



WIKINews

Free

The free-content news source that you can write!

Thursday, May 26, 2005

### Top Stories

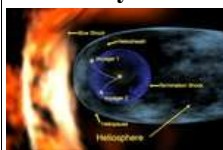
#### First pipeline opens from Caspian Sea



The official opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, a \$3.2 billion project, took place today in Sangachal, Azerbaijan. The new pipeline travels through Azerbaijan,

Georgia and Turkey, bringing crude oil from the Caspian Sea to the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Presidents from all three countries participated in the event.

#### Voyager 1 enters heliosheath at edge of solar system



The Voyager 1 spacecraft, launched in 1977 to explore the planets, is now agreed by scientists

to have entered the heliosheath at the edge of the solar system 8.7 billion miles (14 billion kilometers) from the Sun. In a few years, Voyager 1 is expected to become the first man-made object to cross into interstellar space.

#### Marshall Islands to request \$3 billion more from U.S. for health effects of nuclear testing



The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is petitioning for \$3 billion in

additional compensation from the U.S. government, after receiving \$270 million in an agreement which expired in 2001. The U.S. government performed a series of 67 tests of nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands between 1946 and 1958. Fallout from the testing is claimed to have affected some of the island's near 60,000 inhabitants. "We're finding people on remote islands with high percentages of cancers," said RMI Foreign Minister Gerald Zackios.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- Voyager 1, the most distant man-made object, has entered the heliosheath and is on the cusp of leaving the Solar System and entering the interstellar medium.
- The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, the world's longest oil pipeline, is opened in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- At Atatürk Olimpiyat Stadyumu in Istanbul, Liverpool F.C. defeat A.C. Milan 3-2 in a penalty shootout to win their first UEFA Champions League soccer title since 1984.
- Nambaryn Enkhbayar of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party is elected President of Mongolia.
- Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany announces early federal elections to be held later this year, after his Social Democrats lose the state election in North Rhine-Westphalia to the Christian Democrats, ending 39 years in government.



#### Voyager 1 enters heliosheath at edge of solar system



NASA diagram of Voyager 1 entering the heliosheath region

The Voyager 1 spacecraft, launched in 1977 to explore the planets, is now agreed by scientists to have entered the heliosheath at the edge of the solar system

8.7 billion miles (14 billion kilometers) from the Sun. In a few years, Voyager 1 is expected to become the first man-made object to cross into interstellar space.

"Voyager has entered the final lap on its race to the edge of interstellar space, as it begins exploring the solar system's final frontier," said Dr. Edward Stone, Voyager project scientist at the California Institute of Technology.

As long ago as 2003, scientists thought Voyager 1 was entering the termination shock region of the solar system, but there was some dispute. The termination shock is the area preceding the heliosheath, where the electrically charged solar wind is slowed and concentrated by contact with interstellar gas.

The heliosheath is considered the outer edge of our solar system. Around it is the heliopause, a cosmic bubble where the pressure of solar wind and interstellar wind is in balance.



NASA image of cover of the Golden Record

The solar system as a whole is in orbit around the center of the Milky Way galaxy. As it plows through clouds of interstellar gas and dust, a bow shock forms ahead of it, which has been compared to the turbulence a ship creates as it sails through ocean currents. All this is illustrated in the NASA diagram shown here.

Voyager 1 is still operational and sending back reams of scientific data. Already

notable for more than 27 years of successful operation, Voyager 1 is projected to continue operating on its plutonium power source possibly until the year 2020.

Voyager 2, its companion probe launched the same year, has visited more planets than any other spacecraft. It too is eventually expected to exit the solar system at a more downward angle, but is currently only 80% as far from the sun as Voyager 1.

The Voyagers are not only gathering data about the cosmos, they are sending the greetings of the human world out to it. Each Voyager contains what is known as the "Golden Record", which is an audio recording on a 12-inch gold plated copper disc. The discs contain samples of nature sounds, spoken greetings in 55 human languages, and musical compositions.

The collection of samples was supervised by astronomer Carl Sagan, and is intended to convey the hopefulness of life on Earth for possible discovery by alien races or retrieval by some advanced human civilization.

### Amnesty International calls for Guantanamo shutdown



Amnesty International Logo

In their annual report on human rights Amnesty International Secretary General, Irene Khan, said "Guantanamo has become the gulag of our time." In this 308-page report, they also called for the United States to shut down the Guantanamo prison.

The report continues the critical analysis of the actions of the U.S. government, but criticism is sharper. The introduction to

the report states "The 'war on terror' appeared more effective in eroding international human rights principles than in countering international 'terrorism'."

In calling for changes from the U.S. government, especially regarding Guantanamo Bay, Amnesty International's voice is joined with calls from both the International Red Cross (IRC) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The IRC has said it reported to the U.S. government detainee's reports of desecration of the Q'ran.

The ACLU's Freedom of Information Act requests turned up U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) reports which echo the IRC's concerns. The documents are purported to show a consistency with reports from detainees of abuse to their religious symbols, as well as reports of beatings and other interrogation methods.

Amnesty International's Secretary General, in her introduction to the report, points to the United State's foreign and military policy as providing a justification for other governments to ignore human rights.

"The USA, as the unrivalled political, military and economic hyper-power, sets the tone for governmental behaviour worldwide. When the most powerful country in the world thumbs its nose at the rule of law and human rights, it grants a licence to others to commit abuse with impunity," said Irene Khan.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan responded saying the report's allegations were "ridiculous and unsupported by the facts. The United States is leading the way when it comes to protecting human rights and promoting human dignity. We have liberated 50 million people in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have worked to advance freedom and democracy in the world so that people are governed under a rule of law and that there are... protections in place for minority rights, that women's rights are advanced so that women can fully participate in societies where now they cannot", as well as

supporting the fight against AIDS in Africa.

About the allegations of abuse at Guantanamo, which McClellan has previously called isolated incidents, he said, "We hold people accountable when there is abuse. We take steps to prevent it from happening again, and we do so in a very public way for the world to see that we lead by example, and that we do have values that we hold very dearly and believe in."



Location of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

### First pipeline opens from Caspian Sea



The Caspian Sea, viewed from orbit.

Today marks the official opening of the first Caspian Sea oil pipeline, named the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. The \$3.2 billion pipeline travels through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, bringing crude oil from the Caspian Sea to the Turkish port of Ceyhan. The United States is heavily backing the pipeline, hoping to use the oil output from the pipeline to ease reliance on oil from Russian pipelines. The pipeline also enables the United States to avoid purchasing oil from Iran

The countries who are involved in the pipeline, are hoping to increase revenues from the pipeline, which is expected to ship up to 1 million barrels a day.

The countries are also concerned with the

high likelihood of the underground pipeline to be a target of terrorism attacks. The countries hope the pipeline is well-enough protected.

### London's Millenium Dome to become a concert arena



Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) and mobile phone company O2 have said they intend London's Millenium Dome as a concert arena in April 2007.

The 365m diameter dome was built in the 1990s for the Year 2000 celebrations, and is the largest single-roof structure in the world. After hosting an exhibition for 2000, the Dome has mostly laid empty.

The building, to be renamed the O2, will contain a 23,000 seat arena, an 1,800 seat theatre and a 2,200 capacity night club.

### Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith opens in 105 countries around globe

George Lucas' final installment of the prequel Star Wars trilogy, *Revenge of the Sith*, opened in theaters in 105 countries around the world on May 19. According to William Arnold of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, and Claudia Puig of *USA Today*, Episode III may be the best of the Star Wars series. James Berardinelli of *ReelViews* claimed that Episode III is, "the best installment in the Star Wars series since 1980's *The Empire Strikes Back*." However, Peter Travers of *Rolling Stone* begs to differ. Travers states that Lucas' ability to turn, "flesh-and-blood actors into cardboard cutouts," makes Lucas' movie unworthy of its herald title of best yet.

In its opening weekend, *Revenge of the Sith* earned a total, counting from Thursday, May 19 to Sunday, May 22, USD \$158,449,700 in the domestic

United States box office, \$145,500,000 internationally, for a total of \$303,949,700 worldwide. With this opening, *Star Wars Episode III* broke four records including single day gross, opening day gross, three-day gross, and four-day gross.

### Ebola outbreak in Congo



Reuters reports that nine people have died from Ebola in the Republic of Congo this month. The outbreak is in the Cuvette-Ouest region near the Gabon border, where a previous outbreak had occurred in 2003.

The government of Congo and the United Nations World Health Organization have announced a quarantine of the Etoumbi and Mbomo districts. They are monitoring 84 suspected cases in the two regions. Jean-Vivien Mombouli, advisor to the Congolese Ministry of Health, pointed out the individuals may not actually have the virus; only one confirmed case of Ebola has been diagnosed thus far.

"We will wait for 21 days just to be sure then after that, if the person does not get sick, he is out of danger," Mr. Mombouli said of the patients. Ebola has a five to ten day incubation period.

Neighbouring Uganda has stepped up its surveillance in response to the outbreak.

No cure exists for Ebola, and between 50-90% of those who contract it die. Zaire/Congo has sustained the largest number, and most severe, outbreaks of the Ebola virus. Although no cure exists, work continues on a vaccine and it is in the human trial stages, as well as research into pharmaceutical treatments.

### World's tallest geyser erupts



File photo of Steamboat Geyser in eruption.  
NPS Photo

Steamboat Geyser at Yellowstone National Park—the world's tallest geyser—erupted on May 23, 2005, at 2:40 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (UTC 20:40). Steamboat Geyser has erupted only seven times since 1991.

The geyser, an unpredictable and infrequent performer, throws a vertical column of water in excess of 300 feet (90 meters). Prior to the current activity, Steamboat Geyser's most-recent eruption was on October 22, 2003—19 months ago.

The Yellowstone Public Affairs Office reported that the geyser erupted water for approximately 15 minutes, followed by sustained, powerful blasting of steam. As of May 24, 2005, 10:51 a.m. MDT, the steam was finally waning.

According to Alan Glennon, a scientist at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Steamboat Geyser may discharge a hundred thousand gallons or more of water in a single eruption. By comparison, Old Faithful Geyser discharges 3,700 to 8,400 gallons during a typical 1.5 to 4.5 minute eruption.

Park officials are collecting visitor reports and examining evidence to assess the magnitude of Monday's eruption. The Yellowstone Public Affairs Office stated that the eruption, coupled with high winds, carried fine sand and debris up to a mile.

*This article contains first-hand journalism by a Wikinews Reporter. See the article's talk page or the article's notes for details.*

## Wikinews Back Page



### Today in History

1805 - Napoléon Bonaparte was crowned King of Italy in Milan with the Iron Crown of Lombardy.

1896 - The Dow Jones Industrial Average was first published by Charles Dow as a stock market index.

1918 - The Democratic Republic of Georgia was proclaimed.

1972 – Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow, concluding SALT I.

1986 – The European Community adopted the European flag.

May 26 is Independence Day in Guyana (1966), Feast of Corpus Christi in Catholic and some Western Christian traditions (2005), and Mother's Day in Poland.

### About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. If you would like to write, publish or edit articles, visit [en.wikinews.org](http://en.wikinews.org).

All stories on Wikinews are in the public domain. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons. Wikinews also aims to write stories from a neutral point of view.

### About Wikinews Print Edition

For more information about Wikinews Print Edition visit:  
[http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Wikinews:Print\\_edition](http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Wikinews:Print_edition)