

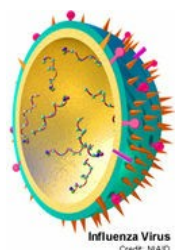


Top Stories

Britain could face electricity blackouts

British MPs on the Commons Environmental Audit Committee warn Britain could face widespread electrical blackouts if new generating capacity is not added soon.

Mumps outbreak strikes Iowa, midwest United States



More than 600 suspected cases of mumps have been reported in Iowa since December, well above the state average of five cases a year; state and federal

officials are searching for the source of the outbreak.

Wikipedia Current Events

- In Dublin, Irish military forces parade for the first time since 1970 in commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising. Taoiseach Bertie Ahern lays a wreath at Kilmainham Jail, where most of the rebel leaders were subsequently shot, in memory of the civilian and military dead of both sides.
- 2006 European floods: A state of emergency is declared in Serbia as the River Danube continues to swell across south-eastern Europe. (BBC) The areas around Serbia's second largest city Novi Sad seem particularly vulnerable, but low-lying parts of the capital, Belgrade, have also been hit.

"generation gap" which could not be bridged by nuclear energy.

"Very substantial investment in new generating capacity and energy efficiency will be required if the lights are to stay on," committee chairman Conservative MP Tim Yeo said. The committee stated that an "extensive" building programme of new gas-fired power stations would be needed to meet the predicted shortfall.

The committee's statement drew some support from environmentalists as well as from some energy sector industries. Friends of the Earth was cautiously cheered by the committee's commitment to energy efficiency, and support of reduced emissions. "...people understand renewables is the next big thing and we should get on with it," said Maf Smith, CEO of Scottish Renewables to BBC.

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Antalya to host children from 40 countries

The city of Antalya, Turkey, is going to host almost 1000 children from 40 countries on April 23, the International Children's Day. The children will march through the city and perform special performances. This day was declared International Children's Day by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk to indicate how important children are for the future of the country.

This day, Turkish children representatives replace officials of various ranks, including the Prime Minister, the President and

Featured story

Police confirm lagoon bodies are boys missing from Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Police have confirmed that the bodies of two children found in a

small pond in McGovern Park are Purvis Parker, 11, and Quadrevion Henning, 12, who went missing on March 19. Police say there was no foul play involved and that the autopsy reports show the boys had drowned.

Clean and renewable generating methods will be preferred in the Government's energy review, including a return to nuclear power generation, but the committee warned that no new nuclear power plants are expected to come online until at least 2017 with the proposed network not reaching full capacity until as late as 2030. Meanwhile nearly a quarter of Britain's current generating capacity is scheduled to go offline by 2016, creating a shortfall described by the committee as a

Ministers, governors of provinces and even the parliamentarians in the House of Parliament, where the children representatives discuss topics concerning children's issues.

Police in Aruba make an arrest in Natalee Holloway case

Aruban police have made an arrest in relation to the Natalee Holloway case.

Holloway, 18, was visiting the island from Alabama and has not been seen since May 30, 2005, with Joran van der Sloot and brothers Deepak and Satish Kalpoe. All three boys were arrested as suspects in the disappearance in June 2005, but were released when a court ruled that there was not enough evidence to continue holding the boys.

A spokeswoman for the public prosecutor's office in Aruba, Mariaine Croes, said that authorities are not yet prepared to release details about the arrest, but did say that the suspect is 19 and that his initials are "G.V.C.". Names of suspects arrested in Aruba are not usually released to the media, so authorities use initials in place of a full name.

Family members and relatives of Natalee have posted a US\$250,000 for information leading to an arrest in the case. A US\$1 million dollar reward has also been posted for the safe return of Natalee.

Australia could help discourage nuclear weapon proliferation: Opposition

A finance spokesperson for the Australian federal opposition has said that Australia could use its power as a large uranium exporter to discourage the proliferation of

nuclear weapons. Australia has the largest known reserves of uranium but is the world's third largest producer behind Canada and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Lindsay Tanner told Channel Ten that: "We could play a much stronger role as a uranium exporter as part of a relatively small number of major uranium exporters, in using that influence collectively for good on nuclear weapons proliferation".

Mr. Tanner said Australia could join forces with other major uranium exporters to discourage the spread of nuclear weapons. "We don't seek to collectively use our influence, along with the influence of other countries like Canada who are major uranium exporters, to try and restrict the proliferation of nuclear weapons," he said.

The Australian Labor Party is said to be divided about its uranium mining policy. The debate within the party has come to the forefront following a decision earlier this month to export uranium to China. At present, Labor opposes the opening of new uranium mines. The party's resource spokesperson, Martian Ferguson is calling for the policy to be thrown out.

Peter Garrett, another member of the ALP said last week he did not support any changes to the party's uranium mining policy but refused to rule out doing so in the future.

Mr. Tanner said that it is "perfectly reasonable" to reconsider the party's policy as "the world has changed". He said that the issue of nuclear proliferation should be at the centre of any change to the party's policy.

"So there's a number of things we could be doing, but we aren't doing yet, and I think (that) should be central to the debate about the future of Labor's policy and the future of Australia's approach" said Mr. Tanner.

Opposition leader Kim Beazley has deferred discussion of the issue until next year's national conference.

Australian cheerleaders told to cover up

Australian cheerleaders have been told today to cover up their midriffs under calls by Gymnastics Australia, as they believe it encourages girls to be self-conscious.

Nerine Cooper, head of Gymnastics Australia, told the Sunday Telegraph, "We don't want girls to feel under pressure to lose weight because of uniforms."

Lisa Ince, head of Sydney Professional Dancers, disagreed. "It's ridiculous really, if the thinking is that a midriff is offensive, then every dance school and athletics club would face the same restrictions," she said.

The ban will affect about 150 teams registered with Gymnastics Australia.

Mumps outbreak strikes Iowa, midwest United States

More than 600 suspected cases of mumps have been reported in Iowa since December, well above the state average of five cases a year. State and federal officials are searching for the source of the outbreak.

Officials from the Centers for Disease Control are contacting passengers of several commercial flights that may have carried

individuals infected with the virus. Mumps can be transmitted by coughing, sneezing, and sharing cups or eating utensils.

Symptoms of the infection include headache, coughing, and most notably swelling of the glands at the base of the jaw. In some cases, mumps can lead to serious complications such as meningitis, sterility, and deafness. Most children in the United States are immunized against mumps.

10-year-old Oklahoma girl found murdered

Police in Purcell, Oklahoma, about 40 miles (64 km) south of Oklahoma City, on Friday discovered the mutilated body of a ten-year-old girl in the apartment of a man who lived in the same apartment complex.

The body of Jamie Rose Bolin was found in a storage bin in the bedroom closet of Kevin Underwood, 26, said Tim Kuykendall, district attorney for McClain County. Underwood has been arrested on suspicion of first-degree murder and is being held without bail. He has no criminal record or history of mental illness.

The girl was last seen on Wednesday near the Purcell public library, and her family reported her missing that night. Officials waited until Thursday night to issue an Amber Alert because no abduction was reported.

Underwood reportedly drew the suspicion of law enforcement at an information checkpoint set up at the apartment complex. Among the other items found in Underwood's apartment were a decorative dagger, a hacksaw, barbecue skewers, meat tenderizer, and a wooden cutting board, according to police.

Preliminary autopsy reports find that the girl died of asphyxiation and blunt force trauma to the head. Deep saw marks found on the body indicate that the suspect attempted to decapitate the girl, say authorities. As the body was found unclothed, police also suspect that Bolin was molested after she died.

"Regarding a potential motive, this appears to have been part of a plan to kidnap a person, rape them, torture them, kill them, cut off their head, drain the body of blood, rape the corpse, eat the corpse, then dispose of the organs and bones," Purcell police chief David Tompkins said.

According to Kuykendall, Underwood said he began fantasizing about eating someone a year ago. The prosecutor added that authorities believe "that while she was ultimately chosen to be the victim of this horrific crime, that other people had been targeted and considered," including a woman and a 5-year-old boy. He added that this was one of the most atrocious crimes he had seen as district attorney, and that he intends to seek the death penalty.

Iran President warns Israeli government is heading towards annihilation

Days after the Iranian administration announced their first successful enrichment of uranium, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has made threatening comments against the Israeli government at a conference to discuss Palestine.

During the three day conference on Friday, Ahmadinejad is reported to have commented on Israel's reported threat to the Middle East and suggested that the Israeli

government was "heading toward annihilation," and that it will soon be liberated.

Iran is known to be a supporter of Palestine, and has previously offered an unknown amount of money to the Palestinian Authority to make up for the loss of Western donations since Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006.

Today in History

1895 - The Empire of Japan and the Qing Empire signed the Treaty of Maguan, an 'unequal' treaty that ended the First Sino-Japanese War.

1937 - Daffy Duck made his debut in a short cartoon by the Warner Bros. Studio.

1942 - World War II: Captured French General Henri Giraud escaped from German captivity in the Königstein Castle.

1961 - The CIA-backed Bay of Pigs Invasion of Cuba began.

1975 - The Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh, ending the Cambodian Civil War.

April 17 is Easter Monday in Western Christianity (2006)

Quote of the Day

Where the storyteller is loyal, eternally and unswervingly loyal to the story, there, in the end, silence will speak. Where the story has been betrayed, silence is but emptiness. But we, the faithful, when we have spoken our last word, will hear the voice of silence." ~ Karen Blixen

Word of the Day

paradiddle; *n*

Definition

1. A percussive exercise which involves playing a series of hits in the pattern RLRLRLLL.

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