



Top Stories

Prisoners escape from Afghan jail after Taliban attack

Most of the prisoners kept in the Kandahar jail have escaped after the building was attacked by a Taliban suicide bomber. The bomber attacked the main gate of the prison. Officials have confirmed that at least two guards died as a result of the incident.



UK drivers urged not to panic buy during delivery strikes

British drivers have been urged not to panic buy fuel because of the 4 day walk out by delivery drivers working for companies delivering to Shell petrol stations. Shell admitted that the walk out could leave some of its 1,000 forecourts without fuel.

Senior intelligence official suspended after leaving top secret files on train

A senior intelligence official in the United Kingdom has been suspended from his job pending an investigation into top secret documents that were left on a commuter train on Tuesday. The Cabinet Office confirmed that the documents, including reports on Al-Qaeda and Iraqi security forces, had been found on the train and handed in to the offices of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), who turned the files in to police.

ORIGINAL REPORT

Surprise demolition of partially collapsed building in Buffalo, New York met with opposition

Wikinews has learned that, in a surprising turn of events, the city of Buffalo located in New York, has ordered and begun an emergency demolition on a three story 19th century stable which partially collapsed on Wednesday June 11 causing at least five homes to be evacuated. Residents are not happy, and despite the short notice of the demolition, nearly 30 people showed up to protest it.



Credit: DragonFire1024 (CC-BY 2.5)

Wikipedia Current Events

The Chamber of Deputies of Haiti rejects Robert Manuel, who was the second nominee for the post of prime minister after the incumbent resigned in April 2008.

- The Taliban attacks a prison in Kandahar resulting in almost all of the 1150 prisoners escaping.
- A Zimbabwe judge orders the police to bring Tendai Biti, the arrested Secretary-General of the Movement for Democratic Change to court on Saturday.
- Kim Jong-hoon, the South Korean Minister for Trade, heads to the United States to push for additional safeguards against mad cow disease in talks with Susan Schwab, the United States

Wikipedia Current Events

Trade Representative as protests continue in South Korea over the decision to resume importing beef from the United States.

- The Governor of Iowa Chet Culver declares that 83 of the 99 counties in Iowa are disaster areas as flooding leads to evacuations in Cedar Rapids and Des Moines.

Politician's remarks overshadow Canada's historical apology to natives

A long-awaited apology from the Canadian government to the country's native population was overshadowed on Wednesday by remarks made by Canadian Member of Parliament (MP) Pierre Poilievre. The government had announced that the historic statement was to take place on Wednesday, June 11, but prior to the actual apology, Poilievre spoke on a noon-hour radio program and made remarks that were 'hurtful' to natives, as the MP later admitted.

The apology, which took place as planned, involved Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper offering his regrets, on behalf of the government, for decades of racial discrimination towards natives in residential schools. These schools were operated during the 19th and 20th centuries by churches and funded by a branch of the federal government. The First Nations native children in the residential school system were forced to assimilate into non-native culture,

were at times victims of physical and/or sexual abuse, and were exposed to poor sanitation and a lack of medical care.

Unfortunately, Poilievre's remarks caused more media attention than did the apology itself. In the radio show, the MP expressed his doubts about the value of compensating natives for what happened in residential schools. Natives are being given a cash settlement as part of the government's recognition of the schools' wrongdoings.

"Now, along with this apology, comes another \$4 billion in compensation for those who partook in the residential schools over those years," Poilievre remarked. Many have pointed to his casual use of the word partook in his statement, which was not the case for many students, who were forced into the system.

The Conservative MP has now apologised for his comments. Yesterday, in the Canadian House of Commons, he spoke: "Yesterday on a day when the House and all Canadians were celebrating a new beginning, I made remarks that were hurtful and wrong." He added, "I accept responsibility for them and I apologize."

While Harper has tried to mitigate the situation by explaining that Poilievre has apologised to national aboriginal groups, the Liberal opposition party is calling the MP a "national embarrassment".

There have been repeated calls for the MP to step down from his position. Liberal leader Stéphane Dion suspects that other Conservatives think similarly, asking, "who of the others think like him?"

EBay Australia's PayPal only policy blocked

eBay's PayPal and cash on delivery policy was blocked on Friday by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) after it released a draft ruling citing that it was an "anti-competitive effect" and calling on eBay to postpone its policy which is due to take effect next week.

ACCC's final ruling is still pending however it is unusual for the ACCC to reverse draft rulings once issued.

In a statement eBay said that it was "disappointed" by the ruling and that "eBay believes the consumer benefits of this initiative are worth fighting for on behalf of its buyers which will ultimately benefit sellers."

Prisoners escape from Afghan jail after Taliban attack

Almost all the prisoners kept in Kandahar jail have escaped after the building was attacked by a Taliban militants. Police have reported that "a suicide attacker drove his way into the main gate of the prison, it was very strong and destroyed the gate and two sides of the surrounding wall." About 350 militants participated in the attack, and 15 guards were killed, while about 1000 prisoners escaped.

The Taliban used a combination of two suicide bombers and roughly 30 other militants on motorcycles with rockets and small-arms to attack the prison. The suicide bombers destroyed the main gate to the prison, as well as a wall. Afterwards, the other militants engaged in a massive gun attack on the prison guards, allowing prisoners to escape

A state of emergency has been

declared throughout Kandahar province, as large number of both Afghan and NATO forces have been deployed to track down the escaped prisoners.

Australian airline to increase airfares

Australian airline Virgin Blue plans to increase its fares, making for an average additional A\$5-10 charge to most airfares. The airline will also cease its Sydney to Prosperine route in July 2008 and Melbourne to Darwin route in August 2008 in order to cut costs due to the airline's rising fuel bill.

Virgin Blue's fuel costs have risen above A\$500 million, which is up 21 per cent as compared to the last financial year. The cut backs will also see 4 of the airline's aircraft removed from its fleet and an immediate wage freeze to all management staff.

Virgin Blue CEO Brett Godfrey said that the move was part of a A\$50 million package of cost savings and capacity cuts.

Gas leak kills six and injures 28 at Chinese fertiliser factory

A hydrogen sulphide leak at a fertiliser factory in China has left six people dead and a further 28 ill. The poisonous gas escaped the Anning Qitian Chemical Fertiliser Co. plant in Kunmin, Yunnan's provincial capital.

The leak occurred yesterday but was only reported today. The injured received treatment and are said to be in a stable condition. The factory belonged to the Anning Qitian Chemical Fertiliser Company.

The leak has now been contained. It is not thought to have had an environmental effect.

China's industries have a poor safety record, with coal mines having the worst, suffering 3,800 deaths last year according to government statistics. The government also said that 101,480 people died last year in road and industrial accidents, and although no further elaboration was given, it is thought a fifth of them were due to industrial accidents.

Report finds LOT Airlines plane was lost over London due to pilot error

A final report by the United Kingdom's Aviation Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) has found that a LOT Polish Airlines airliner became lost over London airspace due to pilot error. After a navigational system failed due to a mistake entering the jet's position the plane struggled to return to London Heathrow under Air Traffic Control's guidance as the Polish pilots struggled to understand English.

LOT Flight 282, a Boeing 737, was carrying 89 passengers bound for Warsaw, but ran into trouble immediately after takeoff because the co-pilot entered an Easterly longitude instead of a Westerly one. The error occurred because Heathrow is just to the West of the nearby Prime Meridian Line.

The navigational equipment was unable to function properly and shut down as a result, forcing the pilots to rely on ATC instructions. The pilot-in-command handled radio communications while the co-pilot flew the aircraft. However, the aircraft wandered lost around the surrounding airspace for the next 27 minutes because the pilots had such a poor grasp of English.

The pilots, who still had some standby instruments functioning, were unable to follow the

instructions and several times the aircraft was turned in the exact opposite direction to that commanded by ATC. A full transcript of communications between the plane and the controllers shows at one point ATC was forced to ask "At what heading do you think you are flying at the moment?"

"An incident like this demonstrates how reliant pilots have become on the Flight Management System."
—AAIB report

The jet also forced another aircraft to take evasive action after triggering a Short Term Conflict Alert. At the end of the emergency, the crew finally made visual contact with the runway at Heathrow and landed safely.

The pilots had no idea what caused the instrument failure and suggested it may be mobile phone interference but testing revealed no anomalies with the aircraft systems. The report found that "A fairly simple error...went undetected and led to a serious incident."

It went on to say that "An incident like this demonstrates how reliant pilots have become on the Flight Management System." The FMS is a central semi-automated control system that handles navigation and positioning, amongst other duties.

The report also says that the close proximity of all London's airports to the Meridian Line "can lead crews to make such co-ordinate entry errors of this nature," and that as LOT rarely uses airports to the West of the line they will usually only deal with Easterly co-ordinates.

Criticism is also levelled at ATC,

who the report says should have been quicker to realise the serious nature of the problems on board the aircraft. The entity running the control tower says they intend to use this incident for training purposes.

Tim Russert, NBC News "Meet the Press" moderator dies at age 58

NBC News' Washington bureau chief, senior vice president and the moderator of Meet the Press Tim Russert has died today after a sudden heart attack at NBC's Washington news bureau. He was rushed to Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., where resuscitation efforts failed.

Russert was recording voiceovers for Meet the Press when he collapsed. Russert and his family had recently returned from Italy after celebrating his son Luke's graduation from Boston College. He is survived by his wife Maureen Orth, son Luke, and father, who he knew fondly as "Big Russ", as illustrated in his best selling book, "Big Russ and Me."

A Buffalo, New York native, Russert graduated from John Carroll University and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law before entering politics. He was also a member of the bar in New York and Washington, D.C.

Russert entered politics as former New York Governor Mario Cuomo's press secretary and was the chief of staff to former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Russert joined NBC News in 1984, directed broadcasts of the Today program, and went on to lead NBC News broadcasts from South America, Australia and China in 1986 and 1987.

He took over the role as Meet the

Press, a Sunday morning talk show, in 1991. His 16 1/2 years as moderator exceeded those of other hosts of the sixty year old public affairs show. His tenure in the position extended over the terms of three different U.S. presidents, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. Time named him one of the world's one-hundred most influential people in 2008.

Russert was a very meritorious journalist, winning an Emmy Award for his coverage of the funeral of President Ronald Reagan. A very decorated journalist, Russert received forty-eight honorary doctorates and was a member of the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame.

Picasso prints stolen from Brazilian museum

Four paintings were stolen in broad daylight from a branch of the Pinacoteca Museum located in São Paulo, Brazil. In this, the second high-scale art robbery in São Paulo in less than a year, the three armed robbers overpowered three unarmed museum guards before walking out with the paintings, frames and all, in two large bags.

The combined value of the four paintings has been put between US\$568,400 and \$612,000. The paintings were Pablo Picasso's "The Painter and the Model" and "Minotaur, Drinker and Women", both insured at \$4,200, and two paintings by Emiliano Di Cavalcanti, "Women at the Window" insured at \$500,000 and "Couple" insured at \$60,000. All works stolen were owned by the Jose and Paulina Nemirovsky Foundation.

This comes just several months after a December 20 robbery in

Sao Paulo in which another Picasso painting, as well as a painting by Candido Portinari, were stolen after-hours. The paintings were recovered January 8.

Ireland rejects EU Lisbon Treaty

A referendum in Ireland proposing the country's ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon has been rejected by the electorate despite near universal support from the country's political establishment.

Although in most states the issue has been (or will be) decided through parliamentary vote, Ireland was obliged to hold a referendum by its constitution. Ireland is the first state to reject the treaty which came about as a reworking of the E.U. Constitution, rejected by referenda in France and the Netherlands in 2005.

862,415 cast their vote against the treaty and 752,451 people voted for it, yielding a 53.4% to 46.6% margin of defeat. All 43 constituencies have been counted.

"It looks like this will be a No vote," Dermot Ahern, the Irish Minister for Justice said on live television. "At the end of the day, for a myriad of reasons, the people have spoken."

"The Treaty is not dead," said European Commission President José Manuel Barroso. "The ratification process is made up of 27 national processes, 18 Member States have already approved the Treaty, and the European Commission believes that the remaining ratifications should continue to take their course," he said.

"Ireland remains committed to a strong Europe," said Barroso after speaking with Taoiseach (prime

minister) Brian Cowen. "Ratifications should continue to take their course."

France and Germany issued a joint statement expressing regret over the result. The United Kingdom said it would continue with its own ratification process.

UK drivers urged not to panic buy during delivery strikes

British drivers have been urged not to panic buy fuel because of the 4-day walkout by delivery drivers working for companies delivering to Shell petrol stations. The 600 workers have walked out over pay disagreements, wanting an increase to their current pay of £36,500, however their union Unite turned down a last-minute offer of £41,500.

Hoyer UK, which employs tanker drivers for Shell, said, "We extended our offer to the very limits that our business could sustain." However Unite said in a press release that, "this dispute could have been resolved if Shell had advanced a fraction of the billions of pounds in profit they make every month", continuing to say, "one of the world's richest companies is prepared to play Pontius Pilate and see the British public inconvenienced rather than settle this dispute for a sum smaller than the chairman's pay increase last year"

Shell admitted that the walkout could leave some of its 1,000 forecourts without fuel, but the UK Petrol Industry Association, which represent oil refiners, said that forecourts would have around 4 days of supply, maintaining usual stocking levels. Shell also commented that the strike impact would be "significant", as the company runs around 1 in 10 of all petrol stations in the UK.

British Business Secretary, John Hutton, said that "the strike, which will have a disproportionate effect on people in Britain, cannot be justified," and urged both sides to resume negotiations in order to settle the dispute. "We have been working closely with industry to put in place detailed contingency plans to reduce as far as possible the disruption for the driving public," he added. Unite's press release also confirms that "provision has been made for fire, police and the emergency services."

Tanker drivers on strike have set up picket lines at many of Shell's UK refineries, including those in Stanlow, Avonmouth, Plymouth, Pembroke, Cardiff, Kingsbury, Basildon, Grangemouth, Aberdeen, Inverness, Jarrow and Luton Airport.

Security tightened at Singapore courts after two attempts to escape

Following a failed escape attempt on Wednesday at the detention facilities of the Subordinate Courts of Singapore, security has been increased.

At 1:45 a.m., Jamaluddin Salam, 32, and Salman Abu Samah, 28, tried to escape from the basement lock-up by requesting water. An officer opened the cell gate to fulfill the request, which is a breach of procedure; he should have merely passed water through a hole in the cell door. The prisoners took advantage of the open gate and overpowered the officer, violently punching and kicking him to the ground before heading to the gates at the lock-up's exit, pressing a buzzer to inform the officer at the control room to unlock the gates. The officer did not check the security camera monitor to see who was at

the gates before unlocking it, constituting another breach of procedure.

Following their successful exit from the lock-up, the duo used the lift just past the exit gates to reach the fourth floor of the facility, forcing open a locked door and going down a stairwell to reach the ground floor.

Within 10 minutes of the escape, the duo was spotted at the ground floor. The alarm was raised and officers were deployed to seal off all exits. Near the facility's main entrance, Salman tripped and was quickly subdued. Jamaluddin made his way to the back entrance, but found it locked. He then doubled back to the front and dashed out of the facility. An officer tripped him with his baton about 100m outside of the facility.

The attempted escape came barely four months after terrorist-fugitive Mas Selamat Kastari fled the Whitley Road Detention Centre. Failure to observe procedures on the part of his minders was also a reason for that escape.

The two men were brought from Queenstown Remand Prison to the Subordinate Courts for bail purposes. Jamaluddin was facing six counts of robbery with hurt and drug charges, while Salman had three charges of robbery with hurt. Both cases are unrelated. Bail was set at \$30,000 for Jamaluddin and \$20,000 for Salman.

Police revealed yesterday that Jamaluddin and Salman were not the only inmates in the cell. It has not been revealed how many inmates were in the cell but it is known that they stayed put during the escape attempt.

In a statement, police said they

have been upgrading the lock-up area since 2003, adding extra security grilles and enhancing the CCTV system.

A security audit of all lock-ups was conducted in March. The following month, a working group was set-up to look specifically into the security of the Subordinate Courts lock-up facilities.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is now investigating the circumstances of the attempted escape to see if any officers were negligent.

Due to the escape attempt, security at the facility has been tightened to prevent a similar incident from happening. New security measures include an extra lock fixed onto the lock-up exit gates so that another officer will need to check who is leaving the area when it is unlocked. The elevator has also been secured and can only be activated with a key.

Jamaluddin and Salman are now likely to face a barrage of charges including vandalism, police battery and escaping from legal custody.

UK shadow home secretary resigns over terror law

Following yesterday's vote in the Houses of Parliament to allow UK authorities to detain suspects for up to 42 days without charge, the UK's Shadow Home Secretary Conservative MP David Davis has resigned. A by-election is to be fought in his seat of Haltemprice and Howden.

The move which was described as "a complete surprise" was announced to reporters outside Downing Street after the Speaker of the House refused to let the well known politician announce it in

Westminster. The 59 year-old MP is well known in politics and had led the opposition against labour plans to extend detention length limits for suspected terrorists.

Davis has said that he will stand as a candidate in the by-election, which he claims he will use to promote civil liberties, saying "I will argue in this by-election against the slow strangulation of fundamental British freedoms by this government." He also said the move was a "noble endeavour" to address British civil liberties. The Liberal Democrats will not contest the by election, and their leader, Nick Clegg, met Mr. Davis. Nick Clegg's Liberal Democrats voted against 42 day detention as did the Conservatives. The controversial bill was passed by only 9 votes.

Tory leader David Cameron, who had previously run against Davis in the race for election as the Conservative leader, said: "It was a personal decision, a decision he has made".

Senior intelligence official suspended after leaving top secret files on train

A senior intelligence official in the United Kingdom has been suspended from his job pending an investigation into top secret documents that were left on a commuter train on Tuesday. The Cabinet Office confirmed that the documents, including reports on Al-Qaeda and Iraqi security forces, had been found on the train and handed in to the offices of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), who turned the files in to police.

According to the BBC, one of the documents, a seven-page report entitled "Al-Qaeda Vulnerabilities", was classified "UK Top Secret" and

had every page numbered and labelled "for UK/US/Canadian and Australian eyes only". The other document, "Iraqi Security Forces: More or Less Challenged?", had been commissioned by the Ministry of Defence, which the BBC's security correspondent, Frank Gardner, described as being "damning" in parts. Both were produced by the Joint Intelligence Committee, a government organisation designed to present information from several British intelligence services to ministers and senior officials.

The person believed to be responsible for the breach works for the Cabinet Office's intelligence and security unit, which contributes to the Joint Intelligence Committee. He had authority to take classified documents out of the Cabinet Office, under strict security procedures. The Metropolitan Police are investigating the incident, which the Conservative Party's security spokeswoman, Dame Pauline Neville-Jones called "the latest in a long line of serious breaches of security involving either the loss of data, documents or Government laptops".

The Cabinet Office's admission of the breach came on the same day the UK government voted on a resolution allowing authorities to detain terror suspects for up to 42 days without charge.

Partially collapsed building in Buffalo, New York likely to be demolished

Buffalo, New York – Reports say that a large three-story stable which partially collapsed in Buffalo, New York on June 11, and caused as many as five homes to be evacuated, is likely to be demolished.

During the early afternoon hours on June 11, the Buffalo Fire Department was called to 428 Jersey Avenue after residents called 911 stating that part of the building had collapsed. Material from the building fell into the yards of at least three neighboring houses. Some of the bricks landed inside the building, while some fell into the yards of some houses behind homes on Richmond Avenue, leaving a 'V' shape.

The city's preservation board held an emergency meeting today to discuss the issue. Wikinews has learned that the owner of the building, Bob Freudenheim, gave the city permission to demolish the building because he would not be "rehabilitating the building anytime soon." Freudenheim was part-owner of the Hotel Lenox at 140 North Street in Buffalo and was also an advocate to stop the Elmwood Village Hotel from being built on the corners of Forest and Elmwood Avenues in 2006 and 2007, which Wikinews extensively covered. He also financially supported a lawsuit in an attempt to stop the hotel from being built. Though it is not known exactly how long Freudenheim has owned the stable, Wikinews has learned that he was the owner while fighting to stop the hotel from being built.

Freudenheim has been facing housing violations due to the poor conditions of the building.

"We had a letter of violation against him. He was supposed to have started work to stabilize the brick this Monday. We all hope this building could be saved. But we've got five houses evacuated and we cannot tolerate any further delay. We've got to get people back into their homes in a safe condition," said Richard Tobe, Commissioner

of the city's Permit and Inspection Services.

Demolition on the building is expected to begin next week, but area residents are not happy and say they will fight to keep the building in place.

"They're going to have to trash our backyard to do it. So I hope they have to have our permission, because we're not going to give it lightly. I'm sure it's the biggest and architecturally significant livery stable still standing. I can't see any reason to take it down just because of one hole," stated Joe Murray, a resident on Richmond and Jersey who lives behind the collapsed portion of the building.

Mike Lombardo, the Commissioner for the Buffalo Fire Department, believes that the building was built in 1812 or 1814, making it nearly 200 years old. It is one of only three stables still standing in the city.

If the building is to be demolished, Freudenheim will end up paying the city nearly US\$300,000 to get the job done.

2008 DRAMeXchange Compuforum: Global DRAM market to be changed majorly
Seminars and forums always played key roles to forecast the future of ICT industry world-wide after the COMPUTEX became more and more critical for businesspeople. Not only e21FORUM, the DRAMeXchange Compuforum was progressively respected by DRAM industry since 2006.

Since the mobile devices have become popular in the presence, the supply of DRAM modules is still inadequate to meet the demand.

"The abandonment of 12-inch fabs and the suspension of 8-inch fabs are considered critical issues in this incident. If the Mainland China wants to enlarge its market stably, the supply chain and costs of material should be cautioned." stated DRAMeXchange Technology.

Mass storage devices with high capacity often linked with enterprises. With innovations of information technology, capacity of USB flash drives and mobile drives are larger and larger. "Capacity, costs of production, prices, and efficiency on writing and reading are critical factors to determine an user on choosing SSDs, hard disks, or flash drives." stated Hitach Corp.. "The market shares on storage will transform from enterprises to digital storage with a significant grown-up of Internet users within four years." stated Seagate Technology.

Wikipedia Current Events
<p>The upper Mississippi River is closed to shipping as three people die in Indiana and three in Iowa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Nouri al-Maliki, the Prime Minister of Iraq, states talks with the United States on a long-term security agreement have reached "a dead end". •A hydrogen sulfide leak at a fertiliser plant in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province in China, kills six people and injures 28. •At least 40 people are injured on Sagar Island in the Ganges delta in clashes between supporters of the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and local Muslim villagers. •Finance ministers from the Group of Eight meet in Osaka, Japan with rising food and oil prices high on the Agenda.

Wikipedia Current Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pakistani lawyers hold a protest rally in Islamabad to demand the reinstatement of judges sacked by the President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf. •The People's Republic of China and Taiwan agree to regular civil aviation flights across the Taiwan Strait for the first time since 1949 with flights limited to weekend charters. •Irish voters reject the Treaty of Lisbon in a referendum, thus putting into question the reform programme of the European Union.

Today in History

1777 – The Second Continental Congress adopted the stars and stripes design for the flag of the United States.

1807 – In the last major battle in the War of the Fourth Coalition, the French decisively defeated the Russians at the Battle of Friedland near present-day Pravdinsk, Russia.

1822 – Charles Babbage proposed a difference engine in a paper to the Royal Astronomical Society.

1846 – Settlers in the Town of Sonoma began a rebellion against Mexico, proclaiming the California Republic.

1982 – Argentine forces surrendered to the British, ending the Falklands War.

1985 – A group with alleged links to Hezbollah hijacked TWA Flight 847 shortly after take-off from Athens.

June 14 is Liberation Day in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; Flag Day in the United States

Quote of the Day
True love ennobles and dignifies the material labors of life; and

homely services rendered for
love's sake have in them a poetry
that is immortal.
~ Harriet Beecher Stowe

Word of the Day

yammer v

1. To complain peevishly.
2. To talk loudly; to make an outcry.

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