

## World news - July 01, 2008

### Aid workers kidnapped

Mogadishu - Somali gunmen have kidnapped another two aid workers in the latest attack on humanitarian workers here. About a dozen men with rifles stopped the Somali aid workers from Water for Life who were on their way to Mogadishu yesterday, and turned their two cars into the bush near Afgooye, west of the capital. A man and a woman are missing.

### Death of the death penalty?

San Francisco - California's 30-year-old death penalty system that costs more than \$100-million a year to administer is "close to collapse", a report by the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice said. Appointed to propose criminal justice reforms, the commission issued a report detailing a deeply flawed system, with the biggest backlog of cases in the nation.

### Cuddles

Bulgarians meet the first July sunrise at the Black sea coast of Varna, 450km east of the capital, Sofia, today. Every year on July 1 hundreds of Bulgarians traditionally celebrate this July morning by renewing relationships or starting new ones, or simply meeting with those close to them to reaffirm how much they value the bond. Picture: AP

### Baby hacked from womb

Kennewick - A pregnant woman was fatally stabbed multiple times in the chest, and her nearly full-term baby was cut from her womb. A 23-year-old woman has been arrested. The baby boy was hospitalised in Spokane in critical condition. Araceli Gomez (27) had her hands and feet bound with yarn, and suffered massive trauma to her abdomen. Her body was found in a park.

### Lightning kills players

Phnom Penh - A lightning bolt killed three Cambodian soccer players, and put three others in hospital at a match played during a monsoon season thunderstorm, officials said today. The victims, all in their 20s, were playing in a tournament organised by the government to introduce the game to youngsters, and ultimately improve the strength of the national side.

### Smoking law goes 'boom'

The Hague - A smoking ban went into effect today in cafes, restaurants and bars across the Netherlands, as the country joins a growing list of European countries to tighten rules on tobacco use in public places. But smoking marijuana in the Netherlands' infamous "coffee shops" is still permitted under the new law - as long as the drug is not mixed with tobacco.

### Dogged bid for a Booger

Seoul - A South Korean firm said today clones of a US woman's beloved deceased pitbull terrier are to be born within weeks. The cloning of Booger, who died in 2006, came months ahead of schedule, thanks to technical progress, RNL Bio said. "Three clones of Booger have been conceived in two surrogate mother dogs." The company charged \$50 000 to clone Booger for Bernann McKinney

### China in Dalai talks

Beijing - China is to resume fence-mending talks with envoys of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, today in a move that could burnish its international image weeks before the capital hosts the Olympics. It would be their second closed-door meeting since rioting erupted in Tibet in March, and heaped international pressure on China to deal with the Nobel laureate.

### Oz cops beat condom plan

**Sydney - Protesters planning to hand out condoms to Catholic pilgrims during Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Australia this month faced arrest under special new police powers, critics said today. Police and emergency service volunteers will be able to stop conduct that "causes annoyance or inconvenience to participants" in World Youth Day events drawing hundreds of thousands.**

#### **The church males militant**

**London - More than 1 300 Church of England clergy have written to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, threatening to leave the church if proposals allowing women to be consecrated bishop are passed. The Times reported the signatories, 60% of whom are clergy, including 11 bishops, will accept the plans only if there are areas where worship is led exclusively by males.**

#### **Welfare office blasted**

**Yangon - An explosion at dawn today rocked the office of a government-backed social welfare group, whose members have been accused in attacks against Myanmar's pro-democracy opposition, witnesses said. They said the blast occurred at the office of Union Solidarity and Development Association office in the northern Yangon suburb of Shwepyithar.**

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