



Top Stories

Mourning ceremonies for earthquake begin throughout China

China has begun mourning ceremonies throughout the country and its diplomatic missions abroad. Flags were held at half-mast, a moment of silence was held for three minutes, and public entertainment has been suspended in memoriam of the now at least 34,000 victims of the earthquake, with officials expecting the toll to top 50,000.

Asbestos victims file 6.6 billion yen class action lawsuit in Tokyo

Construction workers and next of kin of deceased workers filed a lawsuit in Tokyo, Japan Friday seeking damages of approximately 6.6 billion yen (about US\$64 million) from the government and manufacturers related to illnesses stemming from exposure to asbestos. 178 plaintiffs; including construction workers and family members filed the suit in Tokyo District Court against 46 building manufacturers and the Government of Japan.

United States Senator Ted Kennedy rushed to the hospital

The Democratic senator from Massachusetts was rushed to a local hospital, and later flown to another, after reportedly suffering stroke-like symptoms, doctors later concluding he had two seizures.

HIV-positive man receives 35 years for spitting on Dallas police officer

An HIV-positive man was sentenced to 35 years in prison Wednesday, one day after being convicted of harassment of a public servant for spitting into the eye and open mouth of a Dallas, Texas police officer in May 2006. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that no one has ever contracted HIV from saliva, and a gay-rights and AIDS advocacy group called the sentence excessive.

Wikipedia Current Events

Suspected Sunni insurgents attack a minibus carrying police recruits near the border of Iraq and Syria killing 11 people.

- Edward Leigh's attempt to outlaw the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos in the United Kingdom is defeated by 336 votes to 176 in the British House of Commons.

- In *United States v. Williams*, the Supreme Court of the United States upholds a law making it a crime to send messages over the Internet offering or seeking child pornography even when no such pornography exists.

- A two-week conference in Dublin, aiming to create an international treaty banning cluster bombs, opens today.

- Some 6,000 people have fled a wave of attacks on foreigners in South Africa, which has left at

Wikipedia Current Events

least 13 dead, aid workers say.

- Xinhua reports that 200 relief workers trying to rescue people in the Sichuan earthquake have been buried in a mudslide.

- The People's Republic of China holds three minutes silence at 2:28 pm marking a week since the earthquake.

- A gunman kills eight people in Calamba City in the Philippines.

- Foreign Ministers of the member states of ASEAN including Nyan Win of Myanmar meet to discuss Cyclone Nargis.

Mourning ceremonies for earthquake begin throughout China

China began mourning ceremonies for the major earthquake that struck Sichuan a week ago throughout the country, including its major cities and diplomatic missions outside the country. The government's State Council previously ordered a three-day period of mourning starting Monday. All Chinese flags were also ordered to half-mast in China and its missions.

All public entertainment was ordered to be suspended, in addition to the Olympic torch relay being suspended by the Ningbo Organizing Committee for the same three days of mourning.

At 2:28 PM, exactly a week after the initial earthquake, people throughout China held three

minutes of silence with heads bowed, and government officials stood outside the government headquarters. Traffic came to a halt and horns were wailed in memoriam of the now at least 34,000 victims, with some officials reporting 50,000 likely dead. Afterwards in Tiananmen Square in Beijing and the provincial capital Chengdu, Sichuan, people held patriotic events with some shouting "Go! Go! China" in an attempt to boost national morale.

20 killed and over 40 missing as overcrowded bus crashes into Nepal river

20 people are confirmed to have died, 28 have been rescued injured and more than forty more are known to be missing after an overcrowded bus plunged into the Rapti River in a mountainous region of West Nepal. The 45-seater vehicle was carrying at least ninety when it skidded off a highway in Dang district, and many were trapped as the bus sank.

Police and rescue crews pulled some people out alive but do not believe there will be any more survivors. "The bus fell 100 metres off the road into the Rapti river. Thirty-two people have been rescued and are getting treatment at a nearby hospital," said local police officer Purna Gurung, although this disagrees with the Thaindian News, which states 28 were injured, and that just under half of these are hospitalised in a serious condition.

"We fear there may be bodies inside the bus and some may have been swept down the river... We are currently trying to lift the bus out of the river with a crane," he told reporters, adding that no cause has yet been established but it is known that no other vehicles

were involved. Search and rescue and recovery operations were hampered by the remote location of the disaster.

The bus was headed to a remote Hindu temple on a hilltop. At least 36 people are confirmed to be Indian nationals on a pilgrimage to the holy site.

Polish politician sentenced in sex scandal

A court in the central Polish city of Łódź on May 19 sentenced the first of three politicians accused in the sex-for-jobs scandal that helped bring down Poland's last coalition government. The verdict signals that there may be trouble ahead for two of the party's leaders who are also on trial.

Samoobrona (Self-Defence) rural protest party official Jacek Popecki was sentenced to 28 months in jail for giving a woman, who had accused his party's boss of fathering her child, drugs to induce a miscarriage.

In late 2006, Aneta Krawczyk accused the party's leader Andrzej Lepper of having offered her political favours for sex in 2001, and then said he had been the father of her youngest child. She said the same of Lepper's close collaborator and MP, Stanisław Łyżwiński, and accused him of rape and sexual abuse. She also said that Popecki, who had been Łyżwiński's aide, had tried to induce a miscarriage by giving her a labour-inducing drug called oxytocin.

Lepper and Łyżwiński both face up to eight and ten years in jail respectively if convicted on charges of extorting "favours of a sexual nature". Prosecutors had sought a four-year sentence for Popecki.

"The evidence given by [Krawczyk], which is largely backed up by testimony from two witnesses and phone bills as well as the behaviour of the accused after these events, points to [Popecki's] guilt," the court said on Monday.

Krawczyk's early testimony suffered when DNA tests showed that neither Lepper nor Łyżwiński had fathered her child. However, prosecutors had enough evidence from other women to push on with the investigation in what became known as the "sex for work" scandal.

Man remanded in custody after allegedly spraying urine on goods in Gloucestershire, UK

Sahnoun Daifallah, of White City, Gloucester, was today remanded in custody by Cheltenham magistrates after being arrested for spraying a "foul-smelling, brown substance" from a sports bottle. The liquid is thought to have contaminated food, books, wine bottles, and other items across several stores in Gloucestershire.

Mr Daifallah, the court was today told, committed the offences over multiple days. The attack on a Tesco supermarket, where frozen chips and wine bottles were contaminated with what Tesco claims to be a "mix of human urine, faeces, and domestic products" happened on Friday. He is also accused of a similar offence in a Morrisons supermarket 4 miles away on the same day. Two days previously, Mr Daifallah is accused of spraying the substance inside a pub near Cheltenham, contaminating food, and contaminating over 700 books in a Waterstone's bookstore in nearby Cirencester.

Mr Daifallah today confirmed that he was at the locations stated, however he indicated he will be pleading not guilty to the charges. He has been remanded in custody until May 28th, when he will appear before Stroud magistrates via videolink to be committed to Gloucester Crown Court - a decision made by magistrates after the estimated damage by the defendant was given at over £10,000, plus cleaning and replacement expenses.

Stench of rotting corpses drives Russian doomsday group from cave

The last remaining members of the Russian doomsday group True Russian Orthodox Church emerged from a cave outside Penza Friday, after enduring the toxic stench of rotting corpses from two deceased members of their group. Interfax quoted authorities who said that fumes from the corpses in the cave threatened the nine remaining members of the group with poisoning and intoxication. Members entered the cave in November 2007 under instruction from their leader Pyotr Kuznetsov, and were under the belief that the world was coming to an end in May of this year.

Thirty-five members of the group entered the underground cave, 650km (400 miles) south-east of Moscow, in November in order to wait for the end of the world. The group members threatened mass suicide by igniting gasoline canisters if authorities attempted to intervene and remove them.

When Russian Orthodox priests were brought in to negotiate in November, the group members refused to speak with them. The group's leader Kuznetsov, a trained engineer, instructed his

followers not to listen to the radio or watch television. True Orthodox Church is a splinter group of the Russian Orthodox Church. Members believe that bar codes are Satanic symbols and refuse to eat processed food.

In November Kuznetsov, 43, was arrested and charged with setting up a religious organization associated with violence. In March, Kuznetsov attempted to commit suicide by banging his head with a log, after the spiritual leader realized he was wrong about his prophecy of apocalypse. After undergoing a psychiatric evaluation, Kuznetsov was determined to be schizophrenic. "It was an attempted suicide. Pyotr put his head on a tree stump and started hitting his head with a log," said Oleg Melnichenko, deputy governor of the Penza region. According to local prosecutor Grigori Zhitenev, Kuznetsov attempted to commit suicide because "the end of the world has not come"

"We could smell the stench through ventilation holes. As we pulled out the dead bodies, we suggested the others leave and they agreed." —Vladimir Provotorov

When the roof collapsed approximately a month ago, 24 members including four children left the cave. A male member of the group who had previously left the cave told Russia Today TV that one female member died of malnutrition while fasting, and another female member died of cancer. Both of their bodies were buried in a hole in the cave. Emergency workers discovered the bodies while trying to shore up supports in the cave which previously underwent partial cave-ins due to melting snow. The

bodies of the two dead women were exhumed after the nine members of the group left the cave, and forensic tests were conducted on the bodies.

"We could smell the stench through ventilation holes. As we pulled out the dead bodies, we suggested the others leave and they agreed," said local official Vladimir Provotorov in a statement quoted by Interfax. Provotorov said authorities believed the remaining members of the group would be poisoned by the toxic fumes of the decomposing bodies of the two dead females. There was "a real threat of poisoning from toxic corpse fumes," said Provotorov. Oleg Melnichenko said the stench of the corpses drove the remaining members out of the cave. According to the International Herald Tribune, the Penza regional Prosecutor General's Office confirmed the Interfax report.

"We are examining the bodies to see if we will open a criminal case." —Tatyana Ostrovskaya

A physician is examining the eight women and one man that emerged from the cave on Friday, and prosecutor's office spokeswoman Tatyana Ostrovskaya said authorities are in the process of deciding whether or not to pursue criminal charges related to the two dead women. "We are examining the bodies to see if we will open a criminal case," said Ostrovskaya. The majority of the members of the True Russian Orthodox Church still believe that the world will soon end, and await the apocalypse in the village of Nikolskoye in a cottage owned by their leader Kuznetsov.

Tickets for soccer match sell out in 20 minutes

Tickets for Bristol City fans to watch the upcoming league one play off final sold out in only 20 minutes on Saturday, when they were made available online at 09:00 local time (08:00 UTC)

Today in History

325 – The First Council of Nicaea, the first ecumenical council of the Christian Church, was formally opened in present-day Iznik, Turkey to resolve disagreements in the Church of Alexandria over the nature of Jesus in relationship to God the Father.

1498 – Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama arrived at Calicut, India, opening up trade with the Far East directly by sea.

1570 – The first modern atlas, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* by cartographer Abraham Ortelius, was issued.

1873 – Clothing manufacturer Levi Strauss and tailor Jacob Davis were granted a patent for using copper rivets to strengthen the pockets of denim overalls, paving the way for their business Levi Strauss & Co. to start manufacturing their first line of blue jeans.

2002 – East Timor became the first new sovereign state of the twenty-first century after Indonesia relinquished control of the territory.

May 20 is Vesak (Buddhism, 2008); National Day in Cameroon; Independence Day in East Timor

Quote of the Day

The peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is, that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth: if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the

clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error.

~ John Stuart Mill

Word of the Day

inundate v

1. To cover with large amounts of water; to flood.
2. To overwhelm.

About Wikinews

For more information about Wikinews Print Edition visit: <http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Wikinews:Print>

About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.

Got news and no computer? Call the Wikinews Hotline

+1-866-653-4265
(toll-free in the U.S.)
+1-202-742-5918
(outside the U.S.)
+44-871-218-6397
(U.K. / Europe)

License

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Articles published in this Print edition were created by Wikinewsies. Other content released under the GNU Free Documentation License.

To view a copy of the CC-BY license, visit:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>

or send a letter to

Creative Commons
543 Howard Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California, 94105, USA

To view a copy of the GFDL, visit:

<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>

Wikipedia Current Events

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Current_events

Today in History

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Quote of the Day

http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page

Word of the Day

http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page

About Wikinews Print Edition