



Top Stories

Musharraf spokesperson denies resignation

The chief spokesperson for Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf denied the reports on Thursday that said the president would step down within days.

Meanwhile, the ruling coalition said that it intends to press forward with Musharraf's impeachment.



Olympic highlights: August 13, 2008

August 13, 2008 is the sixth main day of the 2008 Olympic games, Wikinews' article lists some of the highlights. Visit the article to see the full medal table, in addition to summaries of all the major events.



US to deliver humanitarian aid to Georgia

George W. Bush, the President of the United States, has announced that his country will "begin a humanitarian mission to the people of Georgia, headed by the United States military." Speaking at 11:10 EDT (15:10 UTC) today, Bush also said that "the United States of America stands with the democratically elected government of Georgia. We insist that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia be respected."



Dead body left in UK hospital alongside living patients for seven hours

A dead body was left in a ward in Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland for seven hours before it was removed. Christine Martin, who saw the body, said that although there were curtains around the body, they "were open sufficiently for me to see this man, whom we had got to know over a period of 10 days, lying dead, face uncovered."

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Donald Tusk, the Prime Minister of Poland, announces that the United States and Poland have reached an agreement on basing missile defense in Poland.

•The Consumer Price Index in the United States rises by .8 per cent in July 2008 giving an annual inflation rate of 5.6 per cent, the highest in 17 years.

•Russia says it will support whatever decision the people of breakaway republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia will make during referendum on the future of their land.

•Analysts, the CNN say, 'see the conflict as a gamble initiated by Georgia, which is seeking EU and NATO membership, to test the strength of its Western allies in the face of Russia's unwillingness to see the West encroaching on its doorstep.' U.S.: Russia preparing for Georgia exit.

•Russia appeared 'to be handing over a key Georgian city

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Thursday', U.S. officials said. Senior U.S. General James Cartwright claims that 'Russian forces seemed to be complying with an internationally-mediated cease-fire'. U.S.: Russia preparing for Georgia exit.

•Georgia's Prime Minister Lado Gurgenedze claimed that more than 100 Russian vehicles, some of them armoured, had gathered outside the major western Georgian town of Zugdidi.

However, mr. Robert Gates, the US Secretary of Defence, said that the Russian army is 'withdrawing their forces back towards Abkhazia and towards South Ossetia' US warns Russia of lasting impact.

•Russian forces say they will start to return control of the key town of Gori to Georgia soon. 'For another two days Russian troops will stay in the region to ... hand over control functions to Georgian law-enforcement bodies, after which they will leave,' Major-General Vyacheslav Borisov as quoted by Russian news agencies.

•Georgian police return to the town of Gori as the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation leave.

•China's Liu Zige wins the 2008 Beijing Olympics' women's 200-meters-butterfly gold setting a world record of two minutes and 04.18 seconds.

•The Australian team of Stephanie Rice, Bronte Barratt, Kylie Palmer and Linda Mackenzie wins the

Wikipedia Current Events

800 metre freestyle relay breaking the existing world record by six seconds. China and the United States finish second and third respectively.

- Judge Jamie S. Perri of New Jersey's Superior Court rules that the Communications Decency Act exempts the Wikimedia Foundation from liability in a defamation suit filed by literary agent Barbara Bauer.

Ariane 5 rocket launches Superbird 7 and AMC-21 satellites

At 20:44 GMT on Thursday, an Ariane 5ECA rocket lifted off from ELA-3 (Launch Area 3) at the Guiana Space Centre in French Guiana, carrying the Superbird 7 and AMC-21 satellites for the Space Communications Corporation (SCC) of Japan and SES Americom respectively. Just under thirty minutes later, AMC-21 separated from the upper stage of the carrier rocket into a geostationary transfer orbit, marking the successful completion of the launch.

Superbird 7 was constructed by Mitsubishi, and will provide multimedia broadcasting to Japan, and other parts of Asia. It is the first commercial satellite to be built using the DS-2000 bus, although three DS-2000 satellites have already been launched for the Japanese Government. It will be placed in a geostationary orbit at a longitude of 144° East. It is the last satellite to be launched for SCC, prior to its planned merger into the SKY Perfect JSAT Group

AMC-21 will be used for television broadcasting to North America. It will be placed into a geosynchronous orbit with two

degrees of inclination, at a longitude of 125° West. AMC-21 was constructed by Thales Alenia Space, based on a STAR-2 bus produced by Orbital Sciences Corporation. It will be operated by SES Americom, a United States based subsidiary of Luxembourgian company SES S.A.. It is the first SES satellite to be launched since the AMC-14 satellite was lost in a launch failure on a Proton rocket earlier. AMC-14 has since been sold to the US Government for technology development experiments including radar targeting.

The satellites were enclosed in a long payload fairing, which separated shortly after the rocket reached space, around three minutes and ten seconds after launch. A SYLDA-5 dual payload adapter was used, with Superbird 7 located in the upper position, and AMC-21 underneath. The launch was conducted by Arianespace, a French Launch Service Provider

Speaking after the launch, Jean-Yves Le Gall, the CEO of Arianespace said that he was "very happy to share this new success". Yukata Nagal, the Chief Executive of SCC, said that he was "very glad" that the launch was successful. Rick Starkovs, one of the Vice Presidents of SES said that he felt "very good" watching the successful launch.

This was the 39th launch to orbit so far this year, and the 38th to reach orbit. It is the fifth of seven planned Ariane 5 launches this year, and the 41st Ariane 5 launch overall. The next Ariane 5 is scheduled to launch in October, with the Hot Bird 9, NSS-9, and Spirale satellites.

U2 fan ordered to destroy CDs

A man living in South Wales, United Kingdom was ordered to destroy his entire music collection after creating a ruckus by listening to the music at an extremely high volume. Police seized his stereo equipment in a raid.

Karl Wiosna, a 44-year-old resident of Graig in Newport, was playing Cher's album Believe at extremely high volume. His neighbors complained under the Environmental Protection Act and he was warned to not to play the album at such high volume. However, he thought the warning was only for the Cher album, and he then started to listen to a U2 album a week later. His neighbors said they could hear the lyrics in their living room.

Before the Rhondda Magistrates' Court Wiosna admitted breaching the noise abatement notice, with which he was served. He was ordered to pay a £200 fine. He was also ordered to pay £50 in costs to destroy his music collection and £15 in victim surcharge.

"They took £500 to £600 worth of stuff," complained Wiosna. "I don't think they should be able to do it, it isn't right."

"A legal notice under the Environmental Protection Act was served on Wiosna demanding he reduce the volume or stop playing music," read a statement by the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. "Just a week after the legal notice was received, officers were called to the address during an out-of-hours emergency by a neighbour."

"In this case, the swift and effective actions of environmental health officers enabled the issue to

be dealt with and I hope it serves as a reminder to others, that we can take them to court and seize their belongings if they do not cease causing a nuisance to others," said Councillor Mike Forey, the cabinet member for environmental health.

Dead body left in UK hospital alongside living patients for seven hours

A dead body was left in a ward in Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland for seven hours before it was removed.

Christine Martin, who saw the body, said that although there were curtains around the body, they "were open sufficiently for me to see this man, whom we had got to know over a period of 10 days, lying dead, face uncovered."

Officials from the hospital have apologized for having allowed the incident to occur. The son of the dead man said that the hospital acted with "utter compassion" when permitting his request to see his father's dead body in the ward.

National Health Service Greater Glasgow and Clyde said in a statement that, "we have acknowledged to the Martins that, beyond this, there was some delay in the transfer of the patient to the mortuary and steps have already been taken to ensure that this does not happen again."

The Royal College of Nursing also released a statement on this incident. "The normal practice if someone has died in a four-bedded ward is to access a single room where the deceased could be viewed by the family and the family can have some time with the relative, and for that to be done in as dignified manner as possible," said Lynn McDowall, a

professional officer for the organization. "This case highlights the campaign we're running and highlights the kind of problems nurses come across, because no nurse would want a deceased patient lying on a ward for seven hours."

Olympic highlights: August 14, 2008

August 14, 2008 is the sixth main day of the 2008 Olympic games, the below article lists some of the highlights.

Women's 200m butterfly

China won both the gold and silver medal in the final of the women's 200m butterfly, with the gold being taken by Zige Liu and the silver being taken by Liuyang Jiao.

With her time of 2:04.18, Liu set a new world record. This new world record is over one second quicker than the previous world record, which was set by the Australian Jessicah Schipper in 2006.

"I myself was shocked with the result," said Liu after the race. "I just swam at my own pace, not caring about the others, my coach said to me, 'We have two Chinese swimmers in the final, so you don't need to force yourself to win gold, you just need to try your best.'"

Men's 200m breaststroke

Japan's Kosuke Kitajima has beaten his own Olympic record and won the gold medal in the final of the men's 200m breaststroke. Kitajima's time of 2:07.64 was 0.97 seconds quicker than his previous Olympic record, which was set the previous day. It was, however, slightly behind the world record for the event, which is also set by Kitajima.

Brenton Rickard of Australia came in second with a time of 2:08.88

and Hugues Duboscq of France took the bronze medal with a time of 2:08.94.

Women's skeet

In the qualification rounds of the women's skeet, the Italian Chiara Cainero set a new olympic record with a score of 72, two points behind the current world record.

Cainero's best scoring round was the first round, where she won 25 points. She got 23 points in the second round and she added 24 points to her score in the final round.

Cainero will now go on to compete in the final.

Women's 12 arrows match

The South Korean Sung-Hyun park set a new Olympic record in the women's 12 arrows match with her score of 115. She set this record when competing in the individual 1/8 eliminations round of the competition against the Greek Elpida Romantzi.

Women's 4x200m freestyle relay

The Australian women's 4x200m freestyle relay team have set a new world record and won the gold medal with their time of seven minutes and 44.31 seconds, almost six seconds ahead of the previous world record. The winning team consisted of Stephanie Rice, Bronte Barratt, Kylie Palmer and Linda Mackenzie.

"I feel amazing I just finished such a great meet," said Rice after completing the relay. "It is such a great feeling and there was not as much nerves [in the relay], just a lot of excitement."

The Chinese, American and Italian teams, which were in second, third and fourth place respectively, all finished with a time quicker than

the previous world record.

Russian troops advance into Georgia, violating truce

According to Georgian officials and scattered news reports, Russian soldiers and South Ossetian paramilitaries have marched into the Georgian city of Gori. This comes one day after a truce was made by both nations to put an end to the six-day war that has killed many and uprooted thousands.

"Russia has treacherously broken its word," said Georgia's Security Council chief Alexandre Lomaia. Georgian officials also said that Gori was looted and bombed by the Russians, though the latter denies this claim.

An Associated Press (AP) reporter witnessed dozens of tanks and military vehicles leaving Gori in a southeast direction. One Russian soldier jokingly said to a photographer, "Come with us, beauty, we're going to Tbilisi!" Tbilisi is the capital of Georgia.

A CNN crew observed thousands of Georgian troops packing up and leaving Gori at high speed. Georgia has said it was recalling the troops to defend Tbilisi. According to the AP, a BBC reporter witnessed Russian tanks in the streets of Gori, while South Ossetians were seizing Georgian cars and looting homes.

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili has stated that he thinks the Western response to this situation has been inadequate. "I feel that they are partly to blame," he said. "Not only those who commit atrocities are responsible ... but so are those that fail to react."

A Russian ministry of defence

official told Interfax that Russian troops were in Senaki to "prevent attacks by Georgian military units against South Ossetia."

"To begin to repair the damage to its relations with the United States, Europe and other nations and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must keep its word and act to end this crisis," US president George W. Bush said.

Sergey Lavrov, Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister, responded to the US statement by calling Georgia "a special project of the United States. And we understand that the United States is worried about its project."

At the United Nations, Russian ambassador Vitaly Churkin said Russia would not sign a French-drafted cease-fire resolution. "We will look at the draft and try to bring it to a standard where it can play a role in this," Churkin said.

US Court of Appeals upholds free licenses

Wednesday, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit reversed a lower court ruling and held that licenses such as Creative Commons (CC) licenses set conditions on the use of copyrighted work as opposed to covenants. This means that if a creative work is being used outside the terms of the license, the person modifying or republishing the work is guilty of copyright infringement for failing to attribute the original work.

Academic and political activist Lawrence Lessig stated it was "a very important victory" for free licensing, and expressed his gratitude for the part Stanford Center for Internet and Society, a project he founded, played in achieving the finding.

A previous court ruling had denied relief to the plaintiff stating that its Artistic License only demanded contractual promises; that a violation thereof would not be, in fact a copyright infringement.

Today in History

778 – A Frankish army led by Roland was defeated by the Basques at Roncevaux Pass in the Pyrenees on the border between France and Spain, a tale retold in the Old French epic poem *The Song of Roland*.

1248 – The foundation stone of the Cologne Cathedral, built to house the relics of the Three Wise Men, was laid.

1914 – The Panama Canal opened to traffic, providing a shortcut from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean through the Isthmus of Panama.

1945 – The surrender of Japan during World War II: The Gyokuon-hōsō was broadcast in Japan, announcing the unconditional surrender of the Japanese army and naval forces.

1947 – The British Raj was partitioned into the Union of India and the Dominion of Pakistan.

1998 – A car bomb attack carried out by the Real Irish Republican Army killed 29 people and injured approximately 220 others in Omagh, Northern Ireland.

August 15 is Ghost Festival in the Chinese calendar (2008); Victory over Japan Day; Independence Day in North Korea & South Korea (1945), India (1947), and Congo (1960); Flooding of the Nile begins in Egypt

Quote of the Day

A form of government that is not the result of a long sequence of shared experiences, efforts, and endeavors can never take root.

~ Napoleon I of France

Word of the Day

bludgeon v

1. To strike or hit with something hard; to club.
2. To force something upon others, as if with a bludgeon.

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