

NEWS IN BRIEF

A QUICK GLANCE AT EVENTS AROUND THE GLOBE

Ridge urges local environmental approach

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)— Saying the current environmental regulatory system "strangles our progress," Gov. Ridge in remarks prepared for a speech yesterday night called for a locally-oriented approach that promotes "profitability and the environment at the same time."

Ridge told The Coalition of Republican Environmental Advocacy that the GOP must end the "enforcement first" mentality that dominates much of the current thinking on the subject.

He said Pennsylvania's Land Recycling Program, which releases parties who clean up polluted sites from liability, is an example of a policy that has improved the environment and created jobs.

Ridge is a prominent supporter of Republican presidential frontrunner Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who has been criticized by some environmentalists for not doing enough to combat pollution.



IBM pulls personal computers out of stores

NEW YORK (AP) — IBM, whose name has been synonymous with personal computers for two decades, said yesterday it will pull its money-losing line of PCs from U.S. stores and sell them exclusively over the Internet.

Aptiva PCs will disappear from shelves starting Jan. 1. IBM's ThinkPad laptops, which are profitable, will continue to be available in stores.

IBM's Personal Systems Group, which sells PCs to both consumers and businesses, lost about \$150 million in the second quarter and nearly \$1 billion last year. By withdrawing its PCs from the shelves of 70 U.S. retail chains, IBM will save money on the fees stores typically charge to display and promote products.

"We need to restore this business to profitability," IBM spokeswoman Trink Guarino said.

Moving out of stores will save the company money, she said.

To buoy awareness of the Aptiva brand and encourage people to visit its ShopIBM Web site, which it is redesigning, IBM plans to launch a \$20 million advertising campaign early next year that will include television and direct mail.

Company close to finding diabetes gene

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Glaxo Wellcome PLC said yesterday it is close to identifying the human genes that may cause migraines, adult-onset diabetes and psoriasis.

The company hopes identifying the genes will help develop medicines to prevent or treat the illnesses, although no discoveries of such genes have been translated into medicines yet.

"The research we are reporting does not mean that we can provide cures for the diseases overnight, but it certainly provides us with a much better understanding of the genes involved," Dr. Allen Roses, the drug maker's co-director of exploratory science, said yesterday. "In the very near future, we hope to understand which gene or genes make some people susceptible to these common but debilitating diseases."

Roses was to present his detailed findings later yesterday at the American Society of Human Genetics annual meeting in San Francisco.

"While the excitement comes with the disease-gene discovery, the work only begins then," Lee Babiss, formerly with Glaxo and now vice president of preclinical research and development with Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., told *The Wall Street Journal*.

Shares of Glaxo Wellcome were up 2.56%, or 4.4 percent, to \$61 in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange.



Police end hijacking without bloodshed

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Police commandos captured the alleged hijacker of an EgyptAir flight after he forced it to land yesterday evening in Hamburg, freeing 55 people aboard four hours after the plane was commandeered over Turkey.

A man armed with a knife seized control of Flight 838 shortly after it took off from Istanbul's Ataturk airport at 6:16 p.m. (11:16 a.m. EDT) en route to Cairo, authorities said. The motive for the hijacking was not known.

Police at Hamburg airport overpowered the alleged skyjacker when he stepped off the Boeing 737-500 onto the tarmac, spokesman Hans-Juergen Petersen said.

He said the passengers, who were not injured, boarded buses and were taken to the terminal. Police were questioning the suspected hijacker, Petersen said.

One of the co-pilots suffered a minor neck injury during the ordeal, Petersen said. Cairo airport sources had said the cockpit crew resisted the hijacker and one co-pilot was injured.

A second man was briefly detained as he came off the plane, but he was later released when it became clear that he was not involved in the hijacking, Petersen said.

Death toll reaches 79 in eastern India cyclone

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Residents in eastern India searched for the dead and gathered food packets dropped from helicopters yesterday, while officials totaled the damage inflicted by a cyclone that has killed at least 79 people, according to news reports.

At least 1,000 others were injured and hundreds left homeless, reports said.

Ganjam district in Orissa State bore the brunt of the 125-mph winds that tore down electrical and telephone poles, disrupted train and road services and smashed huts, Indian news agencies reported. At least 71 people were killed in Ganjam and five others died in other parts of Orissa.

Thirty-three deaths were reported from the town of Berhampur alone, United News of India reported. The town was marooned and awash in five feet of water, the Press Trust of India said.

The death toll is expected to rise as communications are restored in Orissa and rescuers search collapsed buildings.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee ordered federal and state officials to make an aerial survey of Ganjam, United News reported. Air force helicopters have been placed under state control for rescue operations and food drops.

At least three other people died later when the cyclone moved northward into Andhra Pradesh State. Two were smashed by a falling tree and one person died when a house collapsed.

Hurricane Jose threatens Caribbean

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe (AP) — Hurricane Jose appeared to be on a collision course yesterday with a line of islands strung along the Eastern Caribbean.

Residents on the French island of Martinique, where the storm is projected to pass overnight, began stockpiling water and food while Red Cross officials went on alert in Puerto Rico, where Jose could strike Thursday.

"It's getting stronger, and it looks like it's going to go through a lot of islands," said meteorologist Krissy Williams at the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. Forecasters said it was too early to say whether Jose might threaten the U.S. East Coast.

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A few months into his first job after college, Gary Van Deurse needed a break from his nine-to-five routine—a way to feel "useful and alive." Gary found his answer in AmeriCorps. During his year of service in a rural community, he helped improve the lives of families who needed education, affordable housing, and other support. Looking back, Gary says, "Joining AmeriCorps is the best thing I've ever done. AmeriCorps challenged me, opened my eyes, and gave me new skills and new energy."

To find out more about AmeriCorps opportunities, join us at our:
INFORMATION SESSION
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