



Top Stories

Worldwide markets fall precipitously

Stock markets around the world, particularly those in the United States and the United Kingdom, have fallen dramatically today. This is following the ongoing events in the financial world, including the US Government's \$700 billion bail out of the financial sector. As of 14:48 UTC, the primary UK index, the FTSE 100, dropped in value by 6.50% (323.65 points) to a point even further below the 5000 mark at 4656.60. The Dow Jones, was down 3.76% at 16:08 UTC, a slight increase from earlier today. The Dow Jones currently has a value of 9936.94 points, below the ten thousand mark. The Nasdaq index has fallen by 100.12 points to 1847.27, while the DAX was 6.62% lower than the start of the day as of 16:08 UTC.



Law firm tries to ban new book by Cambridge Press

The Schillings law firm in the United Kingdom, has attempted to remove certain content from an upcoming book by former Ambassador to the Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, Craig Murray 2006 - Credit: Breadandcheese CC-BY-SA-3.0



Top Stories

Craig Murray. Schillings, a company which, according to Wikileaks, contains "well known UK censorship lawyers," sent a letter to Cambridge University Press threatening libel action if the content is not removed from Murray's book, The Catholic Orangemen of Togo, before publication.

UK government to spy on phone, email, browsing, of entire population

The government of the United Kingdom leaked its plans yesterday to launch a program which will monitor every British citizen's emails, internet browsing records, and telephone conversations. While a specific plan has not been reached, UK ministers agreed on spending up to £12 billion (USD\$21.2 billion) on the new spying system. More than £1 billion (USD\$1.76 billion) has already been spent.

Thai PAD protest leader arrested while voting

Police in Thailand have announced the arrest of Chamlong Srimuang, a retired general and former Bangkok mayor who is one of the leaders of protests against the current government. Chamlong and other protesters who have occupied government buildings for several months accuse the incumbent government of acting as proxy for deposed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Wikipedia Current Events

At least three people have died and 30 injured in a collision between two passenger trains near Budapest, Hungary.

- An earthquake of magnitude 6.6 on Richter scale hits near the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan killing 60 people.

- Another earthquake of magnitude 6.6 on Richter scale hits Damxung, Tibet, in the People's Republic of China killing at least 30.

- The 2008 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine goes to Harald zur Hausen of Germany for his discovery of the human papilloma viruses that can cause cervical cancer in women, and Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier of France for their discovery of human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV.

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below the ten thousand mark. The Nasdaq index has fallen by 100.12 points to 1847.27, while the DAX was 6.62% lower than the start of the day as of 16:08 UTC.

The Dow Jones index was one that fared particularly poorly today, as not one of its companies increased its share price. The same is true for the CAC 40 index. The Merval index is another one that fared badly today. It dropped in value by 10.12%, while the affiliated Merval 25 index dropped by nearly as much, 10.03%. One of the worst faring indexes of the day was the Brazilian Bovespa index. It has already fallen by 14.45% today, despite the fact that it is not even half way through the trading day.

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They believe the program, which will create a massive database for storing the information and installs thousands of probes, is necessary to fight threats to national security. One of the reasons cited for creating the database is to keep links between terrorists intact before they are wiped from systems, which often hold any needed information only temporarily.

Under the UK's current law a warrant is required to intercept

communications, but that will change with the implementation of the new database.

Critics like Michael Parker, an anti-ID card activist, have called the proposal 'sinister', and accused the UK government of 'stalking' British citizens. "If an individual carried out this sort of snooping," Parker said, "it would be a crime".

But other critics like Dominic Grieve, Shadow Home Secretary, have a different concern. The government has a record of leaking sensitive information, making such a database insecure—which could be dangerous in the wrong hands. "Seeing how significant an increase in power this would be, we need to have a national debate and the Government would have to justify its need," he finished.

A public debate is being considered after the request of the UK's Information Commissioner, who has warned that the program would be unacceptable to most of the UK's citizens.

Details will be given in the Queen's speech next month.

Wikipedia Current Events

The Dow Jones industrial average falls by as much as 800.06 points, its biggest intraday drop on record; the Dow closed below the 10,000 mark for the first time since October 26, 2004.

- Significant losses are marked on stock exchanges world-wide: São Paulo Stock Exchange suspended trading after a 15 percent drop in its benchmark index.

- The UK's leading share index, the FTSE 100 closes down 391.1 points (7.85%), the largest single day points fall since it was

Wikipedia Current Events

launched in 1984. The French CAC 40 also recorded a record drop of 9.04%, whilst Germany's DAX finished down 7.09%.

- United States Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson announces that Neel Kashkari will be in charge of administering the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

- 2008 Russian financial crisis:

- Trading is suspended on Russia's leading stock exchanges after shares plunged nearly 20 percent amid a backdrop of falling oil prices and fears over the global economy.

- A suicide blast in the Sri Lankan town of Anuradhapura has killed 25 people, including the former army general Janaka Perera.

- Nancy Kissel loses an appeal against her conviction of murdering her husband Robert Kissel in Hong Kong in 2003.

- U.S. to rely on Russia for manned space flights between 2010 and 2015.

- Human Rights Watch says Somalia is "most ignored tragedy" and the international community has "completely failed Somali civilians" regarding destruction of Mogadishu.

- Thousands of anti-government protesters march in Bangkok as People's Alliance for Democracy demand elected government step down.

Today in History

1542 – Explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo became the first European to set foot on Santa Catalina Island off the coast of California.
 1571 – The Ottoman Empire was decisively defeated by the

Christian West for the first time, as a multinational fleet led by Don John of Austria crushed the Turkish navy near the Gulf of Corinth in the Battle of Lepanto.
 1868 – Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, USA opened, with an initial enrollment of 412 students the next day.
 1949 – East Berlin and the Soviet Zone of Occupied Germany became the German Democratic Republic.
 1958 – Attempting to control the political instability in Pakistan, President Iskander Mirza suspended the 1956 constitution, imposed martial law, and cancelled the elections scheduled for January 1959.
 October 07 is Double Ninth Festival in the Chinese calendar (2008);
 Feast Day of St. Osyth

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Quote of the Day

Chaos needs no allies, for it dwells like a poison in every one of us. ~ Steven Erikson

Word of the Day

plebeian adj

1. Of or pertaining to the Roman plebs, or common people.
2. Of or pertaining to the common people; vulgar; common.

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