

Top Stories

Hurricane Dennis makes landfall on Gulf Coast near Pensacola



Dennis the Menace' suddenly lost strength and dropped from a Category 4 storm to 3 before it struck land and moved swiftly inland. Gulf region spared what was feared to be even more colossal damages, and Bush declares 'state of immergency' for Florida.

North Korea to rejoin six-nation talks



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meeting hosted by the Chinese which included Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill.

G8 expectations not met



On Friday, the annual meeting of the leaders of the world's eight most powerful countries, the Group of Eight (G8), ended ahead of schedule with little resolutions to the disappointment of many. The G8 meeting ended early Friday to accomodate Tony Blair, who requested to return to London in response to Thursday's bombings in London.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Italy announces that it will begin its withdrawal of troops from Iraq in September by pulling 300 of Italy's 3,000 soldiers out of the country.
- Former rebel leader John Garang is sworn in as vice president of Sudan as part of the agreement ending the Second Sudanese Civil War.
- Karl Rove's lawyer, Robert Luskin, acknowledges that Rove was indeed the source for the leak that led to the revelation of Valerie Plame's position as a CIA agent. Luskin had previously said that Rove "absolutely did not identify Valerie Plame."

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North Korea's Korean Central News Agency issued a statement saying the talks would resume because the preconditions for negotiations were met: "The U.S. side clarified its official stand to recognize the DPRK as a sovereign state, not to invade it and hold bilateral talks within the framework of the six-party talks."

North Korea would allow talks if the United States would treat the country with respect, referring to earlier comments by

Condoleezza Rice, who had called North Korea an "outpost of tyranny." According to the statement, the North Korean government views the meeting with Hill as a "retraction" of these earlier comments.

The Chinese government has offered to host the talks once again. China has hosted three prior talks without substantial results.

UK remembers end of World War II sixty years on

A day of national commemoration has taken place across the United Kingdom, with the main events in London, to mark the culmination of a week commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. It is expected to be the last official national commemoration in the United Kingdom to mark the end of WWII.

After consulting veterans groups, the British Government chose to hold the national day of commemorations on 10 July, instead of separate days for VE Day (8 May) and VJ Day (15 August).

The day began with a service at Westminster Abbey at 11:00 BST, led by Queen Elizabeth II and attended by Prime Minister Tony Blair, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and hundreds of World War II veterans. The terrorist attacks in London on 7 July were also mentioned during the service, drawing parallels between the resilience of Londoners during the Blitz in WWII. A lunch was later held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace for WWII veterans of the Armed Forces and Home Front.

The Queen later led the parade down The Mall in a carriage, escorted by the Household Cavalry. A "Reflections of World War II Commemoration Show" began at 15:00 on Horse Guards Parade, attended by the Royal Family, politicians, veterans and others. The show was designed to portray a variety of experiences of World War II, including speeches, such as Prime Minister Winston Churchill's "We shall

Wikipedia Current Events

- Ten Afghan soldiers are decapitated by Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.
- Hurricane Dennis makes landfall in the United States, slamming into the Florida Panhandle with 120 mph winds.
- Luxembourg says "yes" to the EU Constitution in a referendum.

fight on the beaches...", and popular songs of the time, all of which were performed by current entertainers, including actor Robert Hardy, who portrayed Winston Churchill. The Queen made an address during the show, expressing her admiration for veterans of WWII while also drawing on the recent attacks on London.

The guns of the light cruiser HMS Belfast, which saw service in WWII, signalled the beginning of a two-minute silence at 15:45 pm, which ended again with the firing of Belfast's guns. Buglers of the Indian Army performed the Last Post.

A "Parade of Standards", numbering over a hundred, began to march down The Mall to Buckingham Palace at 16:15, led by the Queen in an open-top car. Large crowds began to converge on the palace, with the Royal Family later appearing on the palace's balcony, evoking memories of the VE Day celebrations on 8 May 1945. A flypast of WWII-era aircraft took place at 17:00, including a Lancaster bomber, flanked by a Hawker Hurricane and Supermarine Spitfire, which released a million poppies.

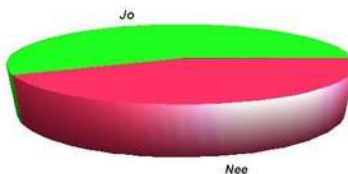
In New Zealand, Prince William of Wales, who is visiting New Zealand for his first official royal duties abroad, laid a wreath at the Auckland Cenotaph to commemorate the end of World War II. New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright also attended.

Luxembourg votes Yes to the EU treaty

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Results of the referendum, 56.52% Jo (Yes), 43.48% Nee (No)

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Responsibility claim for London attacks questioned by experts

MSNBC translator Jacob Keryakes has stated that the claim of responsibility for the London bombings of July 7, made by a militant Islamist group, contains an error in one of the Quranic verses that it cites, suggesting that the claim may be phony. "This is not something al-Qaida would do," he said.

The claim of responsibility by The Secret Organization of al-Qaida in Europe for the London attacks has also been questioned on the grounds that the rhetoric is not consistent with militant Islamic ideology. The statement asked "the Nation of Islam and the Nation of Arabism to rejoice" about the attacks.

According to the Associated Press, Islamic expert Mishari al-Thaidi wrote in an essay published Saturday in the London-based Arabic Asharq Al Awsat newspaper: "What strikes attention here is addressing the Arab nation. The Jihadists have never recognized Arab nationalism. This is close to pan-Arab or Baathist terminology."

Newspaper refuses to utilize leaked documents in article

On Saturday, Doug Clifton, editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, said that the newspaper is trying to find a way to publish two "profoundly important" news stories, without the use of documents he states were illegally leaked to staff reporters. On legal advice, the newspaper was withholding the stories out of fear that reporters might be jailed. Clifton did not further characterize the subject of the investigative stories.

"Basically, we have come by material leaked to us that would be problematical for

the person who leaked it," Mr. Clifton said in a New York Times telephone interview. "The material was under seal or something along those lines."

A newspaper industry trade journal quoted Mr. Clifton saying, "The reporters say, 'Well, we're willing to go to jail, and I'm willing to go to jail if it gets laid on me,'" he said, "but the newspaper isn't willing to go to jail. That's what the lawyers have told us. So this is a TIME Inc. sort of situation," according to Editor & Publisher.

The TIME Inc. reporter Matt Cooper, who along with New York Times correspondent Judith Miller, both long held out against a contempt of court order to name their sources in the outing of Valerie Plame. Cooper agreed Wednesday to testify, but it is unclear if he has the consent of his source, and Miller was sentenced to jail for refusing to cooperate.

Although Time Inc. was not specifically pursued by special prosecutor Patrick J. Fitzgerald in the case, they agreed to release Cooper's reporting notes.

The Plain Dealer has the highest circulation in Ohio and was listed last year as the nation's 21st largest daily paper.

Mixed reactions to G8 summit



Blair with Tanzania's President Benjamin Mkapa and George Bush, attends a meeting of the G8 leaders and representatives of the Emerging Nations

On Friday, the annual meeting of the leaders of the world's eight most powerful countries, the Group of Eight (G8), ended ahead of schedule with little resolutions to the disappointment of many. The G8 meeting ended early Friday to accommodate Tony Blair, who requested to return to London in response to Thursday's bombings in London. At the conclusion of the meeting, the leaders pledged to increase

humanitarian aid to Africa by \$50 billion, however \$30 billion had already been pledged previously.

The group was unable to make significant progress regarding global warming, but made several key decisions relating to combating poverty in Africa. The eight leaders pledged to double the previously proposed aid of \$25 billion to \$50 billion a year by 2010. The group also confirmed an earlier announcement that they would cancel the debt of 18 countries, mostly in Africa, selected from among the 38 heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC).

Additionally, \$2 billion was earmarked for aid to the Palestine Nation. In addition to the increase in aid for Africa, the group announced universal access to AIDS treatment, committed to a peacekeeping force in Africa, and heard African leaders' promises to move toward democracies that follow the rule of law.

Adriano Campolina Soares, head of ActionAid's Americas office, stated her disappointment with the resolutions. "The G8 have completely failed to deliver trade justice. President George W. Bush and the European Union have played a cynical game of bluff. The US has no intention of giving up or lowering the massive subsidies it gives its cotton farmers, that are forcing 10 million farmers in West Africa out of business. Poor countries should take this as a warning that they will have a hard fight in the upcoming trade talks at the World Trade Organization."

Jennifer Morgan, climate-change director for the World Wildlife Fund expressed frustration with the United States' effort. "There's been no movement from the Bush administration, even the very noble efforts of Prime Minister Blair to get President Bush to change his position have failed."



Armed Police keep a vigilant eye at the gates of the G8 summit in Gleneagles. Photo: Chris Young/Crown Copyright. G8 Summit, July 2005

U2 singer Bono sees it in a different perspective. "It's worth stopping for a second and looking back down the valley of where we've come from, we jumped up and down when Live 8 raised \$200 million, and now, to stop for a second, we are talking about \$25 billion in new money."

Live 8 organizer Bob Geldof described the summit as a "qualified triumph."

Gordon Brown, British Chancellor of the Exchequer: "It makes you angry because there's nothing in science or technology or medicine that should prevent us from tackling poverty. It's a lack of political will and if Gleneagles is about anything it's bringing together all the countries of the world - rich and poor - agreeing that we've got to take the action that's necessary. That's why I hope by the time Gleneagles is finished we can say that the timetable for action and poverty is one that will lead to great improvements by 2015."

Birmingham UK threat was 'real and very credible'

Birmingham police have re-opened the British city's centre after evacuating 20,000 people from it last night.

The cordon had been largely lifted at 6am BST after the centre was sealed off for most of the night.

Police Chief Constable Paul Scott said on Sunday that "a real and very credible threat" had faced Birmingham, but he declined to be specific about its nature.

However he stressed that the intelligence he had received indicated that the threat had been genuine.

Scott said that the evacuation had been "a proportionate response to the information. We haven't had this level of threat before, the people of Birmingham were in danger last night."

But the Chief Constable also explained that "I do not believe that the incident that we are dealing with this evening is connected with the events of July 7 in London."

Four controlled explosions were carried out on a bus to destroy suspected explosive

devices after a call by a member of the public, but later investigations showed that they had been safe.

A further suspicious package at the Travelodge hotel on Broad Street was also declared safe.

Baugur Group withdraws from Somerfield bid



The Icelandic investment firm Baugur has decided to withdraw from the Somerfield bid because of legal action against some of its core employees including its CEO, Jón Ásgeir Jónsson, and chief of board, Haukur Loftsson. Baugur Group will also sell each share it owns in Somerfield.

Baugur Group had previously made EUR1.5 billion bid as had been covered on Wikinews.

Baugur now owns 5.5% of Somerfields shares, but they will be sold to the Iranian businessman Roberts Tchenguiz for 190 pence a piece for about 55 million pounds. Baugur will probably earn 30 million pounds by selling them.

Baugur has also reached agreement with its partner companies that if they will be able to buy Somerfield they will repay Baugur what it has spent on research.

Baugur decided to withdraw from the bid so that the legal actions would not harm its partner companies.

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Today in History

1405 - Chinese explorer Zheng He commanded a fleet of 317 ships with his first voyage.

1533 - King Henry VIII of England was excommunicated by Pope Clement VII.

1798 - The United States Marine Corps was established.

1804 - U.S. statesman Alexander Hamilton was fatally wounded in a duel with Aaron Burr.

1811 - Italian scientist Amedeo Avogadro published his memoir about molecular content of gases.

1859 - A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens was published.

1921 - The Irish War of Independence ended with a truce between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Irish Republican Army.

July 11, Naadam in Mongolia begins

Quote of the Day

"All that was great in the past was ridiculed, condemned, combatted, suppressed— only to emerge all the more powerfully, all the more triumphantly from the struggle." ~ Nikola Tesla

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