



Top Stories

500 million US dollars worth of treasure found off coast of Cornwall UK

Reports say that a team of treasure hunters from the United States has recovered over 500 million U.S. dollars (£253m) worth of gold and silver coins off the coast of Cornwall, England in what is being called the biggest treasure find ever.

UN denounces killing of Haitian journalist Alix Joseph

The popular radio host was shot down by unknown gunmen. His radio station had earlier received threats over its reporting on local crime gangs.

Featured story

700 new forms of life discovered in Antarctic sea

Three expeditions to the Weddell Sea were made by a team of scientists from the British Antarctic Survey bay to study the biodiversity in the region.

Wikipedia Current Events

- A bomb in a market place in Juliaca in southern Peru kills 6 people and injures about 50.
- Black Swan Project: Deep sea explorers retrieve 17 tons of colonial era silver and gold coins with an estimated value of US\$500 million.
- Two ABC News employees are killed by unknown assailants in Baghdad.
- Five people are killed in a bomb

Wikipedia Current Events

blast at the Mecca Masjid mosque in the Indian city of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

- The parliament of Kazakhstan votes to allow the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to stand for an unlimited number of terms.
- A home-made bomb explodes in a bus terminal in Cotabato in the southern Philippines, killing 3 people and injuring 15.

Norton AntiVirus cripples thousands of PCs in China

A routine upgrade of anti-virus software has disabled tens of thousands of PCs in China, according to local media reports. The faulty upgrade caused Symantec's Norton AntiVirus software to remove critical Windows XP system files, the reports state.

The system files moved or deleted by the software include netapi32.dll and lsasrv.dll, according to Sohu News. The software incorrectly identifies the files as being infected with the Backdoor.Haxdoor trojan. With these files removed, Windows XP will no longer start up, and even the system safe mode no longer functions. Only Chinese-language versions of Windows appear to be affected so far.

The Norton AntiVirus application is part of Norton's 360 suite and it is pre-installed in many PCs sold in China, indicating that the problem could potentially affect millions of

users.

The problem appears to stem from an update Microsoft released in November 2006, which contained new versions of some system files, as PCs which have not applied this update are unaffected.

Symantec has acknowledged the issue and is working on a solution, reports said - although there is no apparent mention of it on the company's Chinese website.

PC owners affected by the issue may be able to restore the missing files from their Windows XP installation CDs. However, since piracy of Windows XP is common in China, some users may not have access to these.

Newcastle United appoint Sam Allardyce

Newcastle United appointed Sam Allardyce as manager on May 15, following Glenn Roeder resignation on May 6.

Allardyce had turned the opportunity to manage Newcastle down when offered it in the past as he chose to stay on as manager of Bolton Wanderers. However, Allardyce's eight year stint as Bolton manager came to an end following his resignation on April 29, 2007. Allardyce cited that his need for a rest as well as his desire to win silverware was behind his decision.

When asked what made Newcastle a more likely destination for trophies than Bolton, he replied:

"Everything about it. The resources, the facilities, the fans, the amount of revenue that can be generated by a club of this size. No disrespect to Bolton, it is a club I love, but this club is massive in terms of what it can achieve."

British adventurer flies powered paraglider over Everest

British explorer and mountaineer Edward "Bear" Grylls, has set a new altitude record by piloting a powered paraglider above Mount Everest reaching 29,494ft (8,990m). He and his fellow pilot, Giles Cardozo, who had invented and developed the parajet engine, set out on their attempt from the Himalayan village of Pheriche (altitude 14,435ft (4,400m)) in the early morning of 14th May.

Grylls, 33, is a mountaineer, best selling author and television presenter who spent three years with the elite British Special Air Service ("SAS") forces. During this time he was involved in a horrific parachuting accident in which he broke his back in three places, almost severing his spinal cord. Remarkably, in 1998, after months of rehabilitation, he became at 23, the youngest British climber to scale Mount Everest and return alive.

Cardozo is considered to be one of the top paragliding pilots in the world, and it is reported that he and Grylls first came up with the idea for the attempt about a year ago when he had invented the engine that would take them up the mountain.

Grylls and Cardozo flew their paragliders together to 28,001ft (8,535m) surviving temperatures of minus 76°F (-60°C) and dangerously low oxygen levels, when a fault developed in

Cardozo's engine, and he had to abort his attempt just 984ft (300m) below the summit. Grylls went on to reach his record height at 09.33 local time. He had originally intended to cross the Mountain but turned back to base camp fearing that he might be arrested if he entered Chinese airspace.

On his return to Kathmandu, Grylls voiced his feelings of loneliness and exhilaration: "When Giles descended and I found myself alone so high up I was feeling a lot more vulnerable but I knew the weather and wind conditions were perfect. It was so amazing to look into Nepal, India and Tibet and all of a sudden these great Himalayan giants looked so tiny. It was a very special moment when I realised that there was no mountain in the world above me, especially after having stood on the top of the world myself nine years ago." — Bear Grylls, BBC online

The attempt was sponsored by British technology and engineering group GKN. The project, GKN Mission Everest, raised £500,000 (approximately \$1m) for Global Angels, a charity helping children in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In a separate incident, a German paragliding champion has survived being sucked up by a storm to a height of 32,612ft (9,940m) whilst preparing for a world paragliding championship in Manila, New South Wales, Australia.

Ewa Wisnierska, 35, the 2005 World Cup paragliding winner, lost consciousness and was covered in ice and battered by orange-sized hailstones as she was pulled upwards by the sudden tornado-like storm which she had been attempting to skirt. After regaining consciousness as she descended she was able to make contact with

her ground team which had been tracking her by her GPS equipment, and landed safely 40 miles (60km) from where she took off.

Remarkably she spent only an hour in hospital after her experience, being treated for frostbite and blistering to her face and ears.

A fellow competitor, 42 year old Chinese man, He Zhongpin, who was also caught up in the storm, was not so fortunate and died from lack of oxygen and the extreme cold.

War spending bill rejected by White House

The White House has rejected the proposed war spending bill today, citing its reason as any timetable on the war would undermine the nation's efforts in Iraq. The Democrats proposed a bill that would give President Bush \$124.2 billion dollars to fight the War in Iraq with a timetable for withdrawal that could be waived at anytime by Bush.

"The Democrats' commitment to bring this war to its responsible end has never been stronger" —Harry Reid

"To say I was disappointed in the meeting is an understatement," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada. "I really did expect that the president would accept some accountability for what we're trying to accomplish here."

Democrats criticize the Republican party for waiving a bill that would have an optional timetable. Republicans fired back saying that even with an optional timetable, it would show the Iraqi insurgents that American willpower was weak.

"It is clear that the difference between the president and

Democrats is accountability," said Pelosi, D-California. But ultimately, she later added, "Our troops will be funded."

House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio fired back with accusations that Democrats are seeking "an arbitrary surrender date" and saying that the Republicans have enough votes "to sustain the president's veto on any bill."

"The American people deserve to know that the Democrats' commitment to bring this war to its responsible end has never been stronger," said Reid. "And if enough of our Republican colleagues decide to join with us, even the President of the United States will have to listen."

The Democrats plan to have another bill on Bush's desk by Memorial Day. Pelosi remarked that this one will be widely supported by Congress.

Microsoft buys online ad firm Aquantive for \$6 billion

Microsoft have today paid \$6 billion (£3 billion) for the online marketing firm Aquantive. The takeover will pave the way for Microsoft to expand into the \$40 billion online advertising market currently dominated by Google and Yahoo!.

Kevin Johnson, the head of Microsoft's platforms and services division, said "This deal takes our advertising business to a new level" and follows the recent acquisitions by Google and Yahoo who bought DoubleClick for \$3.1 billion, and the remaining 80% of Right Media Exchange for \$680 million respectively.

Aquantive will remain at its base in Seattle with its current staff of around 2.600, but will work as part

of Microsoft's online operations.

The deal is expected to be completed by early 2008, subject to regulation.

700 new forms of life discovered in Antarctic sea

At first glance, the Weddell Sea in northwest Antarctica may not appear to be teeming with life. Far below the surface there, though, an international team of scientists together with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) reported finding at least 700 new species.

The new species identified include carnivorous sponges, free-swimming worms, and 674 species of isopod crustaceans and molluscs. The species were found at depths between 2,500 feet to 20,000 feet (750–6,350 meters). Isopods, one of the most diverse orders of crustaceans, accounts for 585 of the new species discovered.

"The Antarctic deep sea is potentially the cradle of life of the global marine species. Our research results challenge suggestions that the deep sea diversity in the Southern Ocean is poor. We now have a better understanding in the evolution of the marine species and how they can adapt to changes in climate and environments," said Angelika Brandt, a professor at the Zoological Institute and Zoological Museum, University of Hamburg and head researcher of the team who made the discovery.

The international team discovered the new species through three expeditions, between 2002 and 2005, with the research vessel Polarstern. The project was called the Antarctic benthic (the lowest level of the ocean) deep-sea biodiversity project (ANDEEP). At least 14 research groups joined the effort to map the biodiversity of the

sea-floor landscape, the continental slope and at different water depths.

"The isopods, ostracods (seed shrimp) and nematodes, which are poor dispersers, include many species currently known only from the Southern Ocean," the report says. The team's findings were published yesterday in the leading scientific journal Nature. The contributors were from the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, the United States, Russia and Switzerland.

Today in History

- 1536 - Anne Boleyn, the second wife and queen consort of Henry VIII of England, was beheaded for adultery at the Tower of London.
- 1643 - "The Great Condé" scored a decisive victory at the Battle of Rocroi in the Thirty Years' War.
- 1649 - The Rump Parliament passed an act to formally establish the Commonwealth of England.
- 1802 - The Légion d'honneur was first instituted by Napoléon Bonaparte, First Consul of the French Republic.
- 1922 - The Young Pioneer Organization of the Soviet Union was founded.
- May 19 is Armed Forces Day in the United States (2007); Youth and Sports Day in Turkey.

Quote of the Day

The prevailing tendency to regard all the marked distinctions of human character as innate, and in the main indelible, and to ignore the irresistible proofs that by far the greater part of those differences, whether between individuals, races, or sexes, are such as not only might but naturally would be produced by differences in circumstances, is one of the chief hindrances to the rational treatment of great social questions, and one of the greatest stumbling blocks to human

improvement.
~ John Stuart Mill

Word of the Day

sigmoid; adj

1. Curved in two directions, like the letter "S", or the Greek ς (sigma)

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