



### Top Stories

#### Two dead, three wounded in Idaho, USA shooting

Two people were killed and three others were wounded Sunday morning after a sniper gunman opened fire outside the Latah County courthouse in Moscow, Idaho in the United States. The gunman, who has not yet been identified, was believed to have fired 75 shots from outside the courthouse.

#### UN denounces killing of Haitian journalist Alix Joseph

The popular radio host was shot down by unknown gunmen. His radio station had earlier received threats over its reporting on local crime gangs.

### Featured story

#### 700 new forms of life discovered in Antarctic sea

Three expeditions to the Weddell Sea were made by a team of scientists from the British Antarctic Survey bay to study the biodiversity in the region.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- Three people are killed and two wounded in a sniper attack in Moscow, Idaho.
- Chelsea F.C. wins the FA Cup Final 2007 defeating Manchester United 1–0 through a goal by Didier Drogba in extra time. It was the first final played at a rebuilt Wembley Stadium.
- The Bulls become the first South African team to win the Super

### Wikipedia Current Events

14 rugby union championship, defeating the Sharks by one point in the final.

- Former Samoan head of state Malietoa Tanumafili II is buried in Apia.
- Three German soldiers are killed with four civilians in a suicide bombing in Kunduz in northern Afghanistan.
- Romanian voters go to the polls to vote on the impeachment of the President of Romania, Traian Băsescu.
- Colombian President Álvaro Uribe has ordered the national army to rescue several hostages from FARC rebels, including Ingrid Betancourt, a former senator and presidential candidate.

#### Ayatollah Rafsanjani commemorates Iran-Iraq battle victory

Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani commemorated the "the glories of the Islamic Revolution, the Sacred Defense in particular" during Friday prayers. He used the occasion "especially at a point when Iran's defensive powers might be underestimated." On 24 of May 1982, Iran drove Iraq out of Khorramshahr near its border with Iraq.

Ayatollah Rafsanjani has been the chairman of the Expediency Council which resolves government disputes arising out of legislations and advises Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Rafsanjani chided the Western countries for equipping Iraq during the war and said the Iraqi army used "hideous chemical weapons of the most destructive kind and that they targeted Iranian cities, ships and planes, taking advantage of the West's intelligence and ammunition."

Next, Rafsanjani indicated that Iran was open to compromise and negotiation on the impasse of Iran's nuclear activities. Nevertheless, he stated the Iran would not brook pre-conditions. He stated, "They set a precondition for negotiations, which is humiliating to us." He, moreover, said, "If the West is honest in its claim, doors for negotiation in the field of nuclear issue will be open."

Rafsanjani has also accused the West of wanting to bring about discord among Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims. A few days ago, he called King Abdallah bin Abdul-Aziz of Saudi Arabia to exchange view regarding this issue. King Abdullah responded that Iran has strengthened bond among Islamic nations and praised the Islamic Republic. On a similar note, in a meeting with the parliament speaker of Morocco, Rafsanjani said, "Resolving problems requires convergence and assistance from other Islamic countries."

#### 500 million US dollars worth of treasure found off coast of Cornwall UK

Reports say that a team of treasure hunters from the United States has recovered over 500 million U.S.

dollars (£253m) worth of gold and silver coins off the coast of Cornwall, United Kingdom in what is being called the biggest treasure find ever, but the exact location of the treasure has not been named because of security and legal concerns. The operation is codenamed the Black Swan Project.

Odyssey Marine Exploration made the discovery and the treasure is believed to be from a 17th century shipwreck located some 40 miles off the Cornish coast. There have reportedly been hundreds of thousands of the silver coins and at least 200 gold coins found in the wreckage, some in "near mint condition." All the coins are being examined in the U.S. by experts.

"The gold coins are almost all dazzling mint state specimens," said one of the founders of Odyssey Marine Exploration, Greg Stemm.

The reports came out when Doctor Lane Brunner, who is located in the U.S. and is an expert on coins, said that the team had to report the discovery to a judge in the fall of 2006 before the finds could be salvaged.

"They told a judge at that point that they had found the wreck of a seventeenth-century merchant ship in the Atlantic Ocean, just outside the English Channel - about 40 miles off Land's End. So all we can do is add two and two together. It would seem logical given the timing and everything that could be the site," said Brunner.

Reports suggest that the shipwreck is that of the Merchant Royal which is said to have sunk in 1641 near the Scilly Islands.

"We have treated this site with kid gloves and the archaeological work done by our team out there is

unsurpassed. We are thoroughly documenting and recording the site, which we believe will have immense historical significance," added Stemm.

### **UN denounces killing of Haitian journalist Alix Joseph**

The UN mission in Haiti on Friday denounced the murder of popular radio host Alix Joseph and vowed to assist Haitian authorities in the investigation. Joseph, who was also the director of Radio Provinciale in Gonaïves, was gunned down by unknown assailants on May 16, 2007.

In a press release, the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) expressed outrage at what it described as a pattern of violence against Haitian journalists. "This cruel and irresponsible act adds to the long list of crimes already committed against professionals of the Haitian press," MINUSTAH said.

Joseph was shot 11 times by two gunmen while sitting in his car outside his fiancée's home. His fiancée was not injured in the attack according to Frantz Justin Altidor, a journalist with Radio Provinciale. A motive for the crime has not been revealed by police, nor have suspects been identified.

According to Altidor, however, Radio Provinciale had received threatening calls from people upset at the station's stand on the disarmament of local gangs. Altidor said he was unaware if Joseph had received death threats personally.

Gang violence in Gonaïves has been on the rise in the past few months, said the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). The CPJ also highlighted the January, 2007 murder of Jean-Rémy Badio, a Haitian

photographer shot to death in Port-au-Prince. Prior to the attack, Badio had received death threats from members of a local gang.

Although there had been several attacks on Haitian journalists in the past few years, the CPJ indicated that the frequency of assaults had dropped since the election of current president René Préal in 2006.

The UN mission in Haiti expressed its support of Haitian media personnel who "continue to seek the end of the impunity for the killers of their murdered colleagues."

### **Mosque bombing kills thirteen in India**

A bomb explosion in Hyderabad, the capital city of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh has killed thirteen people and injured 50 others. The blast at Mecca Masjid was caused by a crude bomb in the entrance to the mosque and occurred near the end of Friday prayers.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Police also found three more bombs in the surrounding area, which were then defused.

### **Snowbirds pilot killed in crash at Malmstrom**

A Canadian Snowbirds jet crashed east of Malmstrom Air Force base yesterday at around 4 p.m. (Mountain Time), killing the pilot, Capt. Shawn McCaughey.

The demonstration flying team were practicing for an airshow that had been planned to take place on Saturday, May 19th, at Malmstrom Air Force base

Witnesses report plumes of smoke coming from the crash-site in a

field to the east of Great Falls, in the direction of the town of Belt.

**Today in History**

325 - The First Council of Nicaea, the first ecumenical council of the Christian Church, was formally opened in present-day Iznik, Turkey.

1570 - Cartographer Abraham Ortelius issued the first modern atlas.

1862 - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act into law, which gave the right to claim freehold title to 160 acres (65 hectares) of undeveloped land in the American West.

1927 - By the Treaty of Jeddah, the United Kingdom recognized the sovereignty of King Ibn Saud in the Kingdoms of Hejaz and Nejd, which later merged to become the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

2002 - East Timor became the first new sovereign state of the twenty-first century.

May 20 is National Day in Cameroon (1972), Independence Day in East Timor (2002)

**Quote of the Day**

With all reverence, I would say, let God do His work, we will see to ours. Bring in the candles.  
~ Abraham Davenport

**Word of the Day**

fulgurous; adj  
1. Resembling a lightning flash.

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