



Top Stories

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to remove certain content from an upcoming book by former

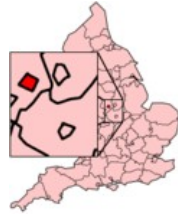
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Ambassador to the Central

Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, Craig Murray. Schillings, a company which, according to Wikileaks, contains "well known UK censorship lawyers," sent a letter to Cambridge University Press threatening libel action if the content is not removed from Murray's book, *The Catholic Orangemen of Togo*, before publication.

Crowd in Derbyshire, UK, encourages teenager to commit suicide

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According to the BBC's Today programme a variety of different people, including youths and middle aged citizens, were telling the teenager to jump.

Thai PAD protest leader arrested while voting

Police in Thailand have announced the arrest of Chamlong Srimuang, a retired



general and former Bangkok mayor who is one of the leaders of protests against the current government. Chamlong and other protesters who have occupied government buildings for several months accuse the incumbent government of acting in place of former prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra.

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Wikipedia Current Events

Merkel announces that Germany will explicitly guarantee the deposits in banks held by its citizens.

•Rugby League: The Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles win the 2008 NRL Grand Final, defeating the Melbourne Storm 40-0.

•Thai police arrest former mayor of Bangkok and protest leader Chamlong Srimuang on charges of insurrection.

•US President George Bush has signed `Memorandum for the Secretary of State for Unexpected Urgent Humanitarian Needs Related to Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Georgia`.

18 illegal Afghan and Burmese immigrants killed in truck crash in Turkey

18 illegal immigrants from Afghanistan and Burma have died after the truck smuggling them crashed in Turkey. The vehicle had been converted with compartments for hiding people in, so that news agencies are describing the modified vehicle as both a truck and a bus.

The driver appears to have lost control in Tekirdağ, near the town of Malkara, about 60 miles West of Istanbul. The vehicle overturned. 23 passengers were injured and are reported to be hospitalised and in good condition.

The truck driver survived and fled the scene. The vehicle is thought to have been destined for Greece.

Wikipedia Current Events

The German government moves to back troubled Hypo Real Estate with a 50 billion euro rescue plan.

•German Chancellor Angela

No other vehicles were involved.

Law firm tries to ban new book by Cambridge Press

The Schillings law firm in the United Kingdom, has attempted to remove certain content from an upcoming book by former Ambassador to the Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, Craig Murray. Schillings, a company which, according to Wikileaks, contains "well known UK censorship lawyers," sent a letter to Cambridge University Press threatening libel action if the content is not removed from Murray's book, *The Catholic Orangemen of Togo*, before publication.

According to Schilling, they sent the letter on behalf of "Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer [...], C.E.O. of Aegis Defence Services Limited."

"We have reason to believe that the Book may contain serious, untrue and damaging defamatory allegations about our client," stated the letter. "Any widespread publication of the Book containing defamatory allegations concerning our client would be deeply damaging to our client's personal and professional reputations and would cause him profound distress and anxiety. We remind you that you would be responsible for that damage and any subsequent republication of the allegations. We also put you on notice that you will be liable for any special damage or loss suffered by our client as a result of the Book and we reserve all our client's rights in this regard."

Speaking to Wikileaks, Murray responded to these claims by saying that there is "yet more depressing correspondence with my publisher today - it really is

getting me down."

"The publisher has an understandable fear of facing malicious and extremely expensive litigation under British libel laws, which exist to protect the reputations of the wealthy and the powerful," continued the former ambassador, explaining the issue. "As my entire purpose is to expose unsavory truths about the wealthy and the powerful, I really do not see how we are going to solve this."

Wikinews also spoke exclusively to Craig Murray on this issue. He made the following comments:

"Libel law in the UK is notoriously used as a tool for the wealthy to suppress the truth. There is no access to justice because ordinary people cannot, and publishers will not, afford the huge legal bills involved in defending a libel case.

I have received no libel threats at all. Rather Schillings, acting on behalf of mercenary commander Tim Spicer, have threatened my publisher directly. In consequence my publisher has insisted not only that I remove vital facts from the book, but is attempting to insist that I include views and opinions which are not my own, and facts which are untrue, in the interest of "balance".

The extraordinary thing is that the book is a memoir, and the large majority of things the publisher wishes me to exclude under legal pressure are things I was an eye witness to or even did myself. There is no protection at all for freedom of speech in the UK - the concept does not de facto exist in law here." —Craig Murray, speaking to Wikinews

Soldier dies as military helicopters collide in Iraq

An Iraqi soldier has died after two United States UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters collided and crashed while they attempted to land at an air base in Baghdad.

Two more Iraqis and two US soldiers were wounded. No civilians were injured as the crash occurred over the air base itself, not the densely populated suburb the aircraft had been flying over before.

The crash occurred at 9 p.m. in Azamiyah and is being treated as an accident. An investigation is underway.

There is some dispute over the official version of events. A freelance cameraman who works for the BBC and Reuters said he heard an unusual noise from a single helicopter's engine and describes it crashing with flames and smoke pouring from the engine, and local police say a helicopter was downed by enemy fire.

There are also reports of gunfire after the crash. The US military has denied any knowledge of a shutdown.

Fannie Mae forgives mortgage debt of 90-year-old woman who shot herself

Fannie Mae, a housing mortgage lender, has forgiven the mortgage debt of Addie Polk, a 90-year-old woman from Akron, Ohio who attempted to kill herself when she was being evicted from her home on Wednesday.

Polk had lived in her home since 1970, and refinanced her mortgage numerous times since 1997 when she first got a loan taken out against her home. When

authorities tried to evict her, she shot herself once in the chest. Fannie Mae took over Polk's home in 2007 after the loan company filed for foreclosure. One report from Reuters states that authorities tried to evict Polk more than 30 other times in the past.

"Just given the circumstances, we think it's appropriate," said Brian Faith, a spokesman for Fannie Mae who also said that the incident was almost immediately "on [their] radar screen".

Polk is currently undergoing treatment at Akron General Medical Center and is expected to make a full recovery. She can return to her home as soon as she recovers from her injuries.

Polk was recognized on Friday when Dennis Kucinich, who is a democratic representative for Ohio, spoke of her incident during debates on a 700 billion USD bailout bill that the United States House of Representatives passed on Friday. He states that the bill does not focus on people in situations like Polk.

"This bill does nothing for the Addie Polks of the world. This bill fails to address the fact that millions of homeowners are facing foreclosure, are facing the loss of their home. This bill will take care of Wall Street, and the market may go up for a few days, but democracy is going downhill," said Kucinich on Friday.

Zimbabwean unity talks fail

Talks between Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai have failed to reach an agreement on who will be in the unity cabinet.

A power sharing deal was signed approximately three weeks ago, as

a way to resolve a crisis that has been ongoing since the elections over three months ago.

Nelson Chamisa, a spokesperson for Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) expressed grave concern over failure to reach a deal. He described it as "a threat to people's lives".

"People are dying," Chamisa said. "The humanitarian response has to be activated and you need a functional government to do that."

Thabo Mbeki, formerly the president of South Africa has said that he will continue to help secure an agreement between the politicians by mediating the discussion.

In the deal signed three weeks ago it was agreed that Tsvangirai is now the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, acting as the head of the council of ministers. It was also agreed that Mugabe remains the president of Zimbabwe, meaning that he is still the chair of the cabinet.

The proposed cabinet contains sixteen seats from the MDC, while Mugabe's Zanu-PF has fifteen seats. The MDC also controls the police while Zanu-PF controls the armed forces.

The agreement also requires press freedom in Zimbabwe.

Thai PAD protest leader arrested while voting

Police in Thailand have announced the arrest of Chamlong Srimuang, a retired general and former Bangkok mayor who is one of the leaders of protests against the current government. Chamlong and other protesters who have occupied government buildings for

several months accuse the incumbent government of acting in place of former prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra.

Chamlong is the second of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD - Thai: พันธมิตรประชาชนเพื่อประชาธิปไตย) protest leaders to be arrested; Chaiwat Sinuwong was arrested on Friday as he left the occupied prime minister's compound. Former mayor, Chamlong had today left the security of the protest site to vote in the city's elections.

Protests have been ongoing, led to a September, 2006 military coup, and have centred around corruption allegations initially championed by Sondhi Limthongkul against Thaksin Shinawatra who the coup deposed and left in exile for in excess of a year. Following the dissolution of Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai party, and an October, 2006 election, the protesters have focused on removing what they perceive as Thaksin's ongoing influence on the country's government. In June then-PM Samak Sundaravej and his cabinet narrowly survived a no-confidence vote. Last month saw him replaced with the incumbent, Somchai Wongsawat following a court decision. Somchai was appointed as the result of a parliamentary vote, protesters are particularly incensed at this as he is former PM Thaksin's brother-in-law.

Charges of insurrection, illegal assembly, and inciting unrest have been brought against nine of the protest leaders, including Chamlong; police have vowed to arrest all the protest leaders although there are no plans to employ force to carry this out. The charge of insurrection in Thailand is the equivalent of treason, the

sentence can be life imprisonment or even the death penalty.

Government proposals for the deputy prime minister, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, to negotiate with the PAD have been scuppered by the two arrests. According to the Thai News Agency the leaders of the PAD state that the negotiations are unlikely to take place now. The arrests were described as indicating the government was not sincere and the PAD will "not hold talks with irresponsible people".

The outstanding arrest warrants are for the PAD founder, Sondhi, the group's leaders and spokesman, Somsak Kosaisuk, Pibhop Dhongchai and Suriyasai Katasila, MP Somkiat Pongpaibul, and protest organisers Therdpoom Chaidee and Amorn

Amornrattannond. An appeals court challenge against the arrest warrants is pending and a decision is expected Monday; if the warrants are revoked, it is expected that the Royal Thai Police will instigate a judicial process to contest this.

Despite passage of bailout bill, two US states may need loans

Despite the passage of a 700 billion USD bill by the United States House of Representatives on Friday and the Senate on Wednesday, two U.S. states may need loans totaling over 14 billion dollars.

California and Massachusetts are seeking at least 7 billion dollars each from the federal government as loans. Officials and lawmakers in both states say that the loans would be temporary.

According to Massachusetts' state treasurer, Timothy P. Cahill, the state was unable to borrow money last week on a short term loan. He

also states that the state can afford to pay its bills and debts for the next few weeks, but not beyond that without a short-term loan from the government. Cahill has asked the federal government for a loan similar to the recent one passed by Congress and the Senate.

"That's all we would ask them to do: Treat us like the investment banks," said Cahill to the Associated Press.

Officials in California say they need an emergency loan, or they will run out of money by the end of October. California's governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger said the state is "not out of the woods" and needs a short term loan from the government.

"California and other states may be unable to obtain the necessary level of financing to maintain government operations and may be forced to turn to the federal treasury for short-term financing," said Schwarzenegger in a letter to the Treasury Department, which is taking the letter under consideration.

On Friday, the U.S. House of Representative voted to pass a revised bailout bill which included raising the FDIC insurance cap to \$250,000, a move designed to please progressives. However, the \$110 billion in tax breaks, earmarks and what has been called pork barrel spending is not offset by any increases in revenues and has added opposition to the bill from some Representatives in the House. Earmarks added into the bailout bill included \$192 million in tax rebates for the Virgin Islands rum industry, \$148 million in tax cuts for the wool industry, \$100 million tax cuts to the auto racing

industry, and \$48 million in Hollywood tax incentives, among others.

Crowd in Derbyshire, UK, encourages teenager to commit suicide

It has recently been made public that on September 27, seventeen year old Shaun Dykes jumped off a multistory building following encouragement from the crowd. According to the BBC's Today programme, a variety of different people, including youths and middle aged citizens, were telling the teenager to jump.

Alasdair Kay, director of the Derby City Mission, saw the incident unfold. He expressed his shock and disgust at the incident.

"People were filming... we could hear people shouting '[J]ump, you,'" she said. "They weren't all just young people, some were middle-aged. To be honest with you I was sickened."

Derbyshire's Chief Constable Mick Creedon, also yesterday commented on the indent. "The tragic death of Shaun Dykes at Derby on 27th September has attracted much comment and media speculation," he started. "The pain that Shaun's family and friends are suffering must be unimaginable and they have my deepest sympathy."

"The primary responsibility of the police is the protection of life, and the Derbyshire Constabulary will always have this responsibility at the forefront of our response to such tragic events as Shaun's death last Saturday," he continued. "We have very well trained and experienced staff, well practiced in dealing with such incidents and I have no doubt that the officers involved in talking to Shaun on Saturday did their best

with the situation they were presented with."

"The fact that they were unsuccessful in negotiating Shaun to safety will have been very painful for them, particularly for the two officers who spent two hours talking directly to him. They have my sincere thanks for their efforts as, I'm sure, they have the thanks of the vast majority of those reading this."

Shaun Dykes, had been raised in a single parent family in a village near Derbyshire and he recently returned from a business course to study to become an accountant or a pilot.

Before his death, he was working part time in a local pub. Craig Doxey, his best friend, described Dykes. "He was always smiling and laughing about stuff. I think if it wasn't for the crowd, Shaun would have got down and got some help from all his mates, work colleagues and the police."

He went to Heanor Gate Science College, and he was openly gay. According to one of his friends from that school, Rebkha Minkley, "he always came in, in the morning with a smile on his face."

According to the Today program, Dykes is believed to have left a suicide note before jumping off the building.

VP candidate Palin accuses Obama of terrorist links

At a Republican rally in Colorado, U.S. Alaskan governor and Vice-Presidential hopeful, Sarah Palin accused Democratic candidate Barack Obama of "palling around with terrorists who would target their own country". The charge was repeated at a later rally for around 13,000 Orange County,

California supporters.

The accusation centers around a report in The New York Times associating Obama with William C. Ayers, a Chicago professor who was a member of the radical Weathermen group during the 1960s. Ayers was one of the founders of the Weathermen, and involved in their anti-Vietnam War bombing campaign throughout the early 1970s.

Loading her attack with hot-button issues, Palin told supporters "one of Barack's earliest supporters is a man who, according to the New York Times, and they are hardly ever wrong, was a domestic terrorist and part of a group that quote launched a campaign of bombings that would target the Pentagon and US Capitol. Wow. These are the same guys who think patriotism is paying higher taxes."

Despite Palin's attack, the original article in the October 3 New York Times concluded that Obama and Ayers were never close, and that the connection was through Obama's initial run for office and a schools reform project, "saying that their paths have crossed sporadically". The report quotes Obama as describing Ayers as, "somebody who worked on education issues in Chicago that I know" and "somebody who engaged in detestable acts 40 years ago, when I was 8". According to a campaign spokesman, the two men first met through the Chicago Annenberg Challenge, an educational project started in 1995.HAVE YOUR SAY Do you think Palin's accusation is valid?

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Democratic campaign aides claim

the alleged relationship has been played up by the presidential hopeful's opponents as a smear campaign. Comparisons to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth (SBVT) have been drawn. SBVT was a political group drawn together during the 2004 presidential election with the aim of opposing John Kerry's candidacy.

Man uses home-made flamethrower to set relatives on fire

A man from Austria is in jail after authorities say he used a flamethrower to burn his two elderly in-law parents to death as they slept in their home located in Hartberg in the state of Styria.

The man, 48, is said to have first doused the bedroom with gasoline and then used a canister filled with propane to light the room on fire.

The victims, a woman and man in their 80's, were sleeping when the suspect lit them on fire. The woman was bed ridden due to advanced diabetes and had previously had her legs amputated, and died where she slept. Her husband was able to escape where authorities found him dead, lying on a bench in the couple's garden.

The suspect left the scene of the crime, but was apprehended by police shortly after the incident. In the process, the man stabbed himself in the stomach in an apparent suicide attempt. He is currently in a drug induced coma at a local hospital.

Police are investigating the incident to determine a motive.

Ralph Nader calls out Democrats for financial bailout
Independent U.S. presidential

candidate Ralph Nader had harsh words for the Democrats who engineered yesterday's passage of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, a bailout of the U.S. financial system. At a campaign stop in Waterbury, Connecticut on Saturday, Nader said that Democrats passed up a chance to enact re-regulation of the financial system and instead gave Wall Street everything it wanted.

According to Nader, Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), Representative Barney Frank (D-MA), and other Democrats considered but rejected measures such as a tax on transactions of derivatives (a "speculation tax") because of their financial ties to Wall Street and its lobbyists. He said that Representative Chris Murphy (D-CT), who represents Waterbury, had "become a toady" of Nancy Pelosi. He drew enthusiastic applause by calling Murphy "a dynamic fraud", and referred to Senator Joe Lieberman as "the Hermaphrodite of American Politics". For Murphy and Representative Chris Shays (R-CT), Nader said, supporting the bailout despite the opposition of constituents was a "profile in betrayal". Because there were no public hearings where taxpayers and experts could weigh in on the bailout, Nader characterized it as a return to "taxation without representation"—under "King George IV" 225 years after the 13 colonies were taxed under King George III.

Asked about causes of the financial crisis, Nader pointed to the deregulation of the financial sector with the 1999 Glass-Steagall Act and further deregulation in 2000, as well as the rise of overly complex financial derivatives. He outlined a four-part reform plan:

Re-regulation of financial markets
Increasing shareholder control of corporations

Taxpayer equity as part of any bailout, as in the 1979 bailout of Chrysler Corporation
Making speculators pay by enacting a 0.1% tax on derivatives transactions (which Nader said will amount to over \$500 trillion this year)

Regarding the equity warrants included in the passed bailout, Nader relayed word from an unnamed source that Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson had told Wall Street executives "don't worry, it's not enforceable".

Nader told reporters that he had abandoned the Green Party because "Greens are not disciplined, and they're not mature", and also lack the fund-raising capabilities to break into mainstream political discussions. "They bicker and bicker," he said, pushing out their best people. However, he endorsed several local Green Party candidates, including Chris Murphy's opponent Harold Burbank.

The virtual media blackout for third party campaigns by national newspapers and networks has been a source of continual frustration for the Nader campaign, as well as the campaigns of Libertarian Bob Barr and Green Cynthia McKinney and the post-campaign activities of Republican Ron Paul. According to Nader, reporters tell him that editors of national media are "very bigoted against third party and independent candidacies". Even journalists for taxpayer-supported media, such as National Public Radio's Terry Gross and the Public Broadcasting Service's Jim Lehrer, have shut him out during this campaign. Debates, he lamented,

are controlled by corporate interests through the Commission on Presidential Debates.

Nader spoke to a supportive crowd of about 60 people and his campaign raised over \$2000 at the event, their third visit to Waterbury. The event took place in the former building of a closed-down bank.

Wikipedia Current Events

The Kremlin press service has reported that the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ordered the Defense Ministry, law enforcement agencies and the Foreign Ministry to investigate a bombing in the South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali, on 3 October, 2008.

- Russian troops began dismantling positions Sunday in the so-called security zones inside Georgia that they have occupied since August's brief but intense war, a Georgian Interior Ministry official said, in the first reported sign a promised pullback was under way.
- Authorities detain separatist leader and impose curfew in anticipation of a separatist rally to be held on Monday in Kashmir.
- Apirak Kosayothin is re-elected as Governor of Bangkok.
- Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari acknowledges his government's consent to US air strikes in Pakistan and says India has never been a threat.
- Senior British Commander says military victory in Afghanistan is impossible.

Today in History

105 BC – The Cimbri and the Teutons inflicted a major defeat on

the Roman Republic in the Battle of Arausio.

1849 – In Arad, present-day Romania, 13 Hungarian rebel honvéd generals who became known as the 13 Martyrs of Arad were executed by Austrian authorities for their part in the Hungarian Revolution.

1854 – The Great fire of Newcastle and Gateshead in North East England began, destroying a substantial amount of property, killing over 50 people, and injuring hundreds of others.

1973 – Egyptian troops under President Anwar Sadat (pictured) crossed the Suez Canal and destroyed the fortified Israeli Bar Lev Line, starting the Yom Kippur War.

1995 – In an article published by the scientific journal Nature, astronomers Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz reported the discovery of a planet orbiting 51 Pegasi as the first known extrasolar planet around a main-sequence star.
October 06 is

Quote of the Day

It is said that power corrupts, but actually it's more true that power attracts the corruptible. The sane are usually attracted by other things than power. ~ David Brin

Word of the Day

imprint *v*

To leave a print, impression, image, etc.

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Word of the Day

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