August 31, 2007

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Top Stories

YouTube access returns in Thailand

Thousands of Thai viewers are unblocked from the website after an "offensive" video was posted nearly six months ago of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Two new cases of West Nile Virus reported in Indiana

According to city health officials in Hammond, Indiana, there have been 2 more cases of West Nile virus reported in humans.

Featured story

Canadian court clears Stephen Truscott of 1959 murder

After a whole life spent around a court case, accused killer Stephen Truscott has been cleared from his murder conviction that started in 1959, at the age of fourteen.

Wikipedia Current Events

United States health officials issue a consumer alert for people to check their freezers for contaminated meat.

• Darfur rebels accuse the Sudanese Government of bombing South Darfur.

• 2007 Rio de Janeiro train crash: Two trains crash in a suburb of Rio de Janeiro killing at least 8 people and injuring 40.

• The Torre Mayor in Mexico City is evacuated after a car containing explosives is found in its carpark. Part of the building, Latin America's tallest, had also been evacuated the day before after police received an anonymous bomb threat.

• Waziristan War: Scores of Pakistani soldiers have gone missing near the Afghanistan border, amid claims from pro-Taleban militants that they have kidnapped the troops.

• The United Nations Headquarters building in New York City is evacuated after vials containing the chemical agent phosgene are discovered.

• The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades of Fatah claims its militants have fired a missile into southern Israeli city of Sderot in response to Israeli raids on the Gaza Strip. Israeli sources said the rocket landed on a building and caused damages and panic.

• Scores of Italians are arrested in a crackdown on the 'ndrangheta organised crime clans active in Calabria.

Nokia Inc. announces plans for iPhone rival

Announced early Wednesday morning at Nokia's GoEvent, in a plan to expand the companies revenue, Finland-based company Nokia Inc. is developing a mobile phone similar to its rival iPhone, which will be available in the near future for Nokia customers. The phone is expected to be available by 2008.

Most of the features are the same as the iPhone's. They include music, games, and many other features, even ones that the iPhone may not have. Ovi (in Finnish meaning "Door") will be the door for more than 2 million songs and games available for download on the new device. Users will be able to download wirelessly in their own home or anywhere there is access to a computer.

But this is not the first time Nokia has made an attempt like this to increase its revenue. In October of 2003 the company revealed the N-Gage, a game-playing cell phone, but was "stocked-out" due to poor sales. The N95 smartphone, which was released in the U.S. on April 7, 2007; the iPhone on June 29, 2007, includes WiFi, a GPS, a music player, and a 5 megapixel

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digital camera. The three other phones that were revealed at the event in London will be in-stock next quarter. The new N81 and the modified N95 smartphones were among the revealed at yesterday's event; the N81 is a new member to Nokia's smartphone family; the N95 has been modified by having more memory and a sleeker LCD screen.

When Nokia was asked about the striking similarity between this and the iPhone, Nokia's Executive Vice President and General Manager of Multimedia, Anssi Vanjoki, said, "If there is something good in the world then we copy with pride."

Nokia first demoed their iPhone rival August 29th. During their demo they omitted the fact that the demo was for the software to be in use, not the actual hardware.

**Australian short-term inmates have their right to vote reinstated**

![Short-term prisoners were reinstated the right to vote at federal elections by the High Court of Australia today](image)

The case against the amendments was bought to the court by an Aboriginal inmate, Vickie Roache, who is an inmate at the Dame Phyllis Frost Women's Prison in Victoria. She was represented by Philip Lynch, director of the Victorian Human Rights Law Resource Centre. He described Ms Roache as educated, articulate and deeply committed to the rights of prisoners and indigenous Australians.

"Vickie has stood up not just for the human rights of prisoners and Aboriginal Australians, but the interests of the entire community. She has done so with courage, integrity and commitment," he said.

Lawyers argued that the amendments to the Commonwealth Electoral Act were in violation of the Constitution which states that the parliament is to be "directly chosen by the people".

Ms Roache's challenge to previous laws which banned inmates serving terms longer than three years was unsuccessful, with the court upholding them. The court further ordered Ms Roache to pay half the court's costs.

There is yet to be an comment by the federal government or a release detailing the reasons behind the courts decision.

**Cricket: England defeats India in fourth one-day international**

England have beaten India by three wickets in the fourth One-Day International of the series at Old Trafford, Manchester, England.

England's bowlers made early breakthroughs to restrict India to 32-3. Sourav Ganguly fell to James Anderson for nine runs, while Dinesh Karthik and Rahul Dravid were both caught behind for just four runs and one run respectively. Sachin Tendulkar and Yuvraj Singh shared a 71 run partnership to steady the Indian innings. Tendulkar was dismissed for 55 runs, while Yuvraj Singh was bowled by Stuart Broad for 71. India were bowled out for 212 runs, with Stuart Broad the pick of the English bowlers, taking 4-51.

India's pace bowlers struck back immediately, with England opening batsman Alastair Cook bowled by Zaheer Khan before any runs had been scored, while Matt Prior fell to Ajit Agarkar in the fourth over. Agarkar, finishing with bowling figures of 4-60, also removed Ian Bell for 24 runs followed by the wickets of Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff to reduce England to 95-5. England captain Paul Collingwood scored 47 runs before being run out and when Owais Shah was removed for eight runs England were heading for defeat. However Ravi Bopara (43 not out) and Stuart Broad (45 not out) shared a partnership of 99 runs to salvage an unlikely victory for England with twelve balls remaining.

England lead the seven match series 3-1. The fifth match will be played at Headingley, Leeds on September 2.

**Suspected poisonous gas found in New York**

At least six to eight vials containing a reportedly poisonous gas were found at a United Nations (U.N.) office in New York, according to reports released today. The vials were potentially hazardous and reportedly came from a chemical plant in Iraq.

U.N. deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe assured the public they
were not in danger saying, "There is no immediate risk or danger." However, the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) building was evacuated, according to federal authorities.

The recovered gas was believed to be phosgene, which is used to make pesticides and plastics. The gas can be hazardous at room temperature, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (C.D.C.). The gas was used frequently throughout World War I.

The gas was brought to the U.S. from a chemical weapons plant north of Baghdad in 1996.

Ewen Buchanan, a UNMOVIC spokesman, said the phosgene gas was in liquid form, "ranging in size from small vials to tubes the length of a pen," she said.

Jerry Hauer, former New York City emergency services director, told ABC News that "If it is properly sealed, it should not pose much of a threat unless it is dropped" and "They need to get it out of there and put it in a safe canister...It shows immense stupidity to have that kind of thing sitting around as a souvenir."

No toxic vapors were found in the air and no one was injured. FBI agents, WMD teams, as well as hazmat units were all reporting to the scene.

New species of dart frog discovered in Colombia

Scientists have discovered a new species of venomous dart frog in Colombia.

The new species, dubbed the 'golden frog of Supatá', is 2cm (0.8 inch) long and has a range of just 50 acres (20 hectares), which is believed to be the reason why the frog remained undiscovered until now.

The frog was found in February during an expedition arranged by the Conservation Leadership Program (CLP), a nonprofit organization, but the discovery has only just been announced.

However, according to Giovanni Chaves, a biologist from the CLP, the frog is in imminent danger. "This frog exists in a little fragment of cloud forest that is under intense anthropogenic pressure, mainly the destruction of the forest for cattle-raising and agriculture," he said.

"This discovery allows us to know a little more about the ecology of these beautiful animals, and it will also allow us to use it as a symbol to carry out campaigns of environmental education in this area, to show the need to protect and to conserve the fauna and flora of this region of Colombia."

Colombia has one of the richest diversities of amphibians in the world, with more than 583 known species.

UEFA Champions League 2007/08: Group Stage Draw

Monaco was the location for the 2007/08 UEFA Champions League group stage draw. Before the draw took place there was a 1 minute silence in memory of Antonio Puerta who died earlier this week after collapsing during a La Liga match for Sevilla who then died on Tuesday, August 28. Due to this, Sevilla's Champions League qualifier was postponed which resulted in them and AEK Athens being drawn together.

Manchester Utd will play AS Roma again, after beating them in the Final 16 last year, in Group F, whilst Celtic will meet the defending champions AC Milan in Group D. Celtic lost against Milan in the Final 16 last year but will hope to avenge them.

Scottish football club Rangers, how have yet to beat a Spanish side in the Champions League, will get to meet Barcelona in Group E. Rangers also have both the French champions and the German champions, Lyon and Stuttgart.

Boeing 737 inspection deadline shortened after four jets found with similar fault to China Airlines plane

The United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has tightened the deadline imposed earlier for inspection of all Boeing 737 Next Generation worldwide.

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The mandatory inspections were imposed after it was discovered that the China Airlines 737 that exploded in Japan had a hole in its right wing fuel tank, which had been caused by a loose bolt from the wing slat assembly.

The wing slats are panels mounted to the leading edge of a wing. They are moved forward during final approach for landing to increase lift from the wing, allowing the plane to fly slower than usual without entering a stall. The bolt in question is mounted to the main slat tracks, on which the slats slide back and forth. As they are extended for landing, they can cause the bolt to be pushed through the adjacent wing fuel tank, rupturing it in the way it is believed the China Airlines plane's tank was.

Thus far, the inspections have discovered four airliners in which the bolt was loose. These discoveries give the authorities cause to believe that loose wing slat track bolts may be more widespread than originally considered, and accordingly reduced the inspection deadline from 24 days to 10 days. After that, inspections must be made every 3,000 operational hours, an unchanged schedule from the original set out at the same time as the 24-day deadline.

An example of a Boeing 737 in commercial operation

The Emergency Airworthiness Directive that the inspections are laid out in is believed to affect a total of 2,287 aircraft sold by Boeing around the world, although the FAA only has the authority to make the inspections compulsory for the 783 aircraft currently being operated in the U.S.

Although the FAA refused to release any details on which aircraft were found to have loose bolts, CNN and Agence France-Presse both reported that a fifth plane also exhibited the fault, belonging to Air Nippon and in operation in Japan. Although the fault was located elsewhere in the assembly, it is believed to have an identically high chance of causing a rupture to the fuel tank. All 22 other 737 NextGens in Japan have been checked, with no problems being identified.

Meanwhile, Norwegian Air Shuttle demonstrated its faith in the aircraft by placing a U.S.$3.1bn (£1.5bn) order for 42 Boeing 737-800 passenger jets with an option to buy 42 more, having already ordered 11 in May this year.

NHL: Vancouver Canucks showcase new uniform

The Vancouver Canucks, hockey team to Vancouver, British Columbia, unveiled its new home and away uniforms today. Keeping the trade-mark Orca, the jersey has remixed the colors as well as adding a green stripe for both the home and away uniforms today. This is the 5th jersey the team has gone through since 1970 when the team was founded.

The redesign has been met with some criticisms. John Carter, a graphics arts instructor at a local college was quoted as calling the redesign an "utter disappointment."

Iraqi peace talks to begin in Finland within days

Talks aimed at negotiating peace between Iraqi Shi'ites and Sunni Muslims, the two largest population groups in Iraq, are set to take place in Finland within the next few days.

The Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) and the Finnish Foreign Ministry have both confirmed reports that the pre-arranged talks are scheduled to begin soon in an undisclosed location in Finland. The CMI, a non-governmental organisation founded by former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari, has organised the talks, which are said to include key politicians, including representatives of major political parties.

Although the CMI will host the talks, Finland will take no direct role in the discussions. Martti Ahtisaari specifically will not take part, either.
All of those to take part in the mediations are still to arrive in Finland, including mediators from Northern Ireland and South Africa, who have already negotiated succesful peace deals in their own countries.

The CMI has already succeeded once in helping two rival factions come to a peace deal. In 2005, the organisation arranged succesful talks between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement.

2007 FIFA U17 World Cup: Germany eliminates Americans; sets up England quarter final
Germany beat the Americans 2-1 to advance to the quarter-finals against England at the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

The Germans had a many chances in the 1st half of the match. The Americans managed to keep the Germans off the scoresheet at half time with save from the American goalkeeper along with German shots going wide, until a 65th minute goal from Richard Sukuta-Pasu.

The United States sent everyone forward to seek an equaliser. Richard Sukuta-Pasu took advantage of this in the 89th minute scoring for the 2nd time in the 2nd half. Mykell Bates scored in Stoppage time to give the Americans a lifeline.

Heiko Herrlich (GER), Germany coach "We kept it tight at the back and never gave them a sight of goal. We were outstanding going forward and with a bit more luck we'd have been 4-0 up. Our second goal and the 2-0 lead was totally deserved. The USA only made headway from set plays and long balls. I want to congratulate my team. The important thing now is to keep our feet on the ground and regenerate as fast as possible, as we'll need to be perfectly prepared for the quarter-final against England. We'll be working intensively on preparing to meet our next opponents."

John Hackworth (USA), USA coach "I'm having trouble putting my thoughts into words. The lads have worked so hard and made so many sacrifices to get this far. We wanted to progress, but unfortunately the tournament's over for us. That's tough on my team, obviously. Congratulations to Germany, they put us under all sorts of pressure before we threw everything at them right at the end. It's a shame we couldn't turn in the kind of performance we're capable of, but my team showed heart and character. The Germans have a very powerful team and ultimately deserved to win, and all the best to them for the rest of the tournament."

Richard Sukuta-Pasu (GER), Germany forward "Obviously, I'm delighted with my two goals, but we can still do better. We'll celebrate a little tonight, and then as of tomorrow we'll focus on England. The tournament's not over for us by any stretch of the imagination, we could still go all the way at this World Cup."

Josh Lambo (USA), USA goalkeeper "It was a tough match for us. We battled right to the end, but we've come away empty-handed. You've got to be disappointed about that. We've learned a lot for the future at the tournament, especially about desire and the need to fight for every loose ball. Germany are a fantastic team and played tremendously well. If they can keep playing the way they did against us today, they could go a long way."

Immigration raid at Ohio poultry plant
Roughly 160 illegal immigrants were arrested when federal authorities raided a chicken plant in Fairfield, Ohio. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement confirms a Search warrant was conducted Tuesday, however, they made no arrests.

Koch poultry was also raided earlier in the day Tuesday when dozens of suspected illegal immigrants were arrested. According to federal officials, the poultry plant has a reputation of hiring undocumented workers.

According to Koch poultry officials, over 150 employees have had their employment terminated after finding that they had not entered the United States legally.

Federal officials state that meat processing plants are frequent targets for undocumented workers. They also state that officials are stepping up efforts to track down undocumented workers.

Canadian court clears Stephen Truscott of 1959 murder
The Ontario Court of Appeal in Toronto has cleared Stephen Truscott of murder charges, nearly a half century after the controversial Canadian crime case began.

Truscott was charged and convicted at the age of 14 for the rape and killing of 12-year-old
Lynne Harper near Clinton, Ontario in 1959. He was initially sentenced to death but the Canadian government reduced it to life imprisonment in 1960. He was granted parole and released from prison in 1969.

After living under an alternate identity for many years, Truscott began to work towards an appeal of his murder conviction. Truscott won his appeal when the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision was released on Tuesday. This judgment was based on a review of evidence which cast considerable doubt on the prosecution's original case such as the timing of Lynne Harper's death.

The Ontario government has started a process to determine an appropriate amount of compensation to Truscott for his years living under a criminal record.

"Based on evidence that qualifies as fresh evidence in these proceedings, we are satisfied that Mr. Truscott's conviction was a miscarriage of justice and must be quashed. We are satisfied that were a new trial possible, the acquittal of Mr. Truscott, while not the only possible verdict, would clearly be the more likely result given the entirety of the material presently available. That conclusion causes us to exercise our remedial discretion in favour of ordering an acquittal."
—Ontario Court of Appeal, in overturning Truscott's murder conviction

Although the court has stated that Truscott was a victim of a miscarriage of justice, it also ruled that it could not declare him innocent of the crime based on the evidence. Truscott's lawyers had asked for the ruling on innocence, as the determination could have an affect on the awarding of compensation.

Truscott commented on his relief that capital punishment had been abolished in Canada, as "there are so many wrongfully convicted in this country and they're simply just swept under the rug."

YouTube access returns in Thailand
YouTube videos could once again be viewed today in Thailand, nearly six months after the video-sharing website was blocked for hosting a video that showed images deemed offensive to Thailand's monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Information and Communications Technology Minister Sitthichai Pookaiyadom said the ministry unblocked YouTube after the website said it had developed ways to block Thailand viewers from seeing contents that violate Thai laws.

In April, YouTube was blocked in Thailand after a video was uploaded that showed graffiti scrawled over the king’s face, and feet being placed over the king's face; both highly offensive acts in Thai culture. Against the king, the offense is known as lèse majesté, a crime that can carry severe penalties.

Sitthichai told The Nation newspaper that the unblocking of YouTube is not in response to an apology by the video's uploader issued in May.

'Vega Millions' lottery nears record high in US
Mega Millions, a multi-state lottery in the United States is nearing a record high. Friday's August 31 drawing is expected to be at least US$325,000,000. So far, it is the fourth largest jackpot in U.S. history.

Twelve states in the U.S. participate in the lottery and the odds of at least one person winning the jackpot are one in 175,711,536. It costs just one dollar to purchase a ticket and if you win, you can receive the winnings in sums of 36,000 for every million won, each year, or receive it all in one lump sum.

On Tuesday, the jackpot was only at $250 million and reports say that the jackpot could rise even higher than $325 million just before the drawing on Friday.

On March 6, 2007, the Mega Millions jackpot of US$390 million, the highest lottery jackpot ever in the world, was paid out to two individuals who lived in Georgia and New Jersey.

The lottery results will be broadcast on live television at 8:00 p.m. (pacific time), 11:00 p.m. (eastern time).

Silent protest in Athens over recent fires
Thousands of Greeks gathered last night in Syntagma square in front of the parliament building in Athens to protest over the political...
response to the fires.

An estimated 8,000 people attended, after a call for a silent protest had been distributed through e-mail, text messages and eventually the media.

Although general elections are taking place in two and a half weeks time, the protest was meant to be apolitical. Some protesters taunted riot police, who responded with stun grenades.

**Horse flu infects Australian thoroughbreds**

It has been confirmed that eight thoroughbred race horses at Randwick Racecourse in Sydney have been infected with equine influenza. Randwick has been locked down, and is expected to remain so for up to two months.

It is expected that the virulent flu will affect the majority of the 700 horses stabled at Randwick. NSW Minister for Primary Industries said the facility would be quarantined until 30 days after the last sign of the flu.

The cases are the first infections of race horses, despite infecting dozens of recreational horses across NSW and Queensland. The flu is highly contagious but cannot be transmitted to humans. The national racing shutdown was costing the industry tens of millions of dollars every day.

Chief Executive of Racing NSW, Peter V'Landys said while racing had been disrupted since a ban on horse movements last weekend today was a "grim, black day" for the racing industry in NSW. Racing is expected to resume in all Australian states except NSW and Queensland on the weekend.

While Sydney's spring racing carnival has been canceled, Melbourne's is expected to kick off this weekend with the Caulfield Cup. The cup will be run with special precautions in place to attempt to keep the state free of the virus. Contact between the general public and those working with the horses will be banned and Sydney-based jockeys Darren Beadman and Hugh Bowman and a number of interstate trainers including Bart Cummings are not allowed to take part.

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Peter McGauran said the spring carnival in Melbourne will remain "largely intact" despite losing some of the biggest names in Australian racing.

**Two new cases of West Nile Virus reported in Indiana**

According to city health officials in Hammond, Indiana, there have been 2 more cases of West Nile virus reported in humans.

West Nile virus' (WNV) is a virus of the family Flaviviridae; part of the Japanese encephalitis (JE) antigenic complex of viruses, it is found in both tropical and temperate regions. It mainly infects birds, but is known to infect humans, horses, dogs, cats, bats, chipmunks, skunks, squirrels, and domestic rabbits. The main route of human infection is through the bite of an infected mosquito.

The two victims are former chief of police, Frank DuPey and a 67 year old Hammond resident. Currently both patients are hospitalized with acute disease, according to Hammond Health Officer-Administrator Rodrigo Panares.

**Three-year-old girl found unharmed at site of fatal shooting**

A three-year-old girl is under police guard following her discovery in a house which gunmen had broken into, killing three men and injuring two women, in Bishop's Stortford, England.

Police announced on Wednesday that the toddler had been discovered, unharmed, when they had been called to an incident on Tuesday evening. Neighbours have said that they heard shots from the house around 2130 (BST), before observing an Asian man returning to an accomplice in a red car outside the premises. The men are believed to have been in their early twenties, and were seen fleeing the scene towards the M11 motorway.

Three men were killed, aged 17, 33 and 52 and two women, aged 23 and 54, were injured. They are believed to have been victims of a targeted shooting, as opposed to a random act of violence, or burglary involving firearms.

**UEFA Champions League 2007/08: Celtic 1-1 Spartak Moscow**

Celtic headed into this match knowing a goal would send them into the group stages.

Celtic started well when Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink shoulderered Shunsuke Nakamura's cross over the bar after 10 minutes. If the Dutchman had've been more precise Celtic could've controlled the game from the start. 5 minutes later Scott McDonald played a one-two with Vennegoor of Hesselink who played a good short ball back which fell right for McDonald's left foot but he agonisingly hit wide. It wasn't all Celtic though. Spartak Moscow counter-attacked brilliantly and nearly scored 17 minutes in. Artur Boruc made a last-ditch save and...
Lee Naylor cleared after Vladimir Bystrov cut the ball back to Dmitri Torbinsky just outside the box. Just 60 seconds later Aiden McGeady hit a good shot wide of the Moscow goal. Then 25 minutes in, the referee made the worst decision of the match. Welliton, the Brazilian striker, shot straight at Artur Boruc and the ball bounced off him and hit Gary Caldwell's grounded hand. The referee gave the penalty. There was nowhere for Caldwell to go and the penalty should not have been given. However Pavlyuchenko’s penalty hit the post. 2 minutes later Celtic showed no signs of giving up. Scott McDonald scored his first Celtic goal after Massimo Donati's shot deflected off a defender and fell for McDonald on his stronger right foot. He slotted it straight past the keeper to give Celtic a 1-0 lead. 35 minutes into the match, Bystrov, who'd been causing Celtic, mainly Lee Naylor, many problems, sprinted past Lee Naylor again and if it wasn't for captain Stephen McManus blocking the shot, it could've been 1-1. Just before half time Spartak scored from a corner after scrappy Celtic defending. Vennegoor of Hesselink and Mark Wilson couldn't clear the ball and Pavlyuchenko, who missed a penalty earlier, controlled and slotted the ball past a very angry Artur Boruc. In first half stoppage time, Bystrov powered down the left wing to find nobody in the box. Forced to make a shot, it ended up going off for a throw in. Just before extra time half time Derek Riordan, who replaced McGeady, picked up the ball and slammed a brilliant shot just a yard wide on his European début. 5 minutes into the second half of extra time, Maksym Kalynychenko hit a superb shot which Boruc got a vital touch to. The ball then went straight down to the Spartak box but Vennegoor of Hesselink could only hit into Stipe Pletikosa's hands. In the 24th minute, Celtic were very attacking from the start of extra time. The man advantage seemed to be helping Celtic as McDonald and Vennegoor of Hesselink both missed good chances in the first 5 minutes. In the 99th minute Aiden McGeady made a good run down the right wing to find nobody in the box. The match was going to penalties.

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president after a multi-party election.
1997 – Princess Diana, her companion Dodi Fayed, and their driver Henri Paul were killed in a high speed car accident in the Pont de l'Alma road tunnel in Paris. August 31 is Independence Day for Malaysia (1957), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Kyrgyzstan (1991)

**Quote of the Day**
Have no shame in being kindly and gentle, but if the time comes in the time of your life to kill, kill and have no regret. In the time of your life, live — so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite delight and mystery of it.
~ William Saroyan

**Word of the Day**
*specious; adj*
1. Seemingly well-reasoned or factual, but actually fallacious or insincere.
2. Having an attractive appearance intended to generate a favorable response; deceptively attractive.

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