



Top Stories



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Featured story

Hackers attack Church of Scientology website

Wikinews has learned that according to an Internet posting made just over 24 hours ago, the Church of Scientology's website is being attacked by hackers, causing the site to shut down. Traffic to the Scientology website had already increased 18-fold prior to the attack, following increased attention after the Tom Cruise video appeared on the Internet.

Wikipedia Current Events

A Turkish court bans YouTube for the second time because of clips deemed disrespectful to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

- An Israeli TecSAR spy satellite is launched aboard an Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.
- President of Venezuela Hugo Chavez disallows the exportation of agricultural goods and promises to nationalize any farm that does.

•Stock markets in Asia and Europe fall between 4 to 7.5% amid growing fears of a U.S. recession fueled by the 2007 subprime mortgage financial crisis.

•North American Markets: U.S. markets are closed for Martin Luther King Day. Stock futures are down, with March contracts on the Dow Jones Industrial Average trading 482 points lower to 11,624. S&P 500 futures are also down 55 points to 1,270.10 and Nasdaq 100 futures are down 72.25 points to 1,777.25. The Toronto Stock Exchange loses over 500 points during morning trading at 12,233.

•European Markets: The French CAC 40 index is down 5% to €4,837.40, the German DAX 30 index is down 6% to €6,879.17, and the U.K.'s FTSE 100 index is down 3.6% to £5,691.90.

•Asian Markets: The Indian Sensex was down 1,408.35 points, or 7.4%, to 17,605.35, tumbling a record 11% down at

Wikipedia Current Events

one point in the day. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended the day down 5.5% at 23,818.86. Japan's Nikkei fell 3.9% to 13,436.94.

- A gas explosion at an illegal mine in Shanxi, China kills at least 20.
- Former Liberian warlord Joshua Milton Blahyi confesses that he is responsible for at least 20,000 deaths during the First Liberian Civil War.

Martin Luther King day commemorated by US citizens

Today is Martin Luther King day in the USA. The day has been commemorated by many people including US president George Bush. In a visit to the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Mr Bush said that he believed "Martin Luther King is a towering figure in the history [of the USA]." Barack Obama also marked the event by delivering a speech from the church which is seen by many to be the place where King became a prominent figure in the politics of the US.

New York:

The message of Dr. King was that everyone can be great because everyone can serve.
—Hanako Ikeno

An event in New York was organized that involved attempting to get thousand citizens to perform activities that were intended to help the community. Hanako Ikeno, who helped co-ordinate the

event said that this event was organized because she believed "that the message of Dr. King was that everyone can be great because everyone can serve."

George Bush:
Martin Luther King Day means two things to me.
—George W Bush

President George W. Bush attended the Martin Luther King Memorial Library and gave a speech to mark the event. Bush said that "Martin Luther King Day means two things to me. One is the opportunity to renew our deep desire for America to be a land of promise for everybody, a land of justice, and a land of opportunity. It's also an opportunity to serve our fellow citizens."

Later in the speech Bush continued, "Martin Luther King is a towering figure in the history of our country. And it is fitting that we honor his service and his courage and his vision. And today we're witnessing people doing just that by volunteering their time."

US Democratic party presidential candidates

Barack Obama, Hilary Clinton and John Edwards took part in a rally to commemorate Martin Luther King day.

It's not always easy to see past our differences, every day our politics fuels and explores these kinds of divisions. —Barack Obama

In the event Hilary Clinton asked the crowd to "Let us just take a moment to marvel at the progress we have made together." After saying that she added "But the work is far from finished, The dream is not fulfilled." The use of the word dream was widely

interpreted as reference to Martin Luther King.

Obama added to Clinton's speech by saying "It's not always easy to see past our differences, every day our politics fuels and explores these kinds of divisions."

John Edwards said that "All three of us [Democratic presidential candidates] are on the journey with you on the march to justice and equality."

US Republican party presidential candidates

The great civil rights issue of our time, is making sure our inner-city schools are up to the task.
—Mitt Romney

Mike Huckabee made a speech from a church that was near the former home of Martin Luther King.

Mitt Romney also discussed Martin Luther King and civil rights. In his speech he stated that he believed "the great civil rights issue of our time, is making sure our inner-city schools are up to the task." He added that he believed inner-city schools fail in "too many ways."

Widening rift between Islam, West: Gallup poll

A poll of people in twenty-one Western and Muslim countries, surveyed by Gallup for World Economic Forum, suggests that most people believe there are widening divisions between the Islamic and the Western world.

The survey also finds that increased interaction with the Muslim world is perceived as a threat by 60% of many European countries, but not so in Israel or America. This belief is strongest among respondents from Denmark. Additionally, the report

found that in Muslim and non-Muslim majority nations, there tends to be a wide-spread belief that the "other side" is not committed to improving relations.

World stocks plunge on fears on US recession

Stock prices dropped sharply in Europe and Asia Monday, with fears of economic problems in the United States causing some of the biggest single-day losses in recent years.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index fell 5.5 percent - its biggest fall since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Losses of between three and seven percent were recorded in India, China, Britain, France, Germany and Canada.

While there are many factors linking national economies, analysts blame recent losses on fears of a recession in the United States.

The United States is the main export market for many overseas businesses. Foreign investors also have bought large stakes in U.S. companies.

When American home loan companies began reporting large numbers of defaulting loans in late 2007, the losses spread to other financial institutions, tightening credit markets and sparking worries about Americans' high levels of debt.

Last week, President Bush proposed a \$145 billion stimulus plan to encourage more consumer spending. But analysts say the measure may not be able to prevent a recession - defined as a broad decline in a nation's economy over a period of at least six months.

U.S. markets are closed for a national holiday Monday, but stock futures trading indicates further losses are expected when markets reopen Tuesday.

Israeli spy satellite launched by Indian rocket

Israel has today launched an advanced spy satellite, named TecSAR, into orbit on board India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle. The PSLV successfully launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at 3:45 am GMT today, with a successful cast off from the launch rocket at around 4:05 am GMT. Israel Aerospace Industries report that the first signals were received 80 minutes after the launch, present at which were both Israeli and Indian space engineers.

The launch was delayed several times for unclear reasons. At one point, it was rumoured that the launch had been cancelled completely due to pressure from the US Government. Indian and Israeli authorities denied this, however, citing technical problems instead.

The satellite, also referred to as Polaris, is equipped with the latest in spy technology, including Synthetic aperture radar, which can be used to provide details information on ground cover. The BBC also reports "enhanced footage technology" - which allows Israel to receive video and images at any time of day or night, and under any weather conditions. Israeli defence officials have said that the satellites main purpose is to track events in Iran, the countries' number one foe. The events that they wish to track include the Iranian nuclear programme, as well as military happenings in Iran and Syria.

The satellite is capable of a

maximum resolution of 10 centimetres, of which the first images will be available in "a few weeks." Development of the satellite has been quoted as "tens of millions of dollars" - and India is benefiting from a major boost in the commercialisation of the countries' 45 year old space program - which hopes to compete with the US, Russia, China, the Ukraine and the European Space Agency in the satellite launch service field.

Nikolić wins first round of Serbian presidential election

Tomislav Nikolić has won the first round of the Serbian presidential election with nearly 40% of the vote, according to election officials. Incumbent Boris Tadić came in second with 35% of the votes. The two will face each other in a runoff election on February 3.

Coming in third was Velimir Ilić with about 7%, followed by Milutin Mrkonjić with about 6%.

Tadic, a member of the Democratic Party, has pro-Western attitudes and supports Serbian membership in the European Union. Nikolić, leader of the Serbian Radical Party, supports closer ties with Russia, Serbia's historical ally. Both candidates are against Kosovan independence, which has been a major issue in the election.

"One thing is certain: This will be the tightest election ever in Serbia and the winner won't be known until the last second," said Marko Blagojevic of Belgrade's Centre for Free Elections and Democracy, a vote monitoring group.

There was a record 61% voter turnout in the first round of the election.

Results

According to the Republican Electoral Commission, after 98.68% votes counted:

- Tomislav Nikolić - 39.96%
- Boris Tadić - 35.41%
- Velimir Ilić - 7.41%
- Milutin Mrkonjić - 5.97%
- Čedomir Jovanović - 5.35%
- Ištvan Pastor - 2.27%
- Milanka Karić - 0.98%
- Marijan Rističević - 0.46%
- Jugoslav Dobričanin - 0.29%

Obituaries

Luis de Cazenave, French WWI veteran, 110

France lost one of its last surviving World War I veterans on Sunday with the death of Louis de Cazenave. Born in 1897, de Cazenave was part of the fifth Senegalese battalion, actively serving from December 1916 until the following September, including the ill-fated Second Battle of the Aisne.

Lazare Ponticelli has become the last known surviving WW I veteran from France.

Duilio Loi, Italian boxer, 78

Duilio Loi, who won World Boxing Association junior welterweight championships in the early 1960s, died at Treviso, Italy on Saturday. He had sustained Alzheimer's disease in recent years.

James LeVoy Sorenson, American medical inventor, 86

James LeVoy Sorenson, a Utah-based philanthropist and medical inventor, died of cancer on Sunday. His estimated \$4.5 billion wealth was believed to be the highest in that American state. His inventions included one of the earliest computer-automated heart monitoring devices. His charitable work included the establishment of the Sorensen Legacy Foundation

which supported a variety of educational, religious and medical places and programs.

[Frances Lewine, American journalist, 86](#)

American journalist Frances Lewine, who served as White House Correspondent for the Associated Press, died Saturday due to a suspected stroke. She was with AP from 1956 until 1977, and became an editor and producer for CNN during its earliest years.

[Andy Palacio, Belizean musician, 47](#)

Andy Palacio, a musician who sung in the Garifuna language, died in Belize City Saturday following heart failure and stroke. With his band, The Garifuna Collective, the UNESCO Artist for Peace promoted the Garifuna culture and language internationally.

[Suzanne Pleshette, American actress, 70](#)

Suzanne Pleshette, known for her regular role on The Bob Newhart Show and in the Alfred Hitchcock film The Birds, died Saturday of respiratory failure in Los Angeles. In 2006, she was treated for lung cancer.

[Eugene Sawyer, Chicago Mayor, 73](#)

Eugene Sawyer, who served as Mayor of Chicago from 1987 to 1989, died Saturday after suffering numerous strokes in recent days.

[John Stewart, Kingston Trio musician, 68](#)

Musician John Stewart, part of The Kingston Trio and author of The Monkees hit song "Daydream Believer", died Saturday following an apparent major stroke on Thursday.

[Don Wittman, Canadian sports broadcaster, 71](#)

Veteran Canadian sportscaster Don Wittman died Saturday in Winnipeg following a battle with cancer. Since joining CBC in 1961, Wittman participated in the Olympics broadcasts, Hockey Night in Canada, and the Grey Cup football matches, among other events.

Today in History

565 – Justinian the Great deposed Eutychius, Patriarch of Constantinople, after he refused the Byzantine Emperor's order to adopt the tenets of the Aphetartodocetae, a sect of Monophysites.

1863 – The January Uprising, the longest Polish, Belarusian and Lithuanian uprising against the Russian Empire, broke out, originally as a spontaneous protest by young Poles against conscription into the Russian Army.

1879 – Anglo-Zulu War: In the greatest British military defeat at the hands of native forces in history, Zulu forces of King Cetshwayo fought to a pyrrhic victory at the Battle of Isandlwana in Isandlwana, South Africa.

1901 – After holding the title Prince of Wales for six decades, King Edward VII ascended to the British throne, replacing Queen Victoria whose death ended her reign that lasted 63 years and seven months, longer than any other British monarch.

1973 – The U.S. Supreme Court delivered its landmark legal decision in Roe v. Wade, striking down laws restricting abortion during the first six to seven months of pregnancy.

January 22 is Tu Bishvat (Judaism, 2008).

Quote of the Day

Word of the Day

genueflect v

- To bend the knee, as in servitude or worship; grove.

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