



Top Stories

Scores killed and wounded as violence escalates in Iraq

Intense violent turmoil in Iraq continued Sunday and Monday when attacks across Baghdad killed more than 30 people. A busy restaurant frequented by police officers was the target of the deadliest attack, a suicide bombing that claimed 23 lives and wounded more than 36 others.

Lebanese politician George Hawi assassinated as historic elections end

A veteran Lebanese politician, George Hawi, was assassinated today in Beirut. Hawi's death came as a grim punctuation mark to the final round of parliamentary elections in Lebanon, the first since Syrian occupation ended earlier this year. Hawi was formerly the secretary of the Lebanese Communist Party. He had long been a Syrian ally, but recently became a critic of Syrian influence in the country.

Hotel Rwanda hero tours USA

Paul Rusesabagina, the real-life hero portrayed in the film "Hotel Rwanda", visited Atlanta, Ga. and Washington, D.C. this week to address American students and business leaders at schools and conferences centers. His appearances coincide with World Refugee Day events in Washington.

Wikipedia Current Events

- German car manufacturer BMW acquires the Formula 1 team Sauber Petronas. In the next season the new team will be probably known as BMW Sauber.
- The entire network of the Swiss Federal Railways shuts down due to a power failure in its overhead wire system. The power failure is also affecting international transit through Switzerland as such intercity trains use the same system. Initial reports indicate that the power failure started with a voltage drop in Ticino (in the St. Gotthard region) that then spread to the entire system. It is unknown when service will be restored.
- In Chad, referendum votes to allow president Idriss Deby to stand elections for the third term in office .
- New information has been released that shows George W. Bush refused to listen to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il when he attempted to discuss the issue of nuclear weapons in 2002.

Smashing Pumpkins may reunite

On the same day he released his debut solo album, former Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan announced, "I want my band back, and my songs, and my dreams." Those words appeared in a full-page ad that ran in Tuesday's edition of the Chicago Tribune under the title, A Message to Chicago From Billy Corgan. The alternative-rock icon also wrote, "For a year now I have walked around with a secret, a secret I chose to keep. But now I want you to be among the first to know that I have made plans to renew and revive The Smashing Pumpkins."

The group, which included guitarist

James Iha, drummer Jimmy Chamberlain, and bassists D'Arcy Wretzky and Melissa Auf der Maur, last played together in 2000. On February 17, 2004, Corgan posted a bitter message on his personal blog calling Wretzky a "mean spirited drug addict" and blaming Iha for the breakup.

It was not clear if Corgan's former band members knew of his plans, or who would be involved with the new group. No other details on the plans were forthcoming from the singer, who lives in the Chicago area.

Commemoration of Srebrenica massacre to be held on July 11

Commemoration of the Srebrenica massacre will be held on July 11, when newly identified bodies will be buried. In 1995, Serbian forces, according to International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), massacred around 7500 Bosnian Muslims.

A controversy arose after mothers of murdered Muslims in Srebrenica made a statement saying that the Serbian President, Boris Tadić, is not welcome in Srebrenica: "Tadić coming to Srebrenica is a planned provocation of the ones who will bury their families on July 11." The Serbian President will still attend the ceremony.

Abdurahman Malkić, the president of the Srebrenica municipality, guaranteed safety to Tadić and all other officials. Other attendees include Theodor Meron, the president of ICTY.

So far, 2,032 bodies have been identified. It is expected that by July 11 another 550 bodies will be identified and ready for burial.

Recent showing of a video which depicts six Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica being killed by Serbian forces has steered a lot of controversy in Serbia. Bojan Pajtić, the president of the executive board of the northern Serbian province, Vojvodina, agreed to officially support an initiative of the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina to declare July 11th a Memorial Day in Serbia and Montenegro.

An agency for marketing research, Faktor Plus, published a study on Serbian citizens' reaction on the video. 30.2% of subjects said that they feel sorrow for victims. 43.2% feel anger towards executors of the massacre. 16.3% felt guilt, while one percent was "satisfied" with the video.

Today in History

- 1713 - After Queen Anne's War, French residents of Acadia were given one year to declare allegiance to Britain or leave Nova Scotia.
- 1887 - Canada's first national park, Banff, was created.
- 1894 - The International Olympic Committee was founded at the Sorbonne in Paris.
- 1941 - June independence: Members of Lithuanian Activist Front declared independence from the Soviet Union and formed an underground government in Lithuania.
- 1947 - President Harry S. Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act was overridden by the Congress of the United States.
- 1985 - Air India Flight 182 blew-up 31,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, south of Ireland, killing all 329 on board.

Quote of the Day

"Science is a differential equation. Religion is a boundary condition." ~ Alan Turing

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