

# Clashes at commemorative demonstration in Athens

Thousands of people have been protesting in Athens at an annual rally marking the anniversary of an uprising in 1973 that helped to bring down the country's military dictatorship

This year's demonstration was swelled by Greeks marching against austerity measures. The rally is the first test of public defiance for new Prime Minister Lucas Papademos, coming a day after his unity government won a confidence vote. The interim cabinet insists planned reforms are needed to secure the next instalment of a huge bailout loan.

There were clashes outside parliament as petrol bombs were thrown and police responded with tear gas. The November 17th march 38 years ago was in protest at US support for the military dictatorship. The rally helped to bring down the leadership at the time. Some see history repeating itself but the government at least appears united with the backing of both main opposition leaders.



Protesters march during a rally commemorating a 1973 student uprising against the then military junta

## Anti-corporate rallies from New York to LA

**Cities across the United States staged protests to mark two months of grass-roots demonstrations against economic inequality**

Last week, in New York the Occupy Wall Street rally was smaller than expected and police were able to stop the protesters closing down the city's iconic financial thoroughfare, making around 200 arrests in the process. One protester said, "We go to the Middle East and be like, hey, we're going to spread democracy and here we are, our government is suppressing democracy. It's just like, how hypocritical can that get?"

In Los Angeles hundreds of protesters marched through a business district thick with skyscrapers and banks. Though 23 arrests were made the rally was largely peaceful. "The banks got the bailout and we got sold out" was one of the chants. "We are the 99 percent" was another — a reference to the one percent who the demonstrators claim do not pay their taxes. The day of action also spread to the heart of America's political establishment with a rally in Washington DC. Protests also took place in Miami, Detroit, St. Louis and Boston.

## Google unveils Android-based online music store in the USA

**Google has launched an online music store in the US, which will allow devices running its Android software to buy, store and stream MP3 files**

EMI, Sony Music Entertainment, Universal and 23 independent labels are providing content to create a library of 13 million songs. However, Warner Music Group has opted not to take part at this point.

The service poses a chal-

lenge to Apple's dominance of the sector. It launched its iTunes store in 2003. The popularity of the iPod maker's mobile devices helped drive sales. However, a new study by the research firm Gartner suggests that more than half of all smartphones sold between July and September ran Android. That accounts for more than 60 million devices. By comparison Apple's iOS handsets accounted for 15 percent of the market over the same period,

according to the study.

Google is also integrating its new service with its Google+ social network. Users will be able to share songs with their Circles contacts who can listen to the full length of the tracks one time without making a purchase. Songs range in price from 69 cents (44p) to \$1.29 and come without DRM copy-protection. The search giant is also offering a different track free for download every day.

The firm announced

it has secured exclusive content. The rapper Busta Rhymes — who was at the launch event — is debuting his new studio album on the Android store. *The Rolling Stones* and *Coldplay* are offering previously unreleased live performances. Google is also hoping to link with smaller artists through its new Artist Hub. Musicians can add their own page for a \$25 fee and set their own prices. Google will take a 30 percent share of each sale.

## Union battles Peugeot over its plans to cut jobs in France

**A union official says PSA Peugeot Citroen is planning to cut 5,000 jobs in its home country — France. That would be more layoffs than previously proposed**

The information emerged during a works council meeting with the carmaker's management at Peugeot's central Paris headquarters as workers demonstrated outside. Jean-Pierre Mercier, union representative at Peugeot's factory in the Paris suburb of Seine-Saint Denis said they have been told 1,900 French manufacturing jobs would go and just over 3,100 in area like sales, information technology and



Peugeot's assembly line

research and development.

"The group's international development can't be carried out by cutting our

jobs here given that we're the ones who created PSA's wealth," Mercier said. One of the demonstrating work-

ers complained, "It's more than just the crisis. Peugeot will do what Renault has done, make cars abroad and then import them back here. Now they want to outsource and in the long run, in four to five years, it could be 20 percent manufacturing in France and 80 percent in the rest of the world."

Peugeot insists there will be no redundancies and it wants to save 800 million Euros with the cuts. Last month it warned its core car manufacturing business would barely make money this year and announced over 6,500 layoffs across Europe, by the end of next year.

## New Zealand shipwreck may be taken apart to retrieve containers

**The cargo ship that ran aground on a New Zealand reef may have to be broken up so that containers onboard can be removed**

Calm winds have allowed 18 to be retrieved from Rena so far, but dismantling the vessel could be the only way to move the more than 1,200 remaining containers. Although the oil spill has been stopped, the accident continues to affect people working in the Bay of Plenty. One of them is charter boat operator Garth Le Lievre, "This is when we make our money, and if we make no money this summer, what's the winter going to be like? We're going to be buggered," he said.

The ship got into trouble near Tauranga Harbour on New Zealand's North Island, emptying 350 tonnes of oil into the sea on October 5th. More than 1,000 sea birds were killed. New Zealand's Environment Minister Nick Smith has called it the country's most serious maritime environmental disaster.

## World's 'lightest material' unveiled

**A team of engineers claims to have created the world's lightest material**

The substance is made out of tiny hollow metallic tubes arranged into a micro-lattice — a criss-crossing diagonal pattern with small open spaces between the tubes. The researchers say the material is 100 times lighter than Styrofoam and has 'extraordinarily high energy absorption' properties.

Potential uses include next-generation batteries and shock absorbers. The research was carried out at the University of California, Irvine, HRL Laboratories and the California Institute of Technology and is published in the latest edition of *Science*. "The trick is to fabricate a lattice of interconnected hollow tubes with a wall thickness 1,000 times thinner than a human hair," said lead author Dr. Tobias Schaedler.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**