February 14, 2007

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Top Stories

US claims Iraqi militants armed with Iranian weapons

United States military and intelligence officials have presented material they say link weapons used by Iraqi fighters to Iran.

Australian Prime Minister targets Obama on Iraq

Australian Prime Minister John Howard has attacked US presidential candidate Barack Obama on his pledge to introduce a bill that would withdraw American troops from Iraq by March 2008.

Featured story

Cars big winner as 34th Annual Annie Awards handed out

Cars drove home the big prize last night, from the 34th Annual Annie Awards, while Flushed Away won five awards, the most of the night. The animation industry's highest honor, ASIFA-Hollywood's Annies recognise contributions to animation, and Wikinews was there, capturing moments on the red carpet.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Ayman al-Zawahri, deputy to Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden releases an audio tape calling U.S. President Bush a former alcoholic and a lying gambler who wagered on Iraq and lost.
- •Dutch oil-trading company Trafigura to pay the Ivory Coast

Wikipedia Current Events

Government \$198 million to clean up a 2006 toxic waste incident and to hold an inquiry into the incident. The company has not admitted liability for the incident.

- •Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says his administration is open to negotiations over its nuclear program.
- •United States presidential election, 2008: Former Governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney (R) formally announces his candidacy for President.
- •A tornado strikes New Orleans, Louisiana leaving one dead and three people injured.
- •A small business jet heading to Berlin, Germany crashes during take-off at Vnukovo airport in Moscow, Russia.
- •Ma Ying-jeou, the party chairman of the Kuomintang, resigns after being indicted by the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office on charges of embezzlement during his tenure as the mayor of Taipei.
- •Fatmir Rexhepi, the Interior Minister of Kosovo, resigns after two people died in recent protests.
- •A suicide truck bomb kills at least 15 people in Baghdad.
- •Iraq closes its borders with Syria and Iraq for 72 hours.
- •Japan holds an international conference to push for the resumption of commercial whaling. Anti-whaling nations in

Wikipedia Current Events

the International Whaling Commission such as the United States, United Kingdom and Australia have boycotted the conference.

- •At least three people have been killed in bomb blasts that hit two buses in the village of Bikfaya near Beirut, Lebanon.
- •The World Bank has approved construction of the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River in Indianadministered Kashmir.
- •Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, says he opposes a withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq because it would lead to civil war.

Romney announces presidential candidacy

Former Massachussets Governor Mitt Romney formally announced his presidential candidacy, today, outside of Detroit.

"I don't believe Washington can be transformed from within by lifetime politicians, there've been too many deals, too many favors, too many entanglements — and too little real world experience managing, guiding, leading," said Romney, who who was a successful buissnessman before entering politics. Romney focused on his leadership experience outside of government.

Romney made the announcement at the Henry Ford Museum, something which the The National Jewish Democratic Council heavily criticized saying that they were, "deeply troubled by Governor Romney's choice . . . to kick (off) his presidential campaign on the former estate of a well-known and outspoken anti-Semite and xenophobe." A spokesman for Romney said, "Governor Romney believes our country needs to put innovation at the forefront if we are that they heard shots and breaking to ensure a stronger, safer and more prosperous America, the Ford Museum embodies that bold, innovative spirit."

Romney's record as a moderate and his Latter-day Saint faith are expected to be his primary campaign challenges.

Romney, born in Detroit, the son of former Michigan Governor, Republican Presidential candidate, and automotive pioneer George Romney, attended Cranbrook School of Michigan and Harvard Business and Law Schools. Romney ran against senior Massachusetts senator and Kennedy family member, Ted Kennedy. Romney won 41% percent of the vote against Kennedy in the closest election in Kennedy's entire tenure in the United States Senate. Romney was also CEO of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee which was in charge of planning the 2002 Winter Olympics from 1999 to 2002, he took charge after the 2002 Winter Olympic bid scandal. He also sat on the board of Massachusetts-based office supply giant, Staples, Inc.

Fatal shooting at Salt Lake City mall

Five people were killed by an 18 year-old man who opened fire inside the Trolley Square Mall on Monday evening, according to preliminary reports.

Police say they have shot dead one

suspect.

The shootings started at 6:45 in The Spaghetti Factory on the second floor of the Trolley Square Mall.

Two employees of the Williams-Sonoma store, near the southwest corner of Trolley Square, told KSL glass from the area of the west parking garage. They say they saw a gunman about 6'3", wearing a dark trench coat, carrying a shotgun, probably in his 20's. He came into the mall from the parking garage.

A witness at Trolley Square has said that there may have been a second shooter, a man dressed in normal clothing and carrying a young child. Multiple news outlets have reported an off-duty police officer from the nearby city of Ogden confronted and shot the suspect. This officer is likely the "second shooter" reported earlier.

KTVX had reported that there may have been another shooter inside the facility, however this was later found to not be the case.

The mall evacuation began at 7:00 and is progressing slowly.

The shooter has been identified as Solejman Talovic, a bemulleted eighteen year-old Bosnian refugee living in Salt Lake City.

Vancouver will run out of office Over 700 troops stormed a Haitian space in 5 years

In Vancouver, a 20-year urban success story may yet have a sad ending. The city's downtown population has doubled to 80,000 in the last 20 years thanks to Vancouver's "Living First" policy – a exchanged for several hours in the planning strategy that favors residential development over commercial. And planners are

expecting the population to reach more than 120,000 by 2030. But while downtown booms with people, business is busting. The International Herald Tribune reports that the city's recently-released jobs and land-use study is estimating that downtown Vancouver may run out of commercial and office space within 5 years.

The 'Vancouver problem' is one that many cities in the United States could only hope to have. On the contrary, much effort has been put into bringing residential life back into the city centres. In Los Angeles, San Diego, Miami, and Washington, D.C. there has been a condominium boom in recent years, but these cities are far from the situation Vancouver faces now.

To counter the trend in Vancouver, planners are proposing changes to the city's zoning regulations, including the passage of more lenient building height restrictions. But because residential developments are so much more profitable than commercial and office space, some public officials are proposing offering better incentives to the developers willing to build commercial. Another option is to expand the moratorium that was placed on new housing development in the central business district two years ago.

UN troops target violent gangs in Haitian slum raid

slum near the capital city of Portau-Prince on Friday to to oust a gang led by a man known only as Evans, blamed for many murders, kidnappings and rapes in the area. Heavy sustained gunfire was operation, which killed four gang members and wounded two U.N. peace keepers, U.N. officials said.

U.N. commander Maj. Gen. Carlos Alberto Dos Santos Cruz said no one was arrested in the raid and no weapons were recovered, but U.N. spokesman told BBC News that the operation had taken away the Evans' gang's base in Cite Soleil.

The raid has been approved by Haitian President René Préval.

Over 8,000 UN force are stationed in Haiti since 2004, to restore order following a coup against then President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The area of Cité-Soleil is home to around 300,000 people and a neighborhood known as Boston was said to be in the control of Evan's gang.

The UN troops raided a school controlled by Evans' gang and their headquarters, called Jamaica Base. This was the largest of the several raids into gang's territory.

Today in History

1804 - Karađorđe Petrović became the leader of the First Serbian Uprising.

1876 - Elisha Gray and Alexander Graham Bell each filed a patent for the telephone.

1989 - A fatwa was issued for the execution of Salman Rushdie, the author of The Satanic Verses, a novel considered blasphemous against Islam.

1989 - The first satellite in the satellite constellation of the Global Positioning System was placed into orbit.

2005 - Former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri was assassinated, sparking the Cedar Revolution.

February 14 is Valentine's Day

Quote of the Day

When one has once fully entered the realm of love, the world — no

matter how imperfect — becomes rich and beautiful, it consists solely of opportunities for love.

~ Søren Kierkegaard

Word of the Day

gloaming; n

1. Twilight, especially at early evening.

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