.

Ford is the world's third-largest automaker and the U.S.'s second-largest. However it has in recent years been struggling with poor profitability and shrinking market

shares. In 2005 it lost \$1.6 billion and recently the company reported a second quarter loss of \$254 million and a 34% year-year decline in sales for the month of July.

George Pipas, director of sales analysis at Ford, points to rising gas prices having negative impact on the sale of the companies SUV lines as well as its sales leader, the F-series pickup truck as being the direct cause of the latest initiative.

So far the following plants are thought to be effected:

- St. Thomas Assembly of St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada
- Chicago, Illinois
- Wixom Assembly Plant of Wixom, Michigan, Michigan
- Louisville Assembly of Louisville, Kentucky
- Michigan Truck Plant of Wayne, Michigan
- St. Paul, Minnesota
- Kansas City Assembly of Kansas City, Missouri
- Norfolk Assembly of Norfolk, Virginia
- River Rouge Plant of Dearborn, Michigan

Ford's stock fell 17 cents (2.1%) to \$8 on the New York Stock Exchange.

German bomb suspect arrested by police

Police in Germany have arrested one of two men who they suspect was involved in a failed terrorist attack.

Authorities say the pair planted

two bombs on trains last month, but they failed to detonate. The Propane gas devices was discovered in baggage on trains at Dortmund and Koblenz stations on 31 July.

The man was identified as 21 years old Jussuf Mohammed. He was arrested at the main train station in Kiel.

"The person appears to be one of the two suspects that have been sought since yesterday with the help of video footage that was made public," the public prosecutors' office said.

Dead mountaineer found after seventeen years

The body of Mike Seavers, a mountaineer who died in a climbing accident in the French Alps, has been found after seventeen years.

The 31 year-old, who lived in Bristol, was scaling Mont Blanc with a climbing party when they got caught up in a fierce storm.

He was found alongside a German member of the party in a melting glacier which preserved their bodies, according to Nick Cotton from the British Mountaineering Council. "They may have gone inside a crevasse to take cover and got covered, possibly by an avalanche or snowfall. Glaciers are flowing things. They move at an imperceptible speed and anything travels with it encased in ice. When they get to a point where the glacier melts, things appear," he said.

War on Terrorism could continue longer than the Cold War: Australia's Treasurer

Speaking at a Liberal party conference in Melbourne today, Australia's treasurer Peter Costello

said that the US-led War on Terrorism could outlast the Cold War and continue for more than 50 years.

Mr Costello said that Australians needed to be sure about their values as they prepare for a long war on terror.

The treasurer said that Australia must be prepared to protect its values and defend itself against the threat of terrorism.

"There are, unfortunately, terrorists who would rather see Australia as some kind of Islamofascist state," he said.

"They are prepared to do us ill. These people do not always come from overseas."

"There are people that are born in Australia who, for whatever reason, have been infected with terrorist ideology; who have trained to give themselves the capacity to do us and our society ill."

Mr Costello warned that the war would not end until all terrorists were defeated and the type of society they wished to create was crushed. "The defeat of them and their ideas will signal the end of the war on terrorism," he said.

Mr Costello said that the government would defend Australia against any terrorist threat. "We have had plots in Australia to blow up buildings and I want to reassure the Australian public that the Government will do what is required to defeat terrorists and their ambitions," he said.

Contrary to Mr. Costello's assertion that "islamo-fascists" are the terrorists to fear, Ali Haj Hassan, a

Hezbollah member of the Lebanese Parliament, said "Condoleezza Rice is a terrorist, terrorist woman, and Bush is a terrorist."

Hezbollah is one of the groups the west has labelled "terrorist" but they maintain they are fighting against foreign occupation by others who they consider to be the terrorists; "We will continue the resistance" said Hassan.

All Blacks win 2006 Tri Nations rugby series

The New Zealand All Blacks have defeated Australia to win the rugby union 2006 Tri Nations. The end result was a close 34 to 27 win for the home side, which was played at Auckland's Eden Park. It is the fourth series win in five years for the All Blacks. The All Blacks entered the match having already wrapped up the Bledisloe Cup two weeks prior in Brisbane, and could well win the Tri Nations should they win this match, despite the South African leg of the series starting next week. The Wallabies had not won at Eden Park in 20 years, whilst the All Blacks had not lost a Test at home in over three years.

The All Blacks performed the controversial Kapa O Pango haka before the game in front of the sold out Eden Park. The scoring kicked off in the third minute of play, with Stirling Mortlock booting a penalty goal to give the Wallabies an early lead of three to nil. The equaliser came in the 6th minute, with Dan Carter kicking a penalty goal for the All Blacks. The Australian Wallabies were back in front by the 15 minute mark, Mortlock kicking another penalty goal to take Australia six points to three in front. In the fourth penalty goal in 20 minutes, Carter leveled things once again, six-

points all. A intercept by Lote Tuqiri turned into a runaway try for Australia, scoring the first try of the match. Mortlock converted the try, making the score 13 points to six, 26 minutes in the game. Carter missed a penalty goal in the 32nd minute. Two minutes later the All Blacks barged over with Jason Eaton scoring the All Blacks' first try of the match. Carter missed the conversion, so Australia held onto a slim 13 to 11 lead. Australia went searching for their second try before half-time, Rocky Elsom getting over the line, though it went up to the video referee. The try was awarded, though some believe there was not enough control when the try was scored. Mortlock converted, and the Wallabies were now leading 20 points to 11.

Six minutes into the second half, Carter kicked a successful penalty goal, narrowing the gap to 14 to 20. Carter again narrowed the scorline in the 53rd minute, kicking another penalty goal. The All Blacks now trailing by just three points, 17 to 20. The All Blacks came close to scoring in the 60th minute, though the ball was knocked-on close to the line. Minutes later Chris Jack put the All Blacks back in front, scoring the first try of the second half. Carter converted and the All Blacks now led the match 24 points to 20. In the 68th minute, Luke McAlister scored an intercept try, and with Carter's conversion, the All Blacks moved ahead 31 points to 20. However, in the 73rd minute, Tuqiri got his second try, and with Mortlock's conversion, there was a new hope for the Wallabies. The score now 31 points to 27, with under 10 minutes remaining. Phil Waugh was sent off in the final minutes of the match. A Carter conversion took the score line out to 34 to 27. Full-time was soon

called, and the All Blacks had held onto the win. Despite the All Blacks win, the rugby is far from over, with more games to be played in the Republic.

Lebanese security source: Israeli jets open fire in eastern Lebanon

Reuters is reporting that according to a source with Lebanese security, Israeli aircraft fired rockets at a Hezbollah stronghold at or near the village of Bodai.

An Israeli army spokesperson reportedly said they were checking into the report.

If confirmed, this would be the first overt action since the cease-fire after United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 that sought to end the 2006 Israel-Lebanon conflict.

A squad of Israel commando open fire to Hizbollah at eastern Bekaa Valley later the day, despite the cease fire, claiming to "disrupt weapons transfer"

Man falls into 70 gallons of chocolate

A 21 year old man fell into a tank of chocolate and was stuck waist deep in it for two hours on August 18 in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Darmin Garcia, an employee of a company that supplies chocolate ingredients, said he was pushing the chocolate down into the container because it was stuck but it became loose and he fell in. However police chief Randy Berner said that he was told by Mr. Garcia that he climbed into the tank.

It was in my hair, in my ears, my mouth, everywhere," said Garcia, who has worked at the company for two years. "I felt like I weighed 900 pounds (400 kg). I couldn't

move."

"It was pretty thick. It was virtually like quicksand," said Mr. Berner. "It's the first time I've ever heard of anything like this," he added.

He fell into 70 gallons (450 L) of dark chocolate that was being kept at 110°F (43°C). Co-workers, police and firefighters tried to free the man but could not until cocoa butter was used to thin the chocolate. He only suffered minor injuries and was released from hospital.

When asked whether he still had a taste for chocolate he said, "Not so much anymore."

Today in History

636 - Arab forces led by Khalid ibn al-Walid took control of Syria and Palestine in the Battle of Yarmouk, marking the first great wave of Muslim conquests and the rapid advance of Islam outside Arabia.

917 - Bulgarians led by Tsar Simeon I drove the Byzantines out of Thrace with a decisive victory in the Battle of Anchialus.

1882 - The "1812 Overture", an orchestral work by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, was first performed at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow.

1968 - At least 200,000 Warsaw Pact troops and 5,000 tanks invaded Czechoslovakia, abruptly ending a period of political liberalization known as "Prague Spring".

1991 - Estonia regained its independence in the Singing Revolution, breaking away from the Soviet Union.

August 20 is St. Stephen's Day in Hungary.

Quote of the Day

That is not dead which can eternal lie,

And with strange aeons even
 death may die.
 ~ H. P. Lovecraft ~

Word of the Day

apply oneself; v

1. To put forth a concerted effort; to try; to focus.

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