

## Test your knowledge of the news headlines from May 27-June 2, 2007.

- For the first time in nearly three decades, the U.S. held face-to-face talks with:
  - Iran.
  - North Korea.
  - Nigeria.
- A Congressional bill approving funding for the war in Iraq included provisions for:
  - a new war memorial in Washington, D.C.
  - an increase in the federal minimum wage.
  - a permanent ban on offshore oil drilling along U.S. coasts.
- The character of Davy Jones in *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* has a face that looks like:
  - a shark.
  - a sea slug.
  - an octopus.
- The winner of the 91st Indianapolis 500 race was:
  - Dario Franchitti.
  - Marco Andretti.
  - Danica Patrick.
- Advanced Medical Optics withdrew a product used to:
  - treat dry eyes.
  - clean and store soft contact lenses.
  - correct presbyopia.
- Air passengers on two trans-Atlantic flights were advised to see their doctors and get checked for:
  - bird flu.
  - tuberculosis.
  - polio.
- Gunmen wearing police commando uniforms abducted western civilians in:
  - Baghdad.
  - Kabul.
  - Tobruk.
- The Supreme Court ruled to protect employers from lawsuits over:
  - pay discrimination.
  - tax fraud.
  - health coverage.
- The Miss Universe competition held in Mexico City, Mexico, was won this year by:
  - Miss Mozambique.
  - Miss USA.
  - Miss Japan.
- An exhibit called "Design for the Other 90%" at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum focuses on:
  - luxury limousines.
  - inventions for people living in poverty.
  - interplanetary travel.

# Answers

1. **a.** U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker met with Iranian Ambassador Hassan Kazemi Qumi in Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki's Baghdad office. The main topic of the meeting was security challenges in Baghdad. Iran objects to the presence of foreign troops in Iraq, and Washington has accused the government in Tehran of meddling in Iraq against American interests. Iran's nuclear program was not discussed.
2. **b.** As part of the deal to approve spending for Iraq, low-income workers in the U.S. were given the first minimum wage increase in a decade. Minimum wage will rise to \$7.25 an hour, up from \$5.15. The increase will occur in three stages over two years. The bill also includes \$4.84 billion in tax breaks for small businesses. The measures came about through negotiation and compromises between Republicans and Democrats in Congress. President Bush signed the bill on May 25, at Camp David.
3. **c.** In a film filled with special effects, the face of Davy Jones (played by Bill Nighy) appears to have a mustache, long beard and hair made of writhing octopus tentacles. Davy Jones and the evil Lord Cutler Beckett scheme to rule the seas by killing all the pirates, including the film's hero, Jack Sparrow, played by Johnny Depp. The third *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie easily took in the most viewers and box office receipts over the Memorial Day holiday weekend.
4. **a.** Dario Franchitti, who is married to actress Ashley Judd, was the winner of the 2007 Indy 500. It was the 34-year-old Scotsman's first championship. Rainstorms made for a stop-and-go race that ended after only 166 laps, instead of the usual 200. Brazilian Tony Kanaan, who is on Franchitti's racing team, held the lead for much of the race. Danica Patrick and father-son duo Michael and Marco Andretti are also on Franchitti's team.
5. **b.** Advanced Medical Optics withdrew AMO Complete Moisture Plus Multi-Purpose Solution and advised customers to stop using it immediately. The solution has been linked to a rare but potentially blinding eye infection. Customers who use the AMO solution were also advised to throw out their current contact lenses and lens-storage cases, which may harbor an infection-causing amoeba. The link between the product and infection was discovered by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
6. **b.** A man infected with a rare and dangerous form of tuberculosis may have exposed others. He flew Air France from Atlanta to Paris on May 12 and returned on Czech Air from Prague to Montreal on May 24. His form of tuberculosis is resistant to drugs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta quarantined the man. It is the first time the CDC has issued such an order since 1963.
7. **a.** Five British civilians were abducted in broad daylight at a Finance Ministry compound in Baghdad. The incident raises questions about links between government security forces and criminal militias. The kidnappers entered the fortified building complex without firing a shot. The Finance Minister is Bayan Jabr, a conservative Shiite who Sunnis have accused of encouraging sectarian violence.
8. **a.** The Supreme Court voted 5 to 4 to set limits on lawsuits over pay discrimination linked to gender or race and based on decisions made or acts committed years ago. They found in favor of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company over Lilly M. Ledbetter, who worked for 19 years at a pay rate substantially less than men doing work at the same level. The majority opinion, written by Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., said Ledbetter should have filed an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission action within 180 days after she learned of each allegedly discriminatory pay decision.
9. **c.** Riyo Mori, Miss Japan, walked away with the Miss Universe crown at the 2007 pageant in Mexico City. The new Miss Universe is a 20-year-old dancer from Shizuoka, at the base of Mt. Fuji. She is the first Miss Japan to win the title since 1959. Miss USA Rachel Smith was booed by the Mexican audience when she slipped and fell during the evening gown competition, and also during her interview. She was named fourth runner-up.
10. **b.** The current exhibition at the Cooper-Hewitt features designs for people living in extreme poverty around the world. For example, one design solves the problem of having to carry water from distant sources. The Q-Drum is a circular can that holds 20 gallons and rolls smoothly enough that a child can pull it with a rope. Another design, called the Lifestraw, kills bacteria as water is sucked through it.