



Top Stories

New video shows 9/11 hijackers attending terrorist camp in Afghanistan

A video, which was made in 2000 and released by the Sunday Times shows September 11, 2001 hijackers Mohammed Atta and Ziad Jarrah attending a terrorist camp in Afghanistan.

Highway overpass collapses near Montreal

An overpass has collapsed in the Montreal area. At least 5 are injured, 3 critically, and some cars are trapped underneath the rubble.

Featured story

New York City considers stricter regulations on trans fat

The Health Board of New York City on Tuesday presented a plan to ban trans fatty acids (or trans fat) from the eateries in the city. Snacks and fast food often contain an elevated level of trans fat, which has been linked to coronary heart disease. The plan would have serious implications for both fast food chains and restaurants.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The Social Democratic Party of Austria has won today's election in Austria.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Georgia's arrest of four Russian army officers for spying was "an act of state terrorism"

Wikipedia Current Events

with hostage-taking".

- General Elections 2006 in Brazil are taking place.
- Incumbent President of Zambia Levy Mwanawasa is in the lead in early results in the Presidential election, according to the Electoral Commission of Zambia.
- General Surayud Chulanont is appointed interim prime minister of Thailand by the ruling military regime, following the recent coup.
- A superbug, Clostridium difficile, is said to have killed at least 49 people at hospitals in Leicester, England, according to a National Health Service investigation. Another 29 similar cases are being investigated by coroners.
- The last Israeli troops leave Lebanon in accordance with UN Resolution 1701, two months after occupying the territory. UNIFIL officials, however, claim that they still occupy the border village of Ghajar.
- New laws against age discrimination in the workplace - officially titled the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 - come into force in the United Kingdom.

Wild ducks in Illinois test positive for "low pathogenic" Bird Flu virus

The United States Department of Agriculture has announced that 5 out of 11 wild migratory Green-winged Teals have tested positive

for a "low pathogeniz sub type" of the H5 and N1 Avian Flu virus or Bird Flu virus, but also say that this is not the same type of Avian Flu that has killed over 150 people worldwide and that the detection poses "no threat to humans."

"Initial tests confirm that these wild duck samples do not contain the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain that has spread through birds in Asia, Europe and Africa. These samples were collected from apparently healthy birds and initial test results indicate the presence of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) virus, which poses no threat to human health," said the USDA in a statement on its website.

Samples from the ducks were retrieved on September 24, 2006 and were found in the Rice Lake Conservation Area of Fulton County located in Illinois. The USDA and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources tested the samples as part of a Bird Flu monitoring program. The USDA also says that they do not expect to find any "additional cases of common strains of avian influenza in birds."

"These strains of the virus include LPAI H5N1, commonly referred to as "North American" H5N1, which is very different from the more severe HPAI H5N1 circulating overseas," said the statement.

The ducks are not believed to be infected with the deadly H5N1 virus, but officials say both subtypes H5 and N1 have been

found in the samples.

"Eleven samples were collected directly from the ducks. Of those samples, a pool of five samples tested positive for H5 and were sent to USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, for confirmatory testing. One of the five samples screened by NVSL tested positive for both H5 and N1. However, this does not mean these ducks are infected with an H5N1 strain. It is possible that there could be two separate avian influenza viruses, one containing H5 and the other containing N1," continued the statement.

The USDA adds that the virus can cause "minor sickness or no noticeable symptoms in birds," but that these ducks were all healthy. The USDA also said that hunters and hunting dogs are not at risk for any infection, as these ducks are commonly hunted.

"Duck populations, including Green-winged Teal, are commonly hunted. There is no known health risk to hunters or hunting dogs from contact with low pathogenic forms of avian influenza virus. Nevertheless, hunters are always encouraged to use common sense sanitation practices, such as hand washing and thorough cooking, when handling or preparing wildlife of any kind," added the statement.

New video shows 9/11 hijackers attending terrorist camp in Afghanistan

A video, which was made in 2000 and released by the Sunday Times shows September 11, 2001 hijackers Mohammed Atta and Ziad Jarrah attending a terrorist camp in Afghanistan. Mohammed Atta was on the American Airlines plane which hit The World Trade

Center's North Tower and Jarrah was on United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Shanksville Pannsylvania when passengers on the plane attempted to regain control after the highjackers took over the aircraft. The Times reports that they received the video from "a previously tested channel," but it is not known what channel they are reffering to.

The video is believed to have been recorded on January 18, 2000 and features the two terrorists reading their 'martyrdoms' and the Sunday Times reports that the two were at Osama bin laden's main headquarters located inside Afghanistan prior to the September 11 attacks. In the video, both highjackers appeared to be smiling and laughing. The video also shows Atta reading "the will."

The video also showed Osama bin Laden speaking to a crowd of "his followers" in the city of Kandahar in Afghanistan. Ramzi Binalshibh can be seen in the crowd during the speech by bin Laden. A bodyguard, that has instructions to kill bin Laden if he were in any danger of being caught or killed, is also present in the video. Two other commanders of al-Qaeda, wanted by the U.S., Abu Faraj al Libi and Saif al Adl also appear in the video.

The video contains no sound and it is unknown what exactly the highjackers were saying. According to the Sunday Times, the United States attempted to use Arabic lipreaders to find out what the highjackers were saying, but were unsuccessful.

MSNBC reports that the video was found by U.S. troops at a compound that had been controlled by al-Qaeda sometime

in 2001.

French Teacher in Hiding After Criticizing Islam

A French writer and high school teacher, Robert Redeker, is now in hiding after publishing an editorial criticizing Islam and the Prophet Mohammed in the newspaper Le Figaro, the New York Times reports.

Mr. Redeker claims that the West is now under ideological surveillance of Islam.

New book by Watergate's Woodward claims CIA warned Rice before 9/11

A new book by Bob Woodward claims that then-CIA director George Tenet gave an urgent warning to Condolezza Rice two months prior to the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

In a report in Sunday's Washington Post, the veteran of the Watergate scandal details some of the points as he understood them.

Tenet and CIA counterterrorism chief J. Cofer Black had, according to Woodward, held a meeting with the national security advisor. Whilst there was no clearly identifiable threat Woodward claims Tenet and Black both suspected "something was coming" and tried to get this point across.

Woodward cites earlier interference from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, questioning NSA intercepts and downplaying al-Qaeda's threats. Painting a picture of an administration focussing on other things, Woodward claims Tenet left with the impression that the unscheduled meeting with Rice had not swayed her from focus on

other issues.

Woodward's book, *State of Denial*, went on sale on September 29 and has already drawn criticism from the White House. In an interview on ABC's *This week*, the President's councillor accused Woodward of bias.

Mumbai Police investigations indicate Pakistani role in 11/7 serial blasts

Mumbai Police Commissioner A N Roy confirmed today that investigations had revealed the involvement of the militant group Lashkar-e-Toiba and the (banned) Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) in the 11 July 2006 bombing of the city's commuter rail network. He also stated that the attacks had been masterminded by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and carried out by Pakistani and Indian nationals.

Fifteen people, twelve of whom were directly involved in the execution of the bombings are in custody, eleven of them are Pakistani citizens.

The conspiracy to carry out the attacks, which killed 190 people, was hatched in the vicinity of Mumbai, by militants who were trained in Bahwalpur, Pakistan. The Pakistani bombers entered India in batches, some through the porous Indo-Nepal border, others via Bangladesh and some through Gujarat. They then reached Mumbai around May 25, and were sheltered in Malad and Bandra by Faizal Sheikh. Kamaluddin Ansari and Ehtasham Siddiqui, (General Secretary of SIMI, Maharashtra) were also involved in the conspiracy.

The RDX explosive used in the blasts was brought from Pakistan

by a man called Ehsanullah, while the ammonium nitrate was procured locally. The explosives were assembled in Chembur by Mumbai resident Mohammad Ali, between 8 and 10 July. On the day of the attacks, the bombs (each containing 2 - 2.5 kg of RDX and 3.5 - 4 kg of ammonium nitrate) were concealed in eight pressure cookers and transported to the railway stations in taxis.

From there two member teams of bombers placed the explosives on the trains and detonated them using quartz timers. One of the militants, Saleem, a native of Lahore, could not (as was the plan) get off the train before the explosives went off, as a result of which he perished in the blast between Khar and Bandra. Of the seven Indian suspects, four (Faizal Sheikh, Kamaluddin Ansari, Ehtasham Siddiqui and Naved) have been apprehended, while a search is on for the other three.

Mr. Roy described the bombings as a "professional, precise and well-planned". The first clue his department got was a phone call made from Navi Mumbai to a place on the Indo-Nepal border. Based on this information Kamaluddin Ansari was arrested in from Madhubani, Bihar. Narco-analysis of the other suspects revealed that they were trained in Pakistan and also helped tie up other loose ends in the case. Faizal Sheikh also revealed that he had received Rs. 60,00,000 from Pakistan in the last few years. Police also recovered 26,000 Riyals, given to him by Rizwan Devra, an ISI operative living in Dubai, from Faizal's house.

Pakistan's Minister of State for Information, Tariq Azim, denied the role of the ISI in the bombings, saying that his country

"rejected" the accusation, and that India should provide Pakistan with "any information if they have it". "Such allegations only give benefit to the real culprits, who escape arrest," he said.

Michael Schumacher wins 2006 Chinese Grand Prix

Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher won the FIA Formula-1 2006 Sinopec Chinese Grand Prix on the Shanghai International Circuit. Although the wet weekend was more suitable for the Michelin-tyred cars, Schumacher overtook both Renault drivers to win the race.

Fernando Alonso and Giancarlo Fisicella started from the first line of the grid, but were unable to hold the old champion behind. The situation became irreversible after Alonso's second pit-stop, where he was delayed for more than ten seconds longer than usual because of the problems with the right rear wheel. After that, he pushed hard on the leaders, easily overtaking his teammate and closing the gap to the "Red Baron" to about 3 seconds for the final lap. Tough luck for Fernando, pit-stop problem spoiled a fantastic battle.

The other battle for the fifth place involving two Honda's, Nick Heidfeld, Takuma Sato (+1 lap) and Christijan Albers (+3 laps) took place on the last lap when the slight rain touches the track. After it the Honda team driver Rubens Barichello lose the nose of his car in a hit of BMW Sauber, while his teammate, Jenson Button, has secured his fourth place (Rubens was included in the final standings on the sixth place). Incident is currently under investigation by stewards - Sato and Albers could be penalized for ignoring waving blue flags.

Felipe Massa, the second Ferrari) driver, penalized for engine change, was out due to a collision with David Coulthard from the Red Bull team. McLaren-Mercedes driver Kimi Raikkonen was first to park his car on the side of the track once again due to technical problems, while his teammate Pedro de la Rosa managed a good result.

This victory became 91st victory in Michael Schumacher's career. He regained two points more from Alonso in the drivers' championship - now they both have 116 points, though Renault team now returned the lead in the constructors' championship for just one point.

Minimum wage in United Kingdom increases to £5.35

A Minimum wage increase to £5.35 has come into effect in the United Kingdom. At current exchange rates, that is US \$10.03. There was also an increase for persons under 21. It is estimated that 170,000 people in the United Kingdom do not receive the minimum payments for their work. £1.3m has been recovered by Revenue and Customs for underpaid workers.

The minimum rate for persons aged 18-21 has increased by 20p to £4.45. Also, for persons aged 16-17, the minimum rate has increased by 30p to £3.30.

The new United Kingdom minimum wage is equivalent to \$10.02, which is about twice the United States' minimum wage of \$5.15. While Democrats in the US Congress have attempted to pass laws to raise the minimum wage in the US, the Republicans (who have controlled Congress for more than a decade) have blocked them.

U. Michigan Wolverines retake "Little Brown Jug" from U. Minnesota Golden Gophers

In one of College Football's oldest rivalries, the University of Michigan Wolverines take back the Little Brown Jug, 28-21 in a game at Minnesota. This makes it the 14 time in the past 17 years, minus the two years (1999 and 2000) that they did not face each other, that Michigan has won the Trophy and the 64 time they have won it since the creation of the contest. Unfortunately, the percentage of people giving a damn about American college football still rests at an all time low.

Today in History

1187 - The Siege of Jerusalem: Ayyubid forces led by Saladin captured Jerusalem, prompting the Third Crusade.

1535 - French explorer Jacques Cartier sailed along the St. Lawrence River and reached an Iroquois fort on the island now known as Montréal.

1835 - Mexican dragoons dispatched to disarm settlers at Gonzales, Texas encountered stiff resistance from a Texian militia in the Battle of Gonzales, the first armed engagement of the Texas Revolution.

1928 - Saint Josemaría Escrivá founded Opus Dei, a worldwide organization of lay members of the Roman Catholic Church.

1950 - Peanuts, a syndicated comic strip by Charles M. Schulz, featuring Charlie Brown and his pet beagle Snoopy, was first published in major newspapers. October 02 is Labour Day in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and South Australia (2006); Independence Day in Guinea (1958), Gandhi Jayanti in India.

Quote of the Day

A man and a woman
Are one.

A man and a woman and a
blackbird
Are one.

~ Wallace Stevens ~

Word of the Day

synchronize; v

- To make two or more events happen at exactly the same time, or at the same rate.

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