



Top Stories

New video released shows BBC journalist Alan Johnston wearing 'explosive belt'

A new video has been released by the kidnappers of BBC News reporter Alan Johnston, who was kidnapped whilst returning from work in Gaza City 105 days ago.

Audio tape released of missing Israeli soldier

Kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, 20, is believed to be alive, and Hamas has released an audio tape where Shalit says he needs to be hospitalized and that he regrets that Israel has not met the demands of the kidnappers.

Featured story

Election of new 7 wonders of the world: deadline approaching

The results of the New Seven Wonders of the World election, a proposed revision of the ancient wonders, will be announced on July 7, 2007 (or 07.07.07).

Wikipedia Current Events

- The militant group Army of Islam holding BBC Middle East correspondent Alan Johnston captive has renewed its threat to kill him.
- The Central Intelligence Agency releases secret documents detailing illegal activities, including a plot to hire members of the Mafia to assassinate Fidel Castro and domestic spying.
- On the eve of Gordon Brown

Wikipedia Current Events

assuming office as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Conservative Member of Parliament Quentin Davies defects to the Labour Party.

- An International Atomic Energy Agency team heads to North Korea to see if Pyongyang's nuclear reactor has been shut down.
- Tony Blair and Arnold Schwarzenegger hold talks at 10 Downing Street on Blair's last day as Prime Minister, with the environment and climate change as the primary issue.
- In the United Kingdom, hundreds of people are evacuated from villages in South Yorkshire and a section of the M1 motorway is closed amid fears of an imminent collapse of the dam at the Ulley reservoir, following heavy rainfall and widespread flooding across the UK.

Cricket: 2007 Future Cup-1st ODI

In the 2007 Future Cup, South Africa beat India in the first One-Day International (ODI) held at the Civil Service Cricket Club Ground, Belfast, Ireland. After South Africa won the toss and chose to field first, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly opened India's innings. Ganguly left quickly and Gautam Gambhir left without troubling the scorers. However, Tendulkar found some long term company with Rahul Dravid and pushed the score to 194/2 before Dravid left on 74. It

wasn't long before Tendulkar himself found himself runout by Morne van Wyk/Mark Boucher for 99 with the score on 211. A batting collapse ensued and at the end of the innings, India's score was 242/8. South Africa's reply started with a steady opening partnership of AB de Villiers and Morne van Wyk which added 56 before de Villiers departed with a catch to the keeper. Jacques Kallis then came in and scored 91. Even though partnerships didn't last long, Kallis battled secured India's fate.

"Creationism and intelligent design have no place in the UK science curriculum" says UK Government

The U.K. government defined Intelligent Design along with creationism as religion and ruled that neither has a place within the country's school science curriculum.

This is a reaction to an electronic petition launched by James Rocks of the Science, Just Science campaign, a group opposed to the teaching of evolution in schools.

A spokesperson for the Prime Minister's office wrote: "The (UK) Government is aware that a number of concerns have been raised in the media and elsewhere as to whether creationism and intelligent design have a place in science lessons. The [UK] Government is clear that creationism and intelligent design are not part of the science National Curriculum programmes of study

and should not be taught as science."

The government will also be "publishing guidance for schools, on the way creationism and intelligent design relate to science teaching".

Professional wrestler Chris Benoit and family found dead

Canadian professional wrestler Chris Benoit, who performed for World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), was found dead, along with his wife Nancy, 43, and their son Daniel, 7, in their home in Atlanta, Georgia on Monday. Police are calling the deaths a "double murder-suicide."

"There are no further details at this time, other than the Benoit family residence is currently being investigated by local authorities. WWE extends its sincerest thoughts and prayers to the Benoit family's relatives and loved ones in this time of tragedy," said a statement posted on the website of the WWE.

Scott Ballard, Fayette County District Attorney, says that "the details (of the incident), when they come out, are going to prove a little bizarre."

Fayette County Sheriff deputy Lt. Tommy Pope stated that police found the family at about 2:30 p.m. (eastern time) when the WWE called police and asked them to do a "welfare check" after friends stated that Benoit sent them "curious text messages." It is reported that Benoit missed several meetings which prompted the call to police. Pope also stated that police were "not actively searching for any suspects outside of the house."

It is not known how they were

killed, but an autopsy is expected to be performed on the bodies on Tuesday morning, but it is not known how long it will take for results to come in. Police found the murder weapons at the scene, but have not released the details of what they are. Pope stated that they were not shot or stabbed, but TMZ.com is reporting that Benoit strangled his wife on Friday, smothered his son on late Friday or early Saturday, and then hanged himself inside his weight room on late Saturday, Sunday, or Monday.

Benoit was scheduled to wrestle in Houston, Texas for a match at WWE's Vengeance pay-per-view event on June 24. However, Benoit flew home due to "personal reasons," said Jim Ross, the announcer for WWE events.

Benoit was a professional wrestler with the nickname The Canadian Crippler, who wrestled for New Japan Pro Wrestling, Extreme Championship Wrestling, World Championship Wrestling, and World Wrestling Entertainment. His wife Nancy was known in the wrestling ring as Woman and Fallen Angel. She was a valet and manager and also wrestled for Jim Crockett Promotions, Extreme Championship Wrestling and World Championship Wrestling.

Search continues for crashed Cambodian plane and 22 aboard

Monsoon rains in Cambodia hampered the search today for the crash site of a PMTair Antonov An-24, which went down yesterday with 22 people aboard.

"You can't see each other more than 40 metres away," Keo Sivorn, safety chief of the Civil Aviation Secretariat, was quoted as saying by Reuters. "The search teams are

facing lots of obstacles. Until this morning, the rain continued to pour and the hills are very slippery as well as densely forested," Keo Sivorn continued.

Thick clouds made visibility poor for the helicopter-borne rescue crews looking for the site. The search is centered in the Dâmrei Mountains of Kampot Province, about 150 kilometers south of the capital, Phnom Penh.

Radar contact with the Russian-made Antonov An-24 was lost at around 10:40 a.m. local time (0340 GMT) yesterday. The flight had departed at around 10 a.m. from Angkor International Airport in Siem Reap, near the popular Angkor Wat temple complex, and was heading to Sihanoukville International Airport at Sihanoukville, a beach resort town on the Gulf of Thailand. The plane was about 50 kilometers from its destination when it was lost.

Around 1,000 people are combing the heavily forested mountains, Ly Thuch, deputy director of the National Disaster Committee, told Agence France Presse. "We hope to find them soon. The [rescuers] will search deeper into the forest," Ly Thuch was quoted as saying.

Rescue efforts have been further hindered by uncertainty of the exact location of the crash, with some reports saying the plane had actually gone down in the Sihanoukville municipality, west of Kampot. So far, rescuers have had only vague eyewitness accounts from local villagers, Ly Thuch said.

Prime Minister Hun Sen offered US\$5,000 to the person who finds the plane.

"Our hope of finding survivors is slim," he said, according to

Reuters. "I am appealing to all, including farmers, who can help us locate the plane, and offering a reward of \$5,000 in hard cash."

The flight had 16 passengers – 13 South Koreans and three Czechs, plus a flight crew of a Russian pilot and five Cambodians.

PMTair is a small Cambodian airline with domestic and international routes, including direct flights from Seoul to Siem Reap, feeding a large influx of tourists from South Korea in the past few years. Last year, around 250,000 South Koreans visited the country. The airline had begun regularly scheduled Siem Reap-Sihanoukville flights in January, providing a direct link between the two popular tourist towns.

The airline has a checkered safety reputation. In 2005, a piece of landing gear snapped off an aging Antonov AN-24 on landing at Banlung, Ratanakiri, overcrowded with 59 passengers aboard. There were no injuries, but the airline was temporarily grounded after the incident. In another incident, a plane had to return to the airport after takeoff because of engine failure.

Yesterday's crash is Cambodia's first major aviation accident in nearly 10 years. In September 1997, a Vietnam Airlines Tupolev Tu-134 crashed while trying to land in heavy rain at Phnom Penh International Airport, killing 65 of 66 people aboard. The sole survivor was a toddler.

Last of raisers of first U.S. flag over Iwo Jima died

Charles "Chuck" Lindberg passed away at the Fairview Southdale Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Sunday. He was the last of the soldiers who raised the first U.S.

flag over Iwo Jima during World War II.

Lindberg attended two memorial dedications in recent weeks, and was himself honored at the unveiling of the Minnesota World War II Memorial at the State Capitol on June 9. Earlier this month on Memorial Day, he was in attendance at the 'Honoring All Veterans Memorial' in the town of Richfield, where he has resided since 1951.

He was hospitalized on June 10, and was aged 86 at his passing. The cause of death is presently not known.

In his memory, local television station WCCO-TV will air its documentary of his actions, "The Last Flagraiser", at 11.00 a.m., over the next two Sundays.

Dedication event at the Minnesota state capitol where Lindberg was honored, and a veteran memorial was dedicated on June 9

Lindberg fought during WWII with the 3rd Platoon, known as Easy Company, in the 28th Regiment of the Marine Corps. After the war, he advocated to set the historical record straight on the group who planted the first flag on top of Iwo Jima, a key Pacific Ocean island during the war which Japan has recently renamed Iōtō.

Awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for his military service, Lindberg was among a group of soldiers who first reached the summit of the volcanic island's highest point called Mount Suribachi.

The Pulitzer Prize winning photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal pictured at Wikipedia's Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima was presumably

taken 4 hours after the U.S. force took control of the island's high point.

Today in History

678 - Saint Agatho began his reign as Pope.

1898 - Joshua Slocum completed the first solo circumnavigation of the globe sailing on his refitted sloop-rigged fishing boat *Spray*, a distance of more than 46,000 miles (74,000 km).

1905 - The crew of the Russian battleship *Potemkin* began a mutiny against their oppressive officers.

1967 - The world's first electronic automated teller machine was installed in Enfield Town, London.

1991 - Yugoslavia invaded Slovenia, two days after the latter's declaration of independence from the former, starting the Ten-Day War.

Quote of the Day

A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardships. ~ Helen Keller

Word of the Day

ostrobogulous; adj

1. Slightly risqué or indecent, yet humourous; bizarre, interesting, or unusual.

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Quote of the Day

http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page

Word of the Day

http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page

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