



Top Stories

Ma Ying-jeou wins 2008 Taiwan presidential election

Ma Ying-jeou, former Mayor of Taipei, has been elected as the new President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) with a landslide victory of 58.45% of the popular vote.

Major US presidential candidates have passport files breached

Just hours after firing two contract employees for inappropriately examining the passport file of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Hillary Clinton that her passport file was also breached. John McCain, the Republican candidate for president, also had his file breached.

Banned film 'The Profit' appears on Web

Copies of The Profit, a 2001 film blocked from distribution in the United States due to a court injunction by the Church of Scientology, appeared on the Internet Friday on peer-to-peer file-sharing websites and on the video sharing site YouTube.

Cheney meets with Israeli and Palestinian leaders

United States Vice President Dick Cheney met with the leaders as part of a tour of the Middle East which is part of a plan to get a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinian by the end of Bush's term in January 2009.

Wikipedia Current Events

Farouk Abdulhak, prime suspect in the murder of Martine Vik Magnussen, turns up in Yemen.

- Kimi Räikkönen (Finland) wins the Malaysian Grand Prix in Sepang.

- An agreement on talks to resolve the Fatah-Hamas conflict is reached in Sanaa, Yemen.

Cheney meets with Israeli and Palestinian leaders

United States Vice President Dick Cheney met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders on Sunday. Cheney met with Israeli President Shimon Peres and Primer Minister Ehud Olmert and their Palestinian counterparts, the moderate President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad as part of a tour of the Middle East.

"Terror and rockets do not merely kill innocent civilians, they also kill the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people." —U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney

Cheney told Palestinians that continuing violence against ill damage efforts for a Palestinian

state. Cheney noted "Terror and rockets do not merely kill innocent civilians, they also kill the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people."

The Vice President remarked he is committed towards a Palestinian state, quoting President George W. Bush, "The establishment of the state of Palestine is long overdue. The Palestinian people deserve it." Cheney also noted that "Achieving that vision will require tremendous effort at the negotiating table and painful concessions on both sides."

Abbas condemned rocket attacks against Israel from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, but also told Israel to ease their restrictions on Palestinians. He also noted that Israel needs to stop building settlements within the West Bank. Abbas noted that, "Peace and stability will not be achieved through a settlement expansion, or the setting up of checkpoints around towns and villages, and the military escalation against Gaza, nor the incursions, continuous incursions into West Bank villages and towns."

Cheney met earlier in the day with Shimon Peres, the Israeli president. Both men spoke of Iran, with Peres noting upfront that Iran and their leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wants to "build their two satellites -- the Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Hamas in Gaza ... Nobody can console us and say that the declarations of Ahmadinejad are less serious than they are; we have to take it

seriously, out of experience."

Cheney noted that the Bush administration is pledged to the peace process and also referenced Iran but not directly, "We're obviously dedicated to doing all we can as an administration to try to move the peace process forward, and also obviously actively involved in dealing with the threats that we see emerging in the region -- not only threats to Israel, but threats to the United States, as well."

Cheney met with Prime Minister Olmert on Saturday and told Olmert that, "The United States will never pressure Israel to take steps that threaten its security." He also told Olmert that the United States backs Israel's right to defend itself from Hamas rocket attacks but that America was also working for a peace deal between Israel and the moderate Fatah-controlled Palestinian government in the West Bank.

Abbas lost control of the Gaza Strip to the rival Hamas party last year. Abbas, who is the leader of the more moderate Fatah party currently runs the Palestinian government located in the West Bank, the other Palestinian territory.

2007/08 FA Premier League: Chelsea 2 - 1 Arsenal

There were no goals in the first half of the game, with the first goal, which was for Arsenal, being scored in the 59th minute from a corner taken by Francesc Fabregas. The goal was scored by Bacary Sagna.

The second goal was scored for Chelsea by Didier Drogba in the 73rd minute of the match. The ball

was shot into the bottom-right of the goal. Drogba was booked one minute after the match for "unsporting behavior."

The final was also scored by Drogba, with this goal being nine minutes after his previous goal. This time the ball was shot into the bottom-left hand corner of the goal.

2007/08 FA Premier League: Manchester United 3 - 0 Liverpool

English football club Manchester United has beat Liverpool 3-0, making it 6 points clear at the top of the table. The match, which started at 13:30 local time featured several bookings and a red card for Javier Mascherano (Liverpool).

The half time score was 1-0 to Manchester United, with the other two goals being scored in the second half. The goal, scored by Wes Brown, was headed into the goal after a cross by Wayne Rooney.

The second goal was scored by Cristiano Ronaldo, was also scored through a header, although this goal was scored seconds after a shot by the same player.

The third and final goal was scored by Luis Nani, just two minutes after the goal by Ronaldo. The goal was shot into the left hand side of the goal.

Kimi Räikkönen wins 2008 Malaysian Grand Prix

Ferrari driver Kimi Räikkönen won the FIA Formula One 2008 Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit, Sepang, Selangor, Malaysia. Both

Ferrari drivers, started from the front row of the grid, confidently facing up to their McLaren rivals, but the pole-sitter Felipe Massa first lost his place to Kimi and then went out because of a driving error.

Robert Kubica from BMW Sauber placed second, trailing Räikkönen by a considerable margin.

McLaren Mercedes drivers took the second row in qualification, but Heikki Kovalainen and Lewis Hamilton were penalized five places yesterday for impeding Nick Heidfeld (BMW Sauber) and Fernando Alonso (Renault).

Kovalainen regained his lost places and finished on the last step of the podium, third. Toyota driver Jarno Trulli did his best to hold Hamilton behind and finished fourth.

Heidfeld comfortably finished six. Alonso pushed hard on Mark Webber (Red Bull-Renault) but was unable to pass him and closed the top eight. David Coulthard, the cause of the Friday investigation by FIA stewards of RBR suspension failure, finished after Alonso. Jenson Button won the tenth place for Honda. Rookie driver Nelson Piquet Jr. had a first time finish in 11th place for Renault.

Giancarlo Fisichella showed progress with Force India team, beating the second Honda of Rubens Barrichello, both Williams', and Super Aguri.

Suspect in Madeleine McCann case Robert Murat has confiscated possessions returned

Possessions that were previously seized by the Portuguese police from Robert Murat have been returned to him, despite the fact that he is still an official suspect in

the case of the disappearance of three-year-old British girl Madeleine McCann. Murat described the return of the objects as "a very positive sign." The only others to be announced as official suspects (Portuguese: *arguido*) are Madeleine's parents Gerry and Kate McCann.

He continued, "Why would they return something if it was in the middle of being investigated in any way, shape or form? We are very happy to have the computers back, and I hope I will have my *arguido* status dropped very shortly."

Madeleine McCann disappeared from the Portuguese resort of Praia da Luz in May last year. At the time of the disappearance friends and family of Murat claimed that it was impossible for him to be guilty of abducting Madeleine. His uncle described him as "so sweet and good-natured," while his cousin stated that there was "absolutely no way" he had committed the crime.

The McCann family are still appealing for information regarding the whereabouts of their daughter. On their official website an appeal reads, "Madeleine is a beautiful little person. She was a very happy and much loved little girl. We believe there is a very good chance that Madeleine is still alive. She deserves the love and security of her family. She needs to be back home with her mummy and daddy, brother and sister."

Banned film 'The Profit' appears on Web

Copies of *The Profit*, a 2001 film blocked from distribution in the United States due to a court injunction won by the Church of Scientology, appeared on the Internet Friday on peer-to-peer

file-sharing websites and on the video sharing site YouTube.

Directed by former film executive Peter N. Alexander, the movie has been characterized by critics as a parody of Scientology and of its founder L. Ron Hubbard. Alexander was a Scientologist for twenty years, and left the organization in 1997. The film was funded by Bob Minton, a former critic of Scientology who later signed an agreement with the Church of Scientology and has attempted to stop distribution of the film. Alexander has stated that the movie is based on his research into cults, and when asked by the *St. Petersburg Times* about parallels to Scientology and L. Ron Hubbard said: "I'll let you draw that conclusion ... I say it's entirely fictional."

The film was released in August 2001, and was shown at a movie theatre in Clearwater, Florida and at a premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in France. A Scientology spokesman gave a statement at the time saying "the movie is fiction and has nothing to do with Scientology". The Church of Scientology later took legal action in an attempt to stop further distribution of the film. The Church of Scientology claimed that the film was intended to influence the jury pool in the wrongful death case of Scientologist Lisa McPherson, who died under Scientology care in Clearwater, Florida.

In April 2002, a Pinellas County, Florida judge issued a court order enjoining *The Profit* from worldwide distribution for an indefinite period. According to the original court injunction received by Wikinews, the movie was originally banned because the court found that it could be seen

as a parody of Scientology. In his April 20, 2002 ruling on the injunction, Judge Robert E. Beach of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court in Pinellas County, Florida wrote: "...an average person viewing the film entitled *The Profit* could perceive that it is a parody of the Church of Scientology".

"To the extent that any person considered as a potential juror in evaluating any issues involving the Church of Scientology, the process of voir dire provides a fair and complete remedy to eliminate any potential juror that may possibly have been influenced to be less than fair and impartial," added Beach.

Luke Lirot, the attorney for the film's production company, announced on the film's website on April 7, 2007 that "We have absolutely no exposure for any repercussions from the court order," but that the film was still blocked from distribution due to an ongoing legal battle. Lirot wrote: "all that's stopping the release of the movie is the legal battle with the partner who was compromised by Scientology (Robert Minton) and is currently using his power as partner to stop the release of the film."

In an October 2007 article, *The Times* described the film as "banned in the US because of a lawsuit taken out against it by The Church of Scientology," and Russ Kick's *The Disinformation Book of Lists* included the film in his "List of 16 Movies Banned in the U.S.". An 8-minute teaser segment from *The Profit* appeared on the film's website and on the video sharing site YouTube in February 2008, and an attorney representing Bob Minton sent a letter to Luke Lirot requesting that the film clip be taken down. In a response letter,

Lirof wrote that "Rather than damage any asset of the LLC, the short clip merely keeps the film in the public eye, and in a positive way."

On Friday, copies of the film began to circulate on peer-to-peer file-sharing websites and on YouTube. A link related to the film's appearance on the Internet on the community-based link aggregator website Digg.com had 3,638 "Diggs" - and hit the front page of the site's Entertainment section on Saturday.

"I had nothing to do with this release at all. But I'm happy it's out there." —Mark Bunker

On Saturday, Scientology critic and Emmy award-winning journalist Mark Bunker put a streaming version of the film on his website, www.xenutv.com, and encouraged others to watch and discuss the film on a real-time chat channel. In a video posting to YouTube Saturday, Bunker said "I did not do it. I had nothing to do with it ... I had nothing to do with this release at all. But I'm happy it's out there ... people are finally having a chance to see it. A lot of people have been curious over the years and there's been a lot of interest in seeing the film, so finally you can."

"We have all wanted to see this movie that scientology kept hidden away from us. We have all wondered just how damning could this story be that we were banned from watching it." —Blogsreel

On the newsgroup alt.religion.scientology, a poster by the username "Alexia Death" commented on the film's appearance on the Internet in the context of censorship: "It is out! And so it is a WIN if many people

review it even if they say it SUCKS! ... Being bad is no cause to allow censorship ... And being censored is no cause to assume its good". A post to the blog Blogsreel commented: "We have all wanted to see this movie that scientology kept hidden away from us. We have all wondered just how damning could this story be that we were banned from watching it."

In a post on Sunday to the message board attached to the official website for the film, attorney Luke Lirot asked that individuals stop distributing copies of *The Profit* over the Internet. Lirot wrote: "It has been brought to my attention that several unauthorized transmissions and downloads of this protected work have taken place over the last 72 hours. Such actions are copyright violations and are unlawful. I request that any further distribution and/or dissemination of this important work cease immediately and any copies of the work that have been downloaded please be deleted." In his statement, Lirot recognized the rights of individuals under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, but also said that unauthorized distribution of the film "will only serve to harm the goal of vast distribution".

Blog postings have attributed the film's appearance on the Internet as part of the anti-Scientology movement Project Chanology organized by the Internet-based group Anonymous, but this has not been confirmed. Wikinews previously reported on international protests against Scientology which took place as part of Project Chanology on February 10 and March 15. A third international protest by Anonymous is scheduled for April 12. Titled "Operation Reconnect",

the third international protest will focus on highlighting Scientology's practice of disconnection.

Random drive-by shooting kills 7, injures 16 in Baghdad

At least seven people have died and sixteen more are injured after gunman in three cars attacked pedestrians at a market in Baghdad, Iraq, apparently at random. An anonymous official told Xinhua that the attack in Baghdad's religiously diverse Zaafariniya neighbourhood left several seriously enough wounded that the death toll may rise.

Drive-by shootings have become rare in the capital since recent crackdowns on militants. However, attacks do still continue. Other recent attacks include a bombing on a Mogul army base that left ten dead and a series of rocket attacks on Baghdad residences and the Green Zone, leaving no known casualties as yet but striking several sensitive foreign targets.

India tests nuclear capable Agni-I surface-to-air missile

India has conducted a successful test of its Agni-I surface-to-air missile, a 700km (435 mile) range missile capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads up to a weight of 1,000kg. It was fired across the Bay of Bengal from a mobile launcher on a range on a nearby island at 10:15 am.

India and neighbour Pakistan have regularly tested missiles since 2002, and both have nuclear technology. The Agni-I has been tested previously. "The missile had a textbook performance in terms of range, accuracy and lethality," said a statement by the military.

Today in History

1603 – King James VI of Scotland acceded to the throne of England

and Ireland, unifying the crowns of the three kingdoms for the first time.

1882 – German physician Robert Koch announced the discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a bacterium that causes tuberculosis.

1976 – Dirty War: President Isabel Perón of Argentina was kidnapped and deposed in a bloodless coup d'état.

1989 – The tanker Exxon Valdez spilled more than 10 million gallons of oil into Prince William Sound, Alaska, causing one of the most devastating man-made environmental disasters at sea.

1999 – Kosovo War: NATO launched air strikes against Yugoslavia, marking the first time NATO has attacked a sovereign country.

March 24 is Easter Monday in Western Christianity (2008); World Tuberculosis Day

Quote of the Day

I do not want art for a few, any more than education for a few, or freedom for a few.
~ William Morris

Word of the Day

impart v

1. To give a part or share.
2. To communicate the knowledge of; to make known; to disclose.

About Wikinews

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