

Top Stories

Hardliner wins Iran presidential runoff
 Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Tehran's hardline conservative mayor has won the Iranian presidential election with a landslide of 61.8%, according to Iran's Interior Ministry.



Most of Greek workforce participating in a general strike, say unions
 Greek workers' unions claim that 70 to 100% of country's workforce



has joined the general 24 hour long strike on Friday. Private and public sector workers alike are protesting mass lay-offs, age discrimination of employees, lowering pensions to 40%, denouncing responsibilities of employers regarding collective contracts and demanding to keep eight hour work day.



OhmyNews citizen reporters meet in Seoul, Korea
 More than 300 "citizen reporters"

hailing from countries as far apart as Chile and Norway are coming together at the OhmyNews International Citizen Reporters' Forum from June 23 to June 26, 2005 in Seoul. OhmyNews is one of the most popular South Korean news websites, and it has played an important role in the election of reformist President Roh Moo-hyun.

Wikipedia Current Events

- An Italian judge ordering the arrest of 13 people linked to the CIA on charges of kidnapping terrorism suspect Abu Omar allegedly in order to have him tortured in Egypt dramatizes a growing rift between the US and its allies in the War on terrorism.
- The Israeli Foreign Minister, Silvan Shalom, apologises to New Zealand for the actions of two Israeli citizens, believed to be Mossad agents, who attempted to gain New Zealand passports under false pretences in 2004. The apology allows diplomatic relations between the two countries to return to normal.
- The Socialists win a plurality with 31.44% of the vote, with defending Prime Minister and ex-Tsar Simeon Saxe-Coburg receiving 20.13%. Despite the plurality, the results fall far short of pre-election forecasts for the Socialists.
- Ataka, a nationalist party founded only two months ago, surprises many observers by winning 7.9 percent of the vote. The party opposes membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- Florida beach is reopened after a deadly shark attack.
- Fires in Southwestern United States threaten a small community and close a highway in Utah. Blazes in California, Arizona, and Nevada have already consumed 200,000 acres.

Three New Jersey boys found dead

Three Camden, N.J. boys who had been missing since Wednesday June 22, were found dead by the father of one of the three in the trunk of a car. The car was located in the same yard where the boys were last seen. The 2-day search for them by their parents, police and volunteers took place in the Cramer Hill section of Philadelphia, the city located across the Delaware River from Camden.

Several square miles of land around the Agosto home and even the river banks of the Delaware were searched for the three boys: Anibal "Juni" Cruz, 11; Daniel "Danny" Agosto, 6; and Jesstin "Manny" Pagan, 5. Many friends and relatives, as well as many people who had never met the boys, helped in the search.

However, on Friday June 24, an uncle of one of the boys and the father of the Agosto boy opened the trunk of a Toyota Camry parked in Cruz's yard. They were looking for car battery jumper cables and discovered the boys' bodies. They had suffocated when the trunk lid dropped closed on them.

Television cameras captured the tragic discovery of the boys on film. David Agosto was so distraught he was taken away by paramedics on a stretcher. The TV coverage was on the scene because thousands of residents were to gather for a vigil for the missing children.

Investigators ruled out foul play, calling the incident a "tragic accident." Two of the boys, Cruz and Pagan, had learning and developmental disabilities. The car where the boys were discovered was reportedly not in running condition, and sat in the yard for more than a year.

The boys were trapped inside the trunk when temperatures were in the 80's farenheight. The well insulated trunk compartment was a enough to suffocate them and muffle cries for help. There was also no inside release to the trunk that would allow for escape.

British television presenter Richard Whiteley dies

British television host Richard Whiteley, most famous for his role presenting the British television game show Countdown, has died aged 61 at Leeds General Infirmary.

The cause of death is reported to have been

Wikipedia Current Events

- U.S. officials meet with Iraqi insurgent representatives in attempt to quell attacks. More than 30 are killed in series of suicide bombings across the country.
- AOL and the Discovery Channel announce that the Greatest American is Ronald Reagan.

complications resulting from an operation on his heart to repair an infected valve. He had been admitted to Bradford Royal Infirmary with pneumonia on May 6, falling into a coma shortly thereafter.

His 23 years of hosting Countdown made him a household name among television viewers in the UK, having previously anchored Yorkshire's Calendar local affairs program. The avuncular figure was fond of word play and possessed a striking wit.

Until this May, Whiteley had never missed presenting an edition of the show. Countdown was the first programme to be broadcast on the new Channel 4 when it began broadcasting in 1982.

He was awarded an OBE in June 2004.

Whiteley leaves behind a partner of 11 years, actress Kathryn Apanowicz.

San Francisco mother of 12-year-old boy who was mauled to death charged with child endangerment

Maureen Faibish of 711 Lincoln Way San Francisco, CA was arrested on June 24, 2005 on the charge of child endangerment in the actions leading up to the death of her son, 12-year-old Nicholas Faibish, who was mauled by one or both of her two pit bull dogs, Rex 2 and Ella.

Nicholas was discovered dead in the front bedroom of her home at approximately 15:15 PDT on June 3, 2005, by his mother, who had left the house to run some errands. She had locked her son in the basement to keep him away from the dogs. "I put him down there, with a shovel on the door.", Faibish said in a telephone interview to the San Francisco Chronicle. "He had a bunch of food. And I told him, 'Stay down there until I come back.' Typical Nicky, he wouldn't listen to me."

Faibish stated that she believes that her son had walked in when Rex 2, a male pit bull, was attempting to mate with Ella, a female pit bull who was in heat at the time. She stated that Rex 2 had been acting possessively prior to the incident. A police officer shot and killed Ella in order to gain entry to the apartment. Rex 2 was captured and removed to an animal shelter. "The police killed the wrong dog if you ask me.",

Faibish said.

MTV and VH1 to broadcast Live 8

MTV Networks' MTV and VH1 have secured the rights to distribute over cable networks the Live 8 series of concerts which will be taking place at 8 venues in Europe, North America and Japan. The concerts are meant to raise awareness of poverty in Africa and charitable donations to fight it.

America Online holds the rights to broadcast Live 8 over the Internet and is currently in talks with American Broadcasting Company to also broadcast the concert.

MTV, VH1, and its college network, mtvU will broadcast the concert from noon to 8 PM. This will be the second outing for MTV, as they broadcasted the original Live Aid concert. If ABC decides to air the concert as well, this will also be their second going as well. According to MTV, this is the longest MTV has gone without a televised event since the coverage of the since the violent, riot-filled Woodstock 1999.

Two radio networks will also broadcast the concert. The subscription-based XM Satellite Radio will broadcast the original five announced concerts but will not broadcast the Tokyo or Barrie concerts. Premiere Radio Networks will broadcast the concerts tailored to the three genres of urban, rock and roll and pop music.

Some of the performers slated are: U2, Coldplay, Madonna, Dave Matthews Band, Jay-Z, Destiny's Child and a reunited Pink Floyd.

U.S. Housing prices down 9% since February



The median house price in the U.S.A. plunged 6.5% in the past month to \$217,000. In February of 2005, the median price of a home was \$237,300; 9% higher than today.

The Economist newspaper said in its June

16th issue; "In other words, it looks like the biggest bubble in history." by way of reference to what is happening with housing prices in the USA and much of Europe.

Japan provides an example of how a boom can turn to bust. Property prices have dropped for 14 years in a row (40% from their peak in 1991); and yet, the rise in prices in Japan during the decade before 1991 was less than the increase over the past ten years in most of today's "housing boom" countries.

The total value of residential property rose by more than \$30 trillion over the past five years in developed economies, an increase equivalent to 100% of the combined GDPs of those countries. This increase dwarfs all previous house-price booms and is greater than the global stockmarket bubble in the late 1990s. Much of the housing activity is now being driven by speculative demand. For example, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) reported that 23% of all American houses bought in 2004 were for investment, not for owners to live in. Another 13% were bought as second homes. NAR also found that 42% of all first-time buyers made no down-payment on their home purchase last year.

Investors are buying only because they think prices will keep rising, which is the very definition of a financial bubble. In Miami, as many as half of the original buyers resell new apartments even before they are built, and properties change hands two or three times before somebody finally moves in.

Britain's Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) reported prices have been falling for ten consecutive months. 49% of their surveyors reported falling prices in May. This was the weakest report since 1992 during Britain's previous house-price bust.

Tom Cruise debates psychiatry on Today show

In an interview on NBC's Today show with Matt Lauer, Tom Cruise aggressively defended his opposition to psychiatry and anti-depressive drugs. This occurred after being asked questions about his criticism of Brooke Shields, who has been taking drugs, including Paxil, for postpartum depression.

Cruise is usually known for keeping his cool in interviews, but recently he has been slightly more unbound.

Cruise's statements, including "Psychiatry is a pseudoscience", and "There is no such thing as a chemical imbalance in a body", reflect the beliefs of the Church of Scientology, of which he is a member. The interview became particularly tense when Lauer mentioned that he knew people who had been helped by taking Ritalin, an attention-deficit disorder drug.

"Matt, Matt, you don't even — you're glib," Cruise responded. "You don't even know what Ritalin is. If you start talking about chemical imbalance, you have to evaluate and read the research papers on how they came up with these theories, Matt, OK. That's what I've done."

Cruise went on to say: "You don't know the history of psychiatry, I do."

Lauer insisted that Ritalin helped people: "You're telling me what's worked for people I know or hasn't worked for people I know. I'm telling you, I've lived with these people and they're better," Lauer said.

Cruise hinted that Lauer was promoting Ritalin and Lauer scoffed: "I am not. I'm telling you in their cases, in their individual case, it worked."

The exchange ended when the two basically agreed to disagree. Cruise, who is 42, did admit that one of his goals is to speak more about Scientology in an effort to get people to understand it better.

The rest of the interview will be aired on Monday.

Scientology has historically been at odds with the established medical and mental health community. The rift dates back to the 1950s and Scientology's founding father L. Ron Hubbard. In his book, "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health", published in 1950, Hubbard claims that Dianetics (later called Scientology) could cure the majority of human ailments. These claims were sharply disputed by a variety of mainstream science and medical professionals including psychiatrists.

Elections held in Bulgaria

Elections were held in Bulgaria for the 240 members of the Assembly today. According to exit polls, the Leftist Coalition for Bulgaria has a lead with around 31%, but without majority, necessitating creation of coalitions. The National Movement for Simeon II which is currently ruling is in the second place, with around 21%. The third is Ethnic Turks of Bulgaria, with around 11%.

It is expected that the National Movement for Simeon II will attempt to form a coalition with one of the lower placed parties in order to outnumber the Leftists.

At least 6,000 candidates (from 22 parties) ran for election to the 240 member parliament. The turnout of 52% was record lowest. 4% of the votes are needed to gain a seat.

The opposition Leftist Coalition, headed by Bulgarian Socialist Party lead the election, but did not gain an outright majority. Sergei Stanishev, leader of the socialist party, stated he would attempt to form a governing coalition. "We won the confidence of the people ... We are ready to form a government ... and we will negotiate with any democratic party," Stanishev said in a press conference.

In the last six free elections held since 1989, no government has been re-elected -- each has had to implement stringent economic and social reforms, since the fall of communism, and has lost popular support as a result.

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Today in History

- 1846 - Irish potato famine: An Irish newspaper ran a story about a new potato blight.
- 1967 - The world's first automatic teller machine was installed in the London Borough of Enfield.
- 1969 - The Stonewall riots began in New York City, starting the modern gay rights movement.
- 1979 - Muhammad Ali announced his retirement from boxing.
- 1986 - The International Court of Justice ruled against the United States in *Nicaragua v. United States*.

Quote of the Day

"Some potentates I would kill by any and all means at my disposal. They are Ignorance, Superstition, and Bigotry—the most sinister and tyrannical rulers on earth." ~ Emma Goldman

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