



Top Stories



Barack Obama wins South Carolina primary; Clinton comes in second

Monte Carlo hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Nevada catches fire

Flames were seen shooting out of the top of the Monte Carlo hotel on Friday. "The Strip" has been closed off in front of the hotel while firefighters continue to fight the blaze.

Wikipedia Current Events

election, 2008: Illinois Senator Barack Obama wins the South Carolina Democratic primary.

•The United States government warns that a spy satellite is losing power and propulsion and could hit the Earth in February or March.

•Police in Zimbabwe arrest Nicholas van Hoogstraten for allegedly violating the Exchange Control Regulations Act by asking his tenants to pay in foreign currency. He is also accused of violating the Censorship Act for possessing pornography. Police seize Z\$20 billion (\$0.6m).

•Maria Sharapova wins the Australian Open women's title defeating Ana Ivanović 7-5, 6-3. Andy Ram & Yoni Erlich win the men's doubles title.

goal. However the lead was again only held for a short time, until Yossi Benayoun once again brought the teams level again. Liverpool then closed out their opposition scoring three more goals to bring the end result to 5 - 2.

6,000 Havant and Waterlooville fans travelled the 250 miles to Liverpool and remained in the stadium after the game to applaud their team, most of whom have other jobs. The team were also applauded by Liverpool fans and players, after the game.

It is thought that the game has made Havant and Waterlooville around £400,000 in sales and advertising. However the £350 million deal between Liverpool's American owners highlights the difference between the two clubs.

Featured story

'The Regime' hacks 711chan.org in response to 'Anonymous' attack on Scientology; takes web site off line

Wikinews has learned that a new entity calling itself The Regime used keylogging to gain an administrator password to 711chan.org, a site popular with the open vigilante group "Anonymous" that has recently been attacking Scientology online. The Regime has since taken the site off line.

Underdogs beaten by Liverpool in FA Cup

Havant and Waterlooville F.C. were today beaten 5 -2 by Liverpool F.C. in their FA Cup 4th round game at Anfield.

Havant, who are 122 places and 5 leagues below Liverpool, scored the first goal in 8 minutes, a header by Richard Pacquette. Liverpool's Leiva Lucas then brought the teams back to one goal each, with a 25 yard attempt going in the top right corner beating goal keeper Kevin Scriven.

Guyana shooting is country's worst in 30 years

Gunmen have killed 11 people in the village of Lusignan on the coast of Guyana, in what is said to be the country's worst mass shooting in 30 years.

The unidentified gunmen reportedly kicked down the doors of five houses and fired shots inside. The dead include five children, four men, and two women. Three people were wounded by the gunshots and taken to a hospital for treatment.

Wikipedia Current Events

United States presidential

Havant then replied 6 minutes later, with a attempt by Alfie Potter being deflected into the

Following the shooting were angry demonstrations in the nearby town of Monrepos. Around 300 people in

the village blocked two major highways and burned tires, oil drums, and refrigerators in their display of outrage.

"Government can't protect us!" they shouted. "We want more police!"

President Bharrat Jagdeo denounced the attacks, saying, "[This] could not have been done by human beings but rather by animals."

Police suspect that a criminal gang led by Rondell Rawlins may have been behind the attacks. He accused the government of kidnapping his pregnant 18-year-old girlfriend and has threatened to carry out attacks until she is recovered.

Rawlins, a former soldier, is blamed for the 2006 murder of Agriculture Minister Satyadeow Sawh.

Hours earlier, armed men attacked Guyana's police headquarters, injuring two policemen.

George Bush announces trip to Africa

The White House announced that the American president George W. Bush and his wife, First Lady Laura Bush will travel to Africa, next month.

The tour, which is scheduled to take place from 15 to 21 February, will include visits to Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, and Liberia.

The White House said the president will meet with leaders of these countries to discuss how the United States can support the continuation of democratic reforms, respect for human rights, and economic

opportunities throughout the continent.

The last time Bush visited Africa was in 2003.

The White House said that during this visit, George Bush will review progress made in efforts in which Washington provides to enhance economic development and the fight against HIV AIDS, malaria and other treatable diseases.

British Airways Flight 38 investigation focuses on fuel system

Investigators examining the wreck of British Airways Flight 38, a Boeing 777 that crash landed short of the runway at London's Heathrow Airport in the first hull loss of a 777, are examining the aircraft's fuel system as a possible factor in the crash. No-one was killed as the scheduled flight from Beijing, China lost power during final approach on January 17.

136 passengers and 16 crew were on board when power was lost to the two Rolls-Royce engines about two miles from the runway, at a height of 600 feet. Autopilot and autothrottle were engaged at the time, the latter having just commanded an increase of thrust to the engines when power was lost. Co-pilot John Coward, in control at the time, was subsequently praised for being able to guide the disabled plane to within 1,000 feet of the runway, clearing a number of houses along the way.

Subsequent investigation has revealed that not only did the engines not fail simultaneously, but neither failed completely, contradicting initial belief. A preliminary report by the United Kingdom's Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) stated

that after the autothrottle commanded more thrust "The engines both initially responded but after about 3 seconds the thrust of the right engine reduced. Some eight seconds later the thrust reduced on the left engine to a similar level... Both engines continued to produce thrust at an engine speed above flight idle, but less than the commanded thrust." This situation prevailed until impact.

On Wednesday the AAIB stated that they were examining "All possible scenarios that could explain the thrust reduction and continued lack of response of the engines." However, it also went on to specifically mention attention to the jet's fuel system, saying "This work includes a detailed analysis and examination of the complete fuel-flow path from the aircraft tanks to the engine-fuel nozzles." The AAIB also ruled out the plane having completely run out of fuel, stating that there was "adequate fuel" in the tanks when the plane crashed. In addition to the fuel required to get to the target destination or emergency alternative airport - whichever is further - aircraft typically carry between thirty and forty-five minutes worth of extra fuel as a safety margin.

Possible scenarios being examined include fuel contamination, coming either from fuel taken on at Beijing or leakage from an unknown source. In particular, a heavy contaminant at the bottom of the tanks would explain a lack of earlier problems on the flight, as the fuel levels would only have become low in the final stages of the trip. Another possibility is that a central part of the fuel system developed a leak, reducing the amount of fuel available to the engines.

It is known that, according to the AAIB, "the autothrottle and engine-control commands were performing as expected prior to, and after, the reduction in thrust," suggesting that all software in the aircraft was functioning correctly and rendering a software failure unlikely, although this possibility also remains under investigation.

Australia to withdraw troops from Iraq this year

Australia will press on with plans to withdraw its troops from Iraq in June this year, although promises were made by the nation's foreign minister that relations with the United States will not be affected by the move.

Foreign minister Stephen Smith said that the withdrawal will be conducted in an orderly fashion to minimise inconvenience to other nations in Iraq. Speaking in New York as part of his first US visit since the election he said "We want to do that in a way which sees minimal disruption, which causes the least inconvenience to our allies there, both the United States and the United Kingdom."

Australia currently has 550 troops in the country.

On Monday Smith will meet with Condoleezza Rice and others to discuss Afghanistan, where Australia also has troops stationed. It is currently the intention for this to remain the case.

Smith said of the effect on relations with the US - which have been strong since World War II - "It's not something which I believe will disturb what to date has been a very good working relationship between the new government and the (U.S.) administration. It's a very strong alliance - an alliance which transcends changes in

governments. Administrations come and go, governments come and go, but the alliance is a long-term, enduring fundamental relationship between our two nations."

The confirmation is important as Australia saw a new government elected in November. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd (Labour) defeated Conservative head and former PM John Howard. Howard is a supporter of US President George W. Bush and his government.

16-year-old arrested over alleged plot to hijack US airliner

A 16-year-old male from Novato, California has been arrested in Tennessee over allegations he intended to hijack a commercial passenger airliner in the United States.

The boy, who was unnamed due to his age, was a passenger on board Southwest Airlines Flight 284 from Los Angeles to Nashville on Tuesday, with his parents reporting him missing at 11:30 am the same day. Although he remained calm throughout the flight and made no hijacking attempt, authorities report he had handcuffs, duct tape and yarn inside the aircraft cabin with him. Although his arrest was only made public on Friday, it is reported that he was detained immediately on reaching Nashville International Airport.

George Bolds, a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said that the items were "suspicious" and that the boy had informed the FBI he had indeed intended to hijack the aircraft. An FBI agent told reporters that he felt the plot was ill-conceived, saying "His plan had a low

probability of success."

The FBI also conducted a search of his home on Thursday, finding in his room "a photograph of the inside of a small aircraft, something you'd find in a bookstore."

Subsequent to his arrest he pled guilty on Friday to a "delinquent act," according to local officials. A juvenile court judge ordered him to be returned to California for continued perusal of that charge as well as others set to be made. He is currently in Davidson County Juvenile Detention Center in Nashville.

Authorities believe that the teen was suicidal, but the FBI dismissed earlier reports alleging that he intended to crash the airliner into a Hannah Montana concert in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Iraqi PM al-Maliki announces "decisive" offensive against al-Qaeda

After successive suicide attacks in Mosul in recent days, killing over 40 people including the city's police chief, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki announced on Friday that Iraqi security forces and American troops were gathering for what he described as a "decisive" offensive against al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) and its allies.

"We have set up an operations room in Nineveh to complete the final battle with al Qaeda along with guerrillas and members of the previous regime," al-Maliki stated during a ceremony honoring the victims of the recent acts of terrorism. "Today our forces started moving to Mosul. What we are planning in Nineveh will be decisive."

"Today, the troops have moved to

Mosul ... and the fight there will be decisive," al-Maliki said Friday at the ceremony in Karbala.

AQI moved its headquarters to Ninawa province after losing the Second Battle of Fallujah back in 2004. U.S. military commanders state that the organization is regrouping in the province after having been driven out of Anbar province by their former Sunni allies.

"Today, the troops have moved to Mosul ... and the fight there will be decisive" —Nouri al-Maliki

Troop numbers have not been released for the offensive, which is in the planning stages. Major-General Abdul-Kareem Khalaf, spokesman for the Iraqi Interior Ministry, stated that 3,000 extra police officers will be included.

Since the United States sent 30,000 extra troops to Iraq in early 2007, the security situation in the nation has improved. Attacks were down 60% in the second half of 2007, and AQI has largely been driven out of most of its former strongholds, including the western portion of Anbar province and Baghdad.

The concentration of militants has led to an increase in violence in Mosul. In one incident on Wednesday, a bomb leveled a three-story apartment complex. 34 people were killed and over 200 were injured. Then on Thursday, at the same site, a second explosion killed the police director of Ninawa, Brig. Gen. Salah Mohammed al-Jubouri, and two other police officers.

Al-Maliki expressed confidence in Iraqi security forces. "Now we have a real army. The days when the militants could do anything in

front of our armed forces are gone."

Today in History

1343 – Pope Clement VI issued the papal bull Unigenitus to justify the power of the pope and the use of indulgences.

1888 – Two weeks after a group of over thirty explorers and scientists met in Washington, D.C. to organize "a society for the increase and diffusion of geographical knowledge," the National Geographic Society, publisher of the National Geographic Magazine, was incorporated.

1945 – The Soviet Red Army liberated over 7,500 prisoners left behind by Nazi personnel in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Oświęcim, Poland.

1967 – The Apollo 1 spacecraft was destroyed by fire at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, killing astronauts Gus Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee.

1973 – The Paris Peace Accords were signed in Paris, temporarily ending the Vietnam War with a ceasefire. North Vietnam would violate the treaty one year later when it attacked South Vietnam on December 13, 1974.

January 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Quote of the Day

Prometheus, I have no Titan's might,
Yet I, too, must each dusk renew my heart,
For daytime's vulture talons tear apart
The tender alcoves built by love at night.

~ Philip José Farmer ~

Word of the Day

autological adj

1. (grammar) Of an adjective, describing itself.

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