



*Top Stories*

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

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

**Lula's future in the hands of Brazilian Parliament**

The government of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is in a severe political crisis. The crisis began after the exposure of a series of scandals which involve the Workers' Party, the Brazilian ruling party.

**Mike Tyson set to retire after loss**

Mike Tyson's boxing career appears to be over after the infamous fighter became fatigued against his Irish opponent Saturday. Tyson later told the media he was quitting the sport to become a missionary.

**Iraqi police discover 20 bodies**

Decomposing bodies of twenty men have been found in a shallow grave in Nahrawan near Baghdad, Iraqi police officials report.

The men, who were aged between 20 and 50 were thought to have died quite some time ago. Police have not yet been able to identify the bodies, because of their actual physical state. And reports indicate that their was no identification found at the scene.

Correspondents for the UK news agency, the BBC say that their is an increasing number of unexplained murders in and also around Baghdad, with bodies frequently dumped on the side of the road.

**Pink Floyd will reunite to play London's Live 8**



Organizers of the upcoming London Live 8 concert have announced that legendary rock band Pink Floyd plans to perform on July 2. Guitarist David Gilmour, bassist Roger Waters, drummer Nick Mason, and keyboardist Richard Wright will play their first performance together since playing at Earls Court, London in 1981.

The band will come together, along with other musical acts such as Coldplay, Elton John, and Paul McCartney for this event. Live 8 is a series of free concerts at each of the G8 nations organized by Bob Geldof. These concerts, set on the 20th anniversary of Geldof's Live Aid, have been planned to support the Make

Poverty Happy campaign, which aims to reduce African poverty.

This lineup of Pink Floyd has not played together for 24 years due to a conflict between David Gilmour and Roger Waters over leadership and creative influence of the band. However, it seems that they are willing to put their differences behind to support Live 8; "Like most people I want to do everything I can to persuade the G8 leaders to make huge commitments to the relief of poverty and increased aid to the third world," said David Gilmour and added, "Any squabbles Roger and the band have had in the past are so petty in this context, and if reforming for this concert will help focus attention then it's got to be worthwhile."

**Fossett set to recreate first non-stop transatlantic flight**

American millionaire and adventurer Steve Fossett and his co-pilot Mark Rebholz are planning to recreate John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown's historic first non-stop transatlantic flight of 1919.

Following the original route, the pair hope to leave Lester's Field in Newfoundland, Canada next weekend and fly to Clifden on the west coast of Ireland. They intend to land at the Ballyconneely golf links near the Irish town. However, the date of departure, 19th June, is very much weather dependent because the pilots will be relying solely on the sun and stars for direction — no instruments are being used for navigation.

The trip, which will be completely in a replica Vickers Vimy, will take approximately 20 hours to complete. The Vickers Vimy was originally designed as a World War One bomber. This particular plane has already been used to recreate

*Wikipedia Current Events*

- Mike Tyson has announced he will retire from boxing. Wikinews
- French journalist Florence Aubenas and her Iraqi interpreter Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi have been freed after five months of captivity in Iraq.
- 28 bodies, believed to mainly be Sunni Arabs, have been found in Baghdad sidestreets.
- Four US Soldiers die from two roadside bombs in Baghdad, bringing the total death toll of US troops to over 1,700.
- A series of Bombs strike the Iranian cities of Ahwaz and Tehran, leaving 8 people dead and dozens wounded. There has been no claim of responsibility.

significant journeys; having flown from Britain to Australia in 1994, and from England to South Africa in 1999.

Mr. Fossett is a multi millionaire who earned his fortune in the American financial markets. He holds 15 world record passages in sailing — including the the record for fastest circumnavigation of the world. He was the first person ever to fly a solo, non-stop, aerial circumnavigation of the globe in a jet aircraft. He has also swam the English Channel and driven the 24 hours of Le Mans.

The adventurer also holds the interesting distinction of holding more world records than anyone else — currently 62 world records.

### Mike Tyson set to retire after loss

Mike Tyson's boxing career appears to be over after the infamous fighter became fatigued against his journeyman opponent Saturday. Tyson later told the media he was quitting the sport to become a missionary.

Despite being heavily favored, the 38-year old Tyson became desperate in the sixth round and resorted to his trademark bizarre tactics against Irishman Kevin McBride (33-4-1). When an attempt to break his opponents arm failed to end the fight, Tyson landed a head-butt that opened a cut near McBride's left eye. Still desperate and low on stamina, Tyson proceeded to hit below the belt before sagging to the canvas in the closing seconds of the round. When Tyson refused to answer the bell for the seventh, veteran referee Joe Cortez "looked stunned," according to the Boston Globe's Ron Borges. Tyson led on two cards and trailed on a third when the fight was called, but he was clearly out of gas and momentum was not with him.

"I do not have the stomach for this," Tyson told Showtime interviewer Jim Gray after leaving the ring. "I don't have the guts to be in this sport anymore. My heart is not into this anymore." He also apologized to the 15,472 paid attendance

at the MCI Center "whom had roared his name when he entered the ring less than an hour earlier," according to Borges.

The \$5 million payday will erase only a fraction of an enormous debt that caused Tyson to declare bankruptcy in 2003. One report says he owes more than \$40 million [1].

The disgraced former champion also told reporters he is "going to look into my missionary work," according to Reuters. "There is some Christian missionary work that was interested in letting me come to Bosnia, go to Rwanda, go to different countries to help with aid and food for people that are in dire need."

### Crown Prince of Kuwait admitted to hospital

Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Saad al-Abdulla al-Sabah, was admitted to a hospital on Thursday due to a blood condition. According to the state news agency KUNA he has been suffering from a high level of blood glucose. In 1997 Sheikh Saad underwent colon surgery.

Sheikh Saad has been crown prince since 1978. He was also prime minister until July 2003. In July 2003 the Emir replaced him with Sheik Sabah as prime minister. This appointment broke the tradition of crown princes also serving as heads of government. Both he and the Emir have made very few public appearances recently.

### Lula's future in the hands of Brazilian Parliament



*The Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Photo: Marcello Casal Jr./ABR*

The government of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is in a severe political crisis. The crisis began after the exposure of a series of scandals which involve the Workers' Party, the Brazilian ruling party.

In 2002, Celso Daniel, the mayor of Santo André, 10 km (6 miles) away from the São Paulo city, was murdered. Daniel was a member of the ruling Workers' Party. The mayor's brother says that Daniel died because he was in disagreement to a supposed bribe conspiracy organized by some Workers' Party members. The case remains under investigation by police.

In 2004, the former adviser to the government of President Lula, Waldomiro Diniz, was accused of negotiating with "bicheiros" (men who deal with: "Jogo do Bicho", or illegal gambling) and extorting money for Workers' Party (PT) electoral campaigns. A supposed victim of extortion released a tape exposing Diniz. The tape's authenticity has been verified by experts and it was aired by the major Brazilian television stations. A Congressional special commission was proposed by non-government parties so the denunciation could be investigated. The government succeeded in stopping the creation of the comission.

On March 16, the leading Brazilian magazine *Veja* published a story saying that according to documents of the Brazilian Agency of intelligence (Abin) the Workers' Party received 5 million dollars to be used by political campaigns of their candidates in 2002 from the Colombian communist armed group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP). Abin said that the documents were not authentic.

Last month, some men, supposedly involved in illicit negotiations with the Brazilian Post Service recorded a video which shows former Post Office Chief, Maurício Marinho, during a supposed bribe negotiation. In the tape, Marinho receives and puts in his pocket R\$3,000 (about 1,259 USD) in cash. He insinuates

that the scheme is commanded by deputy Roberto Jefferson. The recording was aired by the major Brazilian television stations.

Roberto Jefferson is the president of the government-allied Brazilian Labor Party (PTB). Lula da Silva said in a earlier occasion that he "would give to Jefferson a bank check in blank", what means that he had high confidence on Jefferson.



*The former IRB president, Lidio Duarte, leaving the Federal Police office, in Brasilia. Photo: Marcello Casal Jr./ABr.*

Still related to the Post Office case, on June 2, Lidio Duarte, the former president of IRB, a government enterprise, denied allegations that money from some Brazilian government enterprises was going to PTB, Jefferson's party. An earlier story published by magazine Veja, said that Duarte was a victim of extortion by a representative of PTB. According to Veja, Duarte resigned from the Presidency of IRB, because he had difficulties in continuing to give more money to PTB. Lidio denied this story to the police, and furthermore he said that he never have had an interview with Veja's journalists.

On June 8, the magazine Veja released for download in its webpage, an audio tape where it can be heard the voice of Lidio Duarte during an alleged interview to Veja. In the tape, Lidio Duarte talks about being under pressure because someone was asking him more contribution in money for PTB. The tape contradicts the Duarte's testimony to the police and because of that, he became subject of investigation by the authorities. The name of the deputy Roberto

Jefferson is cited by Duarte in the alleged recorded interview to Veja.

After the Post Office scandal been exposed, the Brazilian Congress proposed the creation of a Congress' special commission, so it could be investigated by the Parliament. The government, however, protested against it, arguing that political adversaries were anticipating the dispute to the next election for Brazil's Presidency. Workers' Party senator Eduardo Suplicy protested in Senate against his party decision. Because that he was very criticized and he got subject to punishment by the Workers' Party.



*The Brazilian deputy Roberto Jefferson. Photo: José Cruz - ABr.*

On June 6, Roberto Jefferson told the Brazilian newspaper Folha de São Paulo that the ruling Workers' Party (PT) has paid Brazilian deputies 30 thousand Brazilian Reals (US 12 thousand) each, every month. The stock markets went down and the U.S. Dollar increased its value in relation to the Brazilian Real. A new Congress' special commission was proposed by some Brazilian senators, so Jefferson's allegations could be investigated. The Workers' Party says that Jefferson's allegations were untrue and that he had no proofs.

After Jefferson's denouintiation the focus of the scandal moved to the government and the ruling Workers' Party. Because the government were under pressure, the Workers' Party changed his earlier decision of stopping the creation of a Congress' special commission for the Post Office scandal. The proposal for the

creation of a Congress' special commission for the Post Office scandal was approved.

On June 9, there was the first meeting of members of the Congress' special commission for the Post Office scandal. Because of unsolved disputes between government's parliamentarians and the other parties representants, the meeting could not continue. The government's block argued that it must choose the president and the report for the comission, since the government comission members are the majority. Other parties argue that according to Parliament tradition the government should choose one member for the presidency or report and the opposition should choose the other member. A new meeting was scheduled to the next week, on Tuesday, June 14.

Besides these scandals, the current Social Security Minister, Romero Jucá, is accused of having offered seven non-existent farms as guarantee for a financing from the Banco of Amazonia, among other denunciations of misuse of public loans. The current President of Brazilian Central Bank, Henrique Meirelles, is accused of financial fraud among other accusations. Also there is a denunciation of a irregular transference of founds of Central Bank to the construction of a new headquarter for the Workers' Party.

On June 4, during the so called Curupira operation, the Brazilian Federal Police arrested members of IBAMA, a Brazilian agency for enviroment. Among other accusations, they are accused of selling irregular licenses for deforestation in Amazon. At least one of the suspects, a Workers' Party affiliate, is under suspection of have used the money for the political campaign of a Worker's Party candidate in Mato Grosso.

Besides the comission to investigate the Post Office scandal, another Congress' special commissions were suggested by non-government members of Brazilian Senate: a comission to investigate the IRB scandal and another one to the

investigation of Roberto Jefferson's allegations. Also, it is expected that the Brazilian Courts rule against the earlier government decision of stopping the creation of a commission for the investigation of the alleged Waldomiro Diniz scandal.



*Military wives protesting against the government of President Lula and demanding wages readjustment in salary for military.  
Photo: José Cruz/ABr.*

The scandals involving the ruling Workers' Party are receiving a good attention by the public and the media. According to the Senator Pedro Simon (center-left, PMDB), an old member of Senate, one reason is because that one of the main Workers' Party mottos was the fight against corruption. But after Lula became President on 2003, the government and the Workers' Party has been involved in a serie of severe scandals and the government allways tried to stop the investigations, what became suspicious. Besides that, all scandals originated inside the government, according to Simon. The Waldomiro and the Post Office scandals emerged after the denouciations of people supposedly under pressure and involved in these scandals.

According to members of Brazilian Court, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva may be subjected to an impeachment process, if there is some proof that he is really involved on some of the alleged scandals, or case someone can proof that he was acting with negligence.

Part of opposition avoids talking about impeachment. According to the governor of Minas Gerais, Aécio Neves (left, PSDB), "President Lula is not President Collor". President Fernando Collor de Mello was submitted to a impeachment process in 1992 because of alleged

denouciations of corruption in his government.

Cesar Maia (center-right, PFL), the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, and one of the probable adversaries of Lula in the next election for President, said that he still believes that Lula can explain all the corruption allegations against his government. But he also said that if Lula doesn't succeed explaining the scandals, he will require the President's impeachment.

Some of the harsh critics to Lula's government comes from the Senator Heloísa Helena (left, PSOL). Her party, PSOL, is a dissidence of Workers' Party and the party claims that all denouciation must be investigated, besides the alleged government efforts by the party that the government is trying to stop the investigations.

The Senator Demóstenes Torres (PFL) is another harsh critic of the alleged Lula's scandals. He cited the former deposed President Fernando Collor de Mello, during some of his discourses in Brazilian Senate.

According to the journalist Boris Casoy, from Rede Record Television channel, it can be seen written in some places in Brasilia the name of the President Lula written as "Lulla" (with double "l"). The name of the former deposed President Fernando Collor de Mello also has a double "l".

In São Paulo, the labour union "Força Sindical" is organizing protests against corruption in Brasil. The other major labour "CUT", which is linked to Workers' Party, said that don't want to take part on it.

Until now, politics, even those from opposition to the government, are trying to preserve the personal image of the President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. However, as new denouciations arise and the government didn't not succeed in all explanations, the permanence of Lula in the Presidency becomes difficult, because of popular pressure.

Anyway it is also possible that all the inquiries finish in a inconclusive form, as well as already happened with some old cases investigated by Brazilian Congress.

But, even if Congress and the Senate choose not to blame Lula, his reputation certainly will still remain harmed. According to Senator Antonio Carlos Magalhães (PFL), "Lula's re-election has gone."

At present time, there are a general consensus that Lula will have to work a lot, case he still wants to dispute for real the next presidential election in Brazil.

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

### **Bomb blasts kill several in Iran "Updated Report"**

Four separate bombs have exploded in the south-western Iranian city of Ahwaz, killing more than five people and wounding up to 87 others. The presidential election is due in five days time.

Later, an additional bomb was detonated in Teheran, killing three and wounding several others.

Earlier news reports reported a lower number, but reports from two major international agencies are now reporting much higher injury numbers. Bombings in Iran have been extremely rare, since the war with Iraq ended in 1988.

One bomb exploded outside the governor general's office. Three more bombs exploded near government buildings in a period of two hours. Some reports put the official death toll at eight, and official reports confirm that up to 30 were injured; but final numbers are not yet known.

"We cannot say for now who committed these attacks, but the intelligence ministry is investigating," The deputy governor of Khuzestan said in a statement to state television. He went on to say that "The

attacks are a failure, because in the past the regime has been confronted by far worse."

The Ahwaz attacks have been claimed by a previously unknown group known as the "Ahwazi Revolutionary Martyrs' Brigades," while a group protesting the bombings outside the Khuzestan governor's residence chanted "Death to the hypocrites" - a slogan applied to the Mojahedin-e-Khalq (MeK) organization.

Ali Aghomohammadi, head press secretary for the security services at first refused to implicate the MeK in the attacks, but later asserted that the bombs "may have been the work of people who belong to the [Mojahedin]." The MeK, which has admitted responsibility for previous attacks, have disclaimed any part in the latest string of bombings.

The MeK is currently listed as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation by the U.S. State Department and has received similar designations from other governments and the European Union. However, according to two prominent security analysts, the bombings seen this weekend are not their style. "These don't have the MeK's fingerprints on them," according to Mustafa Akmal. "The MeK has not engaged in any violent action for the past four years," he said, adding "Even before ceasing its armed activities in Iran, it had a policy of claiming responsibility for all its operations."

Akmal's colleague, Walter Murray of the Gulf Intelligence Monitor agreed, saying it would be foolish for the group to alienate potential supporters in the West and endanger the fruits of years of lobbying western governments with such attacks. Murray felt the bombers were more likely "...loose cannons..." in Iran's military or intelligence services.

### **China school flood claims 91 lives**

At least 91 people have now been confirmed dead in Friday's disaster, in which a wall of water and debris smashed into the school near Ning'an, in the northern Heilongjiang province.

Hundreds of children and more than 30 teachers of the school, were inside at the time.

Of the dead, reports from the Xinhua news agency say that 87 were students and four were adults. The reports also indicate that two dozen people are still in a critical condition in hospital.

The flooding itself, triggered by heavy rain caused damage in several cities near Ning'an city, knocking down up to 55 houses.

### **Chechnya train derailed by blast, 12 injured**

A Russian passenger train has been derailed by an explosion on Sunday, the FSB has said in a statement. A FSB spokesman said 12 people have been injured, when two carriages of a train heading from the Chechen capital Grozny derailed 90 miles south of Moscow.

Officials have reported that two people have been rushed to hospital, while others who sustained lighter injuries were offered medical assistance at the crash site and delivered to Moscow by commuter train. The spokesman did not say who might be responsible for the attack on the train, which at the time was carrying more than 300 passengers.

### **French journalist held hostage in Iraq freed**

The French foreign affairs department has announced that the French journalist Florence Aubenas (working on behalf of Libération) and her guide Hussein Hanoun Al-Saadi have been freed this morning.

They had been held hostage in Iraq since January 5, 2005 — a total of 158 days.

French president Jacques Chirac said in a televised speech that the freed French reporter and her Iraqi driver are in "good health" and said that Aubenas is on a plane heading for France.

### **Twenty-five children injured in bus-**

### **truck collision in Florida**

A truck collided with a bus on Friday, seriously injuring five children and one adult, authorities have said. The bus was taking 25 children of immigrant workers to an amusement arcade.

"The more seriously hurt youngsters have suffered broken bones and head injuries", said Fire-Rescue deputy Steve Delai. One young boy and a 30 year old were in intensive care at Delray Medical Center late Friday, officials have reported.

Two other children were in a stable condition, while conditions for the other two seriously injured children were not available.

"It appears that the bus was in the center lane and the tractor-trailer was in the right lane. For some reason the bus got into the path of the tractor-trailer," A Florida Highway Patrol officer told a local television station.

### **More political, soccer-related unrest in Iran follows Bahrain victory**

More unrest occurred overnight across Iran following the national soccer team's June 9 victory over the team from neighboring Bahrain in a World Cup qualification match.

The match marked the first time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution that women could attend a soccer match. A group of one hundred pre-selected women were admitted to the game under official escort; a protest group of a further twenty-six women attempted to gain admission, but were dispersed by police.

A young Tehran resident reported via instant messenger that she heard what appeared to be raucous celebrating outside the night of the 1-0 victory over Bahrain. She had been babysitting that night, and returned quickly home, having decided it was probably not safe to investigate the crowds after hearing a large boom, which she attributed to pranksters possibly detonating oversized illegal fireworks. However, she also

noticed that a public telephone had been damaged.

If utilities were being damaged, it is very possible that the boom was produced not by a high explosive, but by the bursting of sodium vapor lamp bulb that had been knocked over by vandals -- this reporter has seen it happen before, and can attest that it sounds very much like an explosion.

In the city of Tabriz in East Azerbaijan, demonstrators reportedly tore down a large poster of the late Ayatolla Khamenei (founder of the present Islamic Republic of Iran) and burned it while chanting "Freedom!" and anti-regime slogans. The crowds of young people caused traffic congestion, apparently halting movement through the center city for several hours. Numerous arrests have been reported. The city is home to a substantial Turkic Azeri minority, but the unrest seems to be political in nature, not ethnic.

Meanwhile, in the theological center of Qom, reformist politician Behzad Navabi was attacked by a group of about thirty unidentified men who apparently disagreed with his political platform. The group employed lethal and non-lethal weapons, including tear gas, to disrupt Navabi's political rally. Navabi reports that he suffered a skull fracture and numerous cuts and bruises in the attack. Police clashed with the attackers, and eventually arrested some of them. Navabi is a member of the Mujahadeen of Islamic Revolution party and a backer of reform presidential candidate Mustafa Moin.

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

### Italians vote on fertility referendum



On Sunday and Monday, Italians will vote

on a referendum that would the abolish certain rules of the law about medically assisted fertility treatment.

Italian Law 40 of February 19, 2004 ruled on some aspects of assisted fertility treatment and established some rigid limits. The law was approved by the majority of Parliament with the encouragement of the government. The opposition protested because there was no agreement among Parliament for such a law and there was also disagreement among the majority. The law was approved using an urgent mechanism of the parliament, as if there were an urgent need of such a law.

A Committee against the law has formed and asked for the Referendum.

There will be 4 different votes about 4 different aspects of the law.

The first of them is asking to remove the prohibition of doing scientific studies with embryonic cells. The second is the ban on donor sperm and eggs; the third is a ban on embryo screening for couples with hereditary diseases; and the fourth, the rule that only three embryos per treatment can be created, all of which have to be implanted at the same time.

The referendum is of abrogate type, the only type of referendum permitted by Italian law.

According to the Italian Law, in order for a law (or part of a law) to be abolished by a referendum, there must not only be a majority vote in favor of the abolishment, but also that the valid vote must be more than the majority of the people that have the right to vote.

Since it's easier for the referendum not to be approved due to lack of presence of voters rather than for the presence of the majority of the "no" vote, the party who wants to keep the law as it is currently, has now asked citizens "not to go vote" rather than to vote "no".

Even the Catholic Church asked its members to "not go to vote"; the Pope

himself asked for that in an indirect way. The president of the Senate and other people in charge of important official positions took this position.

The opposition contested this behavior.

# Wikinews Back Page



## Today in History

- 1898 - Yukon Territory was formed, with Dawson chosen as its capital.
- 1966 - The *Miranda v. Arizona* ruling established the Miranda Warning.
- 1967 - Thurgood Marshall was nominated as the first African American justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1971 - Vietnam War: The New York Times began to publish the Pentagon Papers.
- 1983 - Pioneer 10 became the first man-made object to leave the solar system.

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