



Top Stories

Bush, Brown threaten further sanctions against Iran

U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown have promised new sanctions on Iran if the Gulf country continues to enrich weapons-grade uranium.



Harrier jet crashes in Rutland, England, pilot survives

A Royal Air Force pilot has safely ejected from his Harrier aircraft moments before it crashed in a field near the small village of Ashwell, Rutland in England.



Credit: Adambro

(CC-BY 3.0)

Al Gore endorses Obama for US President

Environmental activist and former Vice-President Al Gore today announced his support for Democratic candidate Barack Obama in the United States presidential election. He believes that Obama is the candidate who will "bring change to America" in issues such as the Iraq War, the American economy, and climate change.



SPECIAL REPORT

Residents fear environmental hazard on site of partially collapsed building in Buffalo, New York

In an exclusive report, Wikinews has learned a partially collapsed livery in Buffalo was converted to a gasoline station in the 1950's. As a result, four large fuel tanks were installed on the property and residents are concerned that they are posing an environmental hazard.



Credit: Jason Safoutin (CC-BY 2.5)

Wikipedia Current Events

of four young girls in 1988 and 1989. He was hanged with two others, each convicted in separate, unrelated murders.

- In the aftermath of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, the Chinese government faces growing criticism from grieving parents who allege that corrupt and shoddy construction was behind the disproportionate high number of collapsed school buildings.
- Lebanese security officials say that clashes between pro-government and anti-government lead to three deaths in the villages of Taalabaya and Saadnayeel in eastern Lebanon.

Wikipedia Current Events

President Nicolas Sarkozy announces that France intends to return to the military structure of NATO for the first time since Charles de Gaulle led it out of the organisation in 1966.

- A military judge dismisses charges against a United States Marine Corps colonel of failing to investigate the Haditha killings.
- A car bomb at a bus stop in northern Baghdad kills at least 51 people and injures another 75.
- In its annual report, the UNHCR says the number of refugees in the world rose to 11.4 million in 2007 from 9.9m in 2006.
- Tsutomu Miyazaki, known as "The Otaku Murderer", is executed by hanging in Tokyo for the murders and cannibalization

- The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions calls a one day strike for July 2 in protest at the President of South Korea Lee Myung-bak's economic reform plans.
- Summer 2008 China region floods: Large areas of southern China are hit by the worst floods in decades with Guangzhou and Shenzhen worst affected. So far, 63 people have died and 1.66 million have been evacuated.

Over 50 dead after Iraq bombing

A bombing in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad has killed 51 people, according to local police. The car bomb exploded near a bus stop in the Hurriya area, which is mainly populated with Shia Muslims. 75 people were also wounded by the attack.

This bombing, which set over twenty shops alight, has a higher death toll than any other bombing in Baghdad over the last three months.

The attack follows an effort by the Iraqi and US forces to increase the security situation in Iraq, which has suffered many attacks since the 2003 invasion by coalition forces.

US Midwest floods raise concerns about water quality

In the Midwestern United States, floodwaters contaminated with a toxic brew containing such ingredients as sewage, farm runoff, and petroleum are raising concerns over the availability of clean drinking water.

Flooding has been reported in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas and Indiana, with three deaths reported each in Iowa and Indiana, prompting comparisons to similar floods in 1993 that caused US\$21 billion in damages. The flooding in Iowa has resulted in damage to buildings, infrastructure and farms, and governor Chet Culver's office has estimate that 36,000 people have been made homeless.

Residents of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who had begun returning to their homes to inspect damage and salvage belongings, wade through ankle-deep water that has picked up refuse from farms, sewage, and other noxious chemicals. LeRoy Rippert, chairman of emergency management and homeland security in Des Moines County, was concerned for residents, saying "It is very, very wise to stay out of it. It's as dangerous as anything". Experts in biology and medicine also raised concerns over the floodwater contaminating rural wells and providing breeding

grounds for mosquitos. "For rural folks, it's going to be hard to know if their water's safe or not," said G. Richard Olds, chairman of the Medical College of Wisconsin. Ken Sharp, environmental health director for the Iowa Department of Public Health, acknowledged the risks of the contaminated water, but suggested that the sheer volume of water may help to dilute the pollution.

June has seen a number of disasters hit the Midwest, including a tornado that killed four Boy Scouts last week.

Gov. Bobby Jindal supports creationism as part of 'the very best science'

Governor Bobby Jindal, a Republican politician from the U.S. state of Louisiana, appeared on CBS's Face the Nation on Sunday and said he supports teaching intelligent design (ID) in public school as "the very best science." Jindal, who was elected governor in 2007, is a Hindu convert to Catholicism who takes the Bible literally.

In his exchange on the Sunday morning talk show, "Some want only to teach intelligent design, some only want to teach evolution. I think both views are wrong, as a parent." This was the not the first time he has publicly supported intelligent design. In a September 2007 debate he supported the view of creationism saying, "Personally, it certainly makes sense to me that when you look at creation, you would believe in a creator."

In contrast, the scientific community considers creationism, including intelligent design, to be pseudoscience. Whereas, evolution is overwhelmingly accepted by scientists as the "central unifying

concept" for modern biology. According to the National Academy of Sciences, "creation science is in fact not science and should not be presented as such."

Such ideas were underlined in 2005 when John E. Jones III, a federal judge appointed by George W. Bush, ruled in *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District* that ID is not science and "the religious nature of ID would be readily apparent to an objective observer, adult or child" (page 24). Noting the tie between ID and creationism, "The evidence at trial demonstrates that ID is nothing less than the progeny of creationism" (page 31).

Recently, the Louisiana House of Representatives passed legislation, which the National Center for Science Education said "opens the door to creationism in public school science classes." The bill is currently on his desk.

Jindal is currently considered a possible Vice President candidate for John McCain's U.S. Presidential campaign.

West Australian Premier addresses gas crisis in televised broadcast

Western Australian Premier Alan Carpenter made a two-minute broadcast on all televisions and radio stations over the gas crisis. The crisis began after a major fire at the Vanarus Island refinery operated by Apache Corporation reduced the available natural gas by 30%.

During the broadcast which was recorded earlier in the day Premier Carpenter said, "this is a serious situation which affects us all."

"While the state government has the power to guarantee gas

supplies to essential services and households, some industries and businesses have been hit hard."

"A number of them are being forced to scale back operations and others have temporarily closed."

The Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry predicts that up to 15% of companies will be forced into temporary shut down. A representative from the Property Council of WA, which represents commercial property owners, has said that "we are going to have to get used to cold offices and dimly lit shopping centres"

Western Power today released figures showing that the power consumption has reduced since the crisis started. They said that the daily usage reduction of 40-50 megawatts was a moderate saving, that consumers could do much more.

Australian growth forecast reduced to 2.7%

Australian economic growth forecast for 2008/09 has been reduced to 2.75% as the impact of the gas crisis ripples through the economy.

Federal Resources Minister Martin Ferguson said today that disruption to economic activity is expected as Western Australian companies layoff thousands of workers with mining and industrial companies forced to cut back production.

BHP Billiton has brought forward upgrades to its nickel refinery in Kambalda and diverted its gas allocation to keeping the Worsley Alumina refinery operating. The upgrade originally scheduled for mid 2009 is expect to take four

months to complete. BHP has said that it will continue to accept ore from independent mining operators in the area inline with current contracts.

Economists expect continuing turbulence as mining companies come under pressure to continue to supply China's demand for materials from Western Australia, combined with growing inflation rising gold and commodity prices.

Bush, Brown threaten further sanctions against Iran

U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown have promised new sanctions on Iran if the Gulf country continues to enrich weapons-grade uranium.

At a joint press conference in London today, Brown announced that "today we will urge Europe - and Europe will agree - to take further sanctions against Iran." Britain is pressuring the European Union to freeze the overseas assets of Iran's Bank Melli, which the United States accuses of supporting Iran's missile programs. European Union spokesperson Cristina Gallach says that Europe is prepared to take action.

Iran denies its enrichment program is aimed at the creation of nuclear weapons, insisting that they will use the technology to generate electricity. In response, Brown announced that during weekend negotiations, "we put our enhanced offer on the table - including political and economic partnership and help with nuclear technology for civilian use. We await the Iranian response and will do everything possible to maintain the dialogue."

In response to the announcement,

Iran has withdrawn approximately \$75 billion of its European foreign assets. "Part of Iran's assets in European banks have been converted to gold and shares" said Iranian deputy foreign minister Mohsen Talaie, "and another part has been transferred to Asian banks." The Iranian government gauges its foreign exchange reserves at \$80 billion.

Today in History

618 – Lǐ Yuān became Emperor Gaozu of Tang, initiating three centuries of the Tang Dynasty's rule over China.

1815 – War of the Seventh Coalition: Napoléon Bonaparte fought and lost his final battle, the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium.

1858 – Charles Darwin received a manuscript by fellow naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace on evolution, which prompted Darwin to publish his theory.

1940 – World War II: Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Free French Forces, made an appeal to the French people following the fall of France to Nazi Germany, rallying them to support the Resistance.

1983 – Aboard Space Shuttle Challenger, astronaut Sally Ride became the first American woman in space, and the third one overall after Soviet cosmonauts Valentina Tereshkova and Svetlana

Savitskaya.

June 18 is Autistic Pride Day

Quote of the Day

Nothing except a battle lost can be half so melancholy as a battle won.

~ Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington

Word of the Day

askance adv

1. Sideways; obliquely.
2. (of a look or glance) With disapproval, skepticism, or suspicion.

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

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Quote of the Day

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

Word of the Day

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

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