



### Top Stories

#### **Sunday Times says Israel is planning nuclear strike against Iran**

According to The Sunday Times, Israel is planning to use nuclear-tipped bunker busters to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities.

#### **Polish Archbishop resigns after spying revelations**

Stanislaw Wielgus, the Archbishop of Warsaw, resigned yesterday after admitting to have spied for Poland's former Communist Government. Cardinal Jozef Glemp will retain the position of apostolic administrator until a replacement is chosen.

### Featured story

#### **Ethical debate surrounds surgery to stunt disabled girl's growth**

An ethical controversy has surged in the United States and elsewhere around nine-year-old Ashley X. The disabled girl was operated upon at the request of her parents, to prevent her from growing, menstruating and developing breasts.

### Wikipedia Current Events

•Newly appointed Archbishop Stanisław Wojciech Wielgus, of Warsaw resigns after Friday's allegations that he collaborated with the Polish communist government's secret police. He was due to be officially appointed by Pope Benedict XVI at 10:00 GMT, and announced his decision only one hour before.

### Wikipedia Current Events

•At least 17 prisoners are killed in riots in a maximum security jail in Santa Ana, El Salvador, after convicted members of the Mara 18 gang fight with a security guard, leading to trouble throughout the jail.

•Somali gunmen open fire at Ethiopian troops stationed in Somalia's capital Mogadishu resulting in at least one death.

•Fighting breaks out between Somali protesters and Ethiopian troops in the town of Beledweyne after an official is arrested for refusing to hand over a member of the ousted Islamic Courts Union. Three people are reportedly injured.

•The executions of two senior accomplices of former leader Saddam Hussein are expected to be carried out within this week according to Iraqi officials.

#### **Sunday Times says Israel is planning nuclear strike against Iran**

According to The Sunday Times, Israel is planning to use nuclear bunker busters to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities. The newspaper cites several Israeli military sources.

The report says that Israeli airforce squadrons at Hatzerim and Tel Nof Airbase are training to use low-yield nuclear "bunker-busters". Some of Iran's facilities have been built underground and would thus be difficult to hit using conventional weapons. Targets

would include the uranium enrichment facilities of Natanz, a site near Isfahan where gas for the enrichment process have been stored underground, and a heavy water reactor in Arak.

"As soon as the green light is given, it will be one mission, one strike and the Iranian nuclear project will be demolished." said a source. The tactical nuclear weapons would only be used if conventional weapons were "ruled out" and if the United States "declined to intervene", the article continues, based on "senior" military sources.

Military analysts say that disclosure of the plans could be intended to put pressure on Iran to halt enrichment (which Iran says is for peaceful purposes), prod the United States into action or soften up world opinion in advance of an Israeli attack, according to the report. On December 24, Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad dismissed a resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Iran as a "piece of paper". The Iranian Ambassador to the UN responded to the sanctions saying "A nation is being punished for exercising its inalienable rights." accusing the council of acting at the "behest of a dangerous regime with aggression and war crimes as its signature brand of behaviour.", referring to Israel.

Most members of the Israeli government and military refused

to comment on the report. Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev denied the plans for a military intervention, saying that Israel is supporting diplomatic efforts. Ephraim Kam, a strategic expert at Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Strategic Studies and a former senior army intelligence officer, also dismissed the report. "No reliable source would ever speak about this, certainly not to the Sunday Times," Kam told the Associated Press.

### **BrasilTelecom blocks YouTube**

The largest telecom company in Brazil, BrasilTelecom, has blocked its users from accessing YouTube following a court order to shut down the popular video sharing website.

BrasilTelecom did not issue an official statement regarding YouTube, but its customers are complaining that all access to the website is blocked.

A ban on YouTube was ordered by Brazilian courts after celebrity Daniela Cicarelli sued the website for hosting unauthorized videos of her having sex on the beach. YouTube removed the videos, as is standard for videos it receives legal complaints about, but was unable to stop other users from uploading copies since it does not screen videos before they are uploaded.

### **Inventor of instant noodles passes away**

The inventor of instant noodles has died in Japan at the age of 96. Momofuku Ando suffered from acute heart failure on Friday, said Nissin Food Company.

Momofuku Ando was born as Wu Bai-fu (吳百福) in Chiayi, Taiwan, on March 5, 1910. He founded Nissin in the year 1948 from a

humble family operation. Japan faced food shortages during the post-World War II period and Ando thought a quality, convenient noodle product would help feed the masses. He brought out the Chicken Ramen, the first noodle product in the year 1958. The chicken-flavored dried noodle cake could be served in minutes by pouring hot water over it in a bowl. He started exporting it to the US during 1970.

The Cup Noodle concept was born in 1971. Ando said, he was inspired when he saw people lining up to buy bowls of hot ramen soup at a black market stall during this period. Its taste and ease of preparation made it one of the most favorite food in the world. The Chicken Ramen product had been a hit, and the despite a hefty tag of 35 Yen, he unleashed the product – Cup Noodles, on the market.

Nissin has been the undisputed leader of the noodle industry since then, selling a 85.7 billion servings every year, according to Agence France Presse.

"The Momofuku Ando Instant Ramen Museum" opened in 1999 in Ikeda City in western Japan housing his various inventions.

His firm also developed a version of Cup Noodles for Japanese astronauts to eat on Space Shuttle Discovery. "It is like a dream that people from rivaling countries can eat Ramen together in space," were Ando's words to the reporters at that time. He retired as the chairman of Nissin in the year 2005. The Japanese newspapers have been paying tribute to him by publishing long obituaries and eulogies. According to the Mainichi Shimbun, Ando was last seen in public on Wednesday when he

made a New Year's speech at Nissin's head office in Osaka and had a lunch with executives, a bowl of Chicken Ramen with rice cake.

The incumbent Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger had been one of the celebrities to endorse the brand.

Ando is survived by his wife, Masako; two sons; and a daughter. His son Koki Ando is president of Nissin Food Products Co. Ltd.

### **ICANN top-level .xxx domain name not dead yet**

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) announced Friday that its vote in May last year was not to reject the creation of 'Triple X', a top-level domain (sTLD). Rather, the corporation voted "not to approve the agreement as proposed, but did not reject the application".

A revised proposal for the .xxx domain is open to public comment until February 5. The revised proposal appears to have hinged on efforts by ICM, proponents of a voluntary adult top-level domain, to promote enforcement in the following areas:

1. Prohibit child pornography
2. Require clear labeling
3. Support development of user empowerment technology
4. Ensure that the child advocacy and free expression communities are involved in policy development for the sTLD.

Who, or what, ICM is remains unclear. The home page of ICM states that, "The .xxx top-level domain will create a clearly identifiable area of the Internet so that Internet users can be more

informed when choosing to select or avoid adult entertainment sites."

The estimated \$12 billion per year in revenues generated by on-line pornography could come under the scrutiny of unknown ICM, to whom ICANN proposes delegating responsibility to an organization, or individual, that has nothing more to say about themselves on their website than the background of their leaders.

### Warming oceans make it harder for fish to breathe

Global warming has caused oceans around the world to rise in temperature making it increasingly difficult for fish to breathe, say scientists at Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research located in Germany.

In the past 50 years, temperatures in the Baltic Sea have risen causing oxygen levels in the water to decrease.

A study was performed on shallow-water eelpouts, a fish with a large head which looks much like an eel, that showed that the creatures required more oxygen. With the decreased levels of oxygen, the eelpouts are literally gasping for air and causing the number of eelpouts to decrease.

"When you say I get less oxygen in, then I have less oxygen available for aerobic energy and I have less energy for the diverse tasks that a species needs to fulfill in an ecosystem, such as being ready to prey, grow, move and reproduce. It's a general weakening of the individual once it is going beyond its thermal limitation", said Hans Pörtner, an animal physiologist and ecologist.

Although the study only focused

on the eelpouts, scientists say that the problem affects all fish and overfishing could occur.

"There is relatively strong evidence that the cod in the North Sea find it too warm to maintain high productivity. When the fishing industry maintains the same high fishing pressure—that has not been a problem before—with the lower productivity, this turns into overfishing," added Pörtner.

Scientists also state that the declining numbers in the eelpouts and fish does not mean that they will become extinct.

"It doesn't mean that the species will go extinct necessarily, but it means they will move. If temperatures are going to change in [the] future, then it will have a major impact on the distribution of animals," said a zoophysiologicalist at the University of Aarhus in Denmark, Tobias Wang.

Recently, the United States Department of Interior announced that they may add the polar bears to the list of threatened species. Also recently, a Canadian Arctic ice shelf broke away from Ellesmere Island. Both issues are said to have been caused by global warming.

### Today in History

1198 - Lotario de Conti became Pope Innocent III. His first act was the restoration of the papal power in Rome.

1815 - War of 1812: The United States Army led by Andrew Jackson won the Battle of New Orleans two weeks after the signing of the Treaty of Ghent.

1889 - Herman Hollerith received a patent for his electric tabulating machine.

1989 - British Midland Flight 92 crashed onto the embankment of

the M1 motorway in the Kegworth air disaster.

2004 - RMS Queen Mary 2, the largest ocean liner ever built, was christened by her namesake's granddaughter, Queen Elizabeth II. January 08 is Coming-of-Age Day in Japan (2007).

### Quote of the Day

Some marry the first information they receive, and turn what comes later into their concubine. Since deceit is always first to arrive, there is no room left for truth.

~ Baltasar Gracián

### Word of the Day

platitude; n

1. An often-quoted saying that is supposed to be meaningful but has become unoriginal or hackneyed through overuse.

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