



Top Stories

G8 finance ministers agree on deal to relieve debts of 18 poorest nations

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Report finds FBI missed multiple chances to stop 9/11

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US Congress House panel OKs big cut in public broadcasting funds

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US air strikes kill approximately 40 people in Iraq

United States air-strikes have killed an estimated 40 suspected insurgents in western Iraq on Saturday, the US military has said. "Seven precision-guided U.S. air strikes on the outskirts of the town of Karabilah killed the insurgents who were stopping vehicles at gunpoint and threatening Iraqi civilians", said a US military statement.

The military have said that their were no US casualties and said that they have not received reports of civillian casualties and also noted it was not immediately possible to confirm the insurgent casualty figures independently.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that a former Iraqi police commander blew himself up in a failed bid to assassinate the leader of the anti-insurgent "Wolf Brigade" in Baghdad, killing three other policemen in the attempt.

BSkyB faces challenge in securing Premiership rights

BSkyB, the UK television broadcasting and transmission company, faces a serious rival bid from Setanta Sports for the rights to broadcast Premiership football. BSkyB, which dominates the satillite TV market, has held the rights to the broadcast Premier League games since 1992. They paid £1.02bn for its current three year contract.

Setanta has approached the managing director of BSkyB, Trevor East, with the intention of luring him to Setanta to lead the acquisition of sports rights. Mr East, who's contract runs out soon, has not yet made a decision, but should he decide to sign a contract with the Irish station, it would be a massive boost to their ambitions.

Setanta initially started out by broadcasting GAA games to Irish people living abroad particularly in the US. Today, backed by an investment by AIG, it is pursueing an ambitious plan to grow its business - it currently broadcasts the Scottish Premier League and earlier this week it bought control of North American Sports Network. North American Sports Network broadcasts baseball, NFL football, basketball and Nascar motor racing outside the US. Also in the planning stages is a European sports station for the the US market.

Irish inflation creeps upwards to 2.4%

The inflation rate in Ireland, as measured by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), edged upwards to hit a five month high in May at 2.4%. This repersents a 0.2% rise on the previous month when the rate stood at 2.2%.

The major contributors to the rise were increased transportation, healthcare, and education costs. In April the EU25 average rate of inflation was 2.1%, with Latvia having the highest rate at 7.1% and Sweden the lowest at 0.4%.

Despite the increase in the rate, Irish inflation remains very low - having hit 7% during 2000 and remaining around the 5% until the beginning of 2003. Another major factor easing any worries about the increase is Irelands very strong GDP growth - expected to be around 5.5% this year

On an annual basis the cost of footwear and clothing have fallen by 2.7% whilst energy costs have soared by 10.4%. The cost of food, furniture, and communications also fell over the last 12 months.

The Consumer Price Index is made up of over 55,000 prices consisting of 613

Wikipedia Current Events

- The G8 announces the cancellation of the multilateral debt of the eighteen poorest countries of the World.
- 2005 Atlantic hurricane season: Tropical Storm Arlene makes landfall near Pensacola, Florida. One death has been reported thus far.

headings which cover over 1,000 different items.

This article contains first-hand journalism by a Wikinews Reporter.

Glazer caps Manchester United's player transfer spending at £25m a year

The intentions of Manchester United's new owner, US sports tycoon Malcolm Glazer, for the club have been revealed. Although spokespersons for Mr. Glazer (including his son) have stressed that nothing has been finalised, it appears that he intends to raise ticket prices, income, profits whilst capping spending on player transfers.

Mr. Glazer - who owns over 76.2% of the clubs shares through his investment company, Red Football - enraged fans when he started to accumulate shares earlier this year in an attempt to gain control of the what amounts to the worlds most successful football club. Manchester United has more fans, a higher market value, a more valuable and more widely recognised brand and is more profitable than any other football club in the world.

To gain control of the club, Glazer used borrowed money and he is set to transfer this money to the club's books when he gains full control. The borrowed money will result in large interest repayments - pushing the clubs finances into the red. To counter this Mr. Glazer apparently intends to raise ticket prices by about 50% and to increase revenues by 52% to £245.6m (from £161.5m this year) over the next five years. Apart from ticket price increases, this jump in revenue will be achieved by a 61% jump in match day sales, a 13% increase in media sales, and a 76% rise in sales of merchandise and other commercial activities.

As part of his plans, expenditure on player transfers will be capped at just £25m a year. This is a very low figure for a English football club, seven years ago the club spent £28m on players, since then expenditure in England on players has increased hugely.

US teen missing in Aruba feared dead

Missing American teen Natalee Holloway, who vanished on the Dutch island of Aruba two weeks ago is feared to be dead today following a suspect's statement earlier this morning. The suspect, who is yet to be named, told police that "something bad happened" to the missing teen. Deputy Police Commissioner Gerold Dompig said that the suspect was leading police to a scene, where it is believed a major update to the case is to be found.

Two security guards were taken into police custody early last week: 28-year-old Abraham Jones and 30-year-old Mickey John. An additional three teenagers who were believed to be the last people who saw Holloway are now under custody. Among the three teenagers is 18-year-old Satish Kalpoe, 21-year-old Depak Kalpoe, and 17-year-old Joran Van Der Sloot, a friend of the brothers and son to a judge.

Anita Van Der Sloot, mother of suspect Jordan Van Der Sloot, told American news network CNN that her son stated to her that he was "innocent", and even offered to speak to Holloway's family. No announcement from police has yet confirmed the death of Holloway.

G8 finance ministers agree on deal to relieve debts of 18 poorest nations

The finance ministers of the G8, the world's eight richest countries, have agreed a deal to relieve the debts of 18 of the poorest countries in the world.

The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the African Development Fund will write off all of the money owed to them by the selected countries.

The countries are Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

The deal, devised by the United

Kingdom, aims to free up government revenue for domestic spending on things such as education and health services.

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Fund will write off all of the money owed to them by selected nations. A total of \$40bn will be cleared, which will save debt repayments of \$1.5bn a year.

Another twenty countries may become eligible to have their debts cleared if they meet targets for reducing corruption and better government.

Charities have said that the debts of 62 countries need to be cleared if the UN wants to meet its target of halving world poverty.

Fourteen of the countries to receive debt relief are in sub-Saharan Africa.

The alleviation of third world debt has been a lifelong ambition of Gordon Brown, the current UK chancellor, and he has used all of his political power and status to push for this agreement in the G8 group.

Report finds FBI missed multiple chances to stop 9/11

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) missed several opportunities to uncover and to possibly stop the September 11 terrorist attacks against the United States, a report has found.

The agency did not respond to leads and failed to follow up a theory that al-Qaeda was sending its members to US-based flight schools, it said. The report by the United States Department of Justice's Inspector General said that mistakes amounted to a "significant failure".

The conclusions indicated in the report are similar to others, drawn up after investigations into US intelligence performance in the months and years leading up to the events that occurred on September 11, 2001.

The report is a year old -- but is only being released after a legal battle involving lawyers for Zacarias Moussaoui, who has been convicted of an al-Qaeda plot against the United States, but is currently fighting a possible death penalty.

Firing of Michael Jackson spokeswoman disputed

Wrangling between musician Michael Jackson's legal and public relation teams may have yielded its first casualty. Jackson's official website, www.mjjsource.com [1], reports that Jackson's MJJ Productions has terminated spokeswoman Raymone Bain and public relations firm Davis, Bain, and Associates. On Wednesday, Bain held a press conference amidst a court-issued gag order where she implied was sanctioned by the Jackson legal team. The same day, Jackson's attorney Thomas Mesereau, Jr. released a court-approved terse message: "I have not authorized anyone to speak or hold any press conferences on behalf of Michael Jackson or his family."

Despite the www.mjjsource.com announcement, late Friday the Associated Press quotes Bain responding, "I have not been fired by Michael Jackson." Bain says she works directly for Jackson himself, not MJJ Productions.

The controversy occurs as Michael Jackson awaits a verdict on charges that he molested a teenage boy in 2003. On Friday, the jury completed its sixth day of deliberations. The twelve jurors will reconvene on Monday.

This article contains first-hand journalism by a Wikinews Reporter.

Fake Jackson suicide email hides virus

An e-mail virus affecting Microsoft Windows is currently making the rounds, trying to ensnare victims by claiming that pop-star Michael Jackson has attempted suicide.

The message itself hopes to catch people's attention, because of the huge

interest in his on-going child abuse trial. The fake message contains a web link that supposedly links to Mr Jackson's suicide note.

A security consultant from security firm Sophos says "That may not surprise people who think it might contain genuine breaking news about Michael Jackson," and that "The sick minds behind viruses and other malware often exploit celebrity names and news stories in an attempt to infect as many people as possible," said Ms Theriault.

She urged users to be very wary when opening e-mail attachments in unsolicited e-mail messages.

US Congress House panel OKs big cut in public broadcasting funds



A House subcommittee voted Thursday to sharply reduce the federal government's financial spending for Fiscal Year '06, including eliminating taxpayer funds that help produce such shows as Sesame Street and Arthur.

The spending cutbacks far exceeded even those requested by the White House. Among initiatives on the chopping block are \$39 million for conversion to digital programming and \$50 million for upgrading PBS's aging satellite technology.

The subcommittee also acted to eliminate federal money for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a body created by Congress to pass funds on to public broadcasters. The CPB would see a 25 percent reduction in next year's budget, down from \$400 million to \$300 million, funds that currently account for 14.9% of all public broadcasting revenues.

Ideological concerns over publicly-financed content have recently become a point of contention for the Republican-controlled CPB. The day after the new budget was approved, CNN obtained an internal memo by NPR's executive vice president Ken Stern that blamed the cuts on "recent public turbulence caused by CPB chairman Ken Tomlinson's irresponsible attacks on public broadcasting." Stern's memo also told staffers the cut would not hurt NPR directly because it receives little direct support from the CPB. Instead, he emphasized, smaller local stations that rely upon federal dollars are most likely to be affected, which could in turn take a bite out of regular dues and fees, NPR's largest revenue source.

Under the budget, the Ready to Learn program's \$23 million appropriation for children's shows is rescinded in its entirety. John Lawson, president of the Association of Public Television Stations, said the cut was retribution for an episode of "Postcards From Buster" featuring a pair of lesbian parents from Vermont. A spokesman for the Appropriations Committee, John Scofield, denied the claim.

"Ready to Learn was one of more than 50 programs terminated in the spending bill," he told the New York Times. "It might be a nice program to do, but not in a flat budget with large budget deficits. We felt the same way about 49 other programs."

Overall, the cuts would signal the most dramatic cutback of public broadcasting since Congress created the CPB in 1967. The spending bill is expected to pass the Appropriations Committee and the House, but final legislation will be negotiated with the Senate.

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Today in History
 1864 - Union General Ulysses S. Grant pulled his troops out of the Battle of Cold Harbor.
 1889 - The Armagh rail disaster killed 88 people near Armagh, Northern Ireland.
 1964 - Anti-Apartheid leader Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in prison by the South African government.
 1979 - A human-powered aircraft named Gossamer Albatross flew across the English Channel.
 1987 - U.S. President Ronald Reagan publicly challenged Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall.

June 12 is Independence Day in the Philippines (1898) and the Russian Federation (1990), Dia dos Namorados in Brazil

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