



Top Stories

Latin America suffers drop in remittances

Slumping economies in the United States, Spain and Japan are causing reverberations in the countries of Latin America as migrant workers send less money home. The Inter-American Development Bank reported that remittances to Latin America declined in the fourth quarter of 2008, dropping 2% relative to the fourth quarter of 2007.

Madoff prosecutors want assets from wife and children

The wife and sons of Bernard Madoff are now under pressure from prosecutors to give up US\$2.6 million worth of jewelry and \$31.5 million in loans.

Former Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Fumo convicted of fraud, corruption

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Australian football: Melbourne Victory win A-League grand final

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Top Stories

Madagascar President resigns, unclear rule in Antananarivo

Leadership in Madagascar is unclear as Madagascar President Marc Ravalomanana announced his resignation in favor of a military committee headed by Vice Admiral Hyppolite Ramaroson.

Seattle's oldest newspaper to become online-only

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the 146-year-old Seattle newspaper, will make its final print edition on Tuesday, before becoming an online-only news agency.

Wikipedia Current Events

China's Ministry of Commerce rejects Coca-Cola's bid to acquire the Huiyuan Juice Group.

•Josef Fritzl of Austria changes his plea to guilty on all charges.

•The Office for National Statistics reports that 2.04 million people in the United Kingdom are unemployed.

•Pope Benedict XVI denounces the use of condoms to prevent HIV/AIDS during a tour of Africa.

•Twelve people are discovered dead in police custody in Nampula Province, Mozambique.

•Madagascar's constitutional court supports the installation of Andry Rajoelina as President.

•Governor Bill Richardson signs legislation repealing capital punishment making New Mexico the second US state to

Wikipedia Current Events

legislatively repeal the death penalty since it was permitted by the Supreme Court in 1976.

•Natasha Richardson Natasha Richardson dies at approx. 7 pm from trauma to the brain after a skiing accident.

Former Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Fumo convicted of fraud, corruption

Former Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent J. Fumo was found guilty of 137 counts of conspiracy, fraud, obstruction of justice and tax violations on Monday.

Fumo, a Democrat who previously represented South Philadelphia, was found guilty of defrauding the Senate, a nonprofit organization and a museum out of more than US\$3.5 million.

Fumo also ordered state employees to do political tasks and personal errands, and destroyed e-mail evidence, according to the convictions handed down by a U.S. District Court jury Monday.

More than 100 witnesses participated in the five-month trial, which featured about 1,500 exhibits. It took the jury 13 minutes to read all the guilty counts for Fumo, who served on the Pennsylvania State Senate for more than 30 years.

"Hard work has never, never balanced such abuses," U.S. Attorney Laurie Magid told The

Bulletin. "It was a resounding verdict and an emphatic rejection of the kind of defenses that were raised."

Prosecutors plan to seek a prison sentence of at least 10 years.

Dennis Cogan, the lead defense attorney for Fumo, said he might ask for a new trial, but did not specify the possible grounds for such a request. A federal judge set bail for Fumo at \$2 million and denied a motion by prosecutors to revoke Fumo's bail, despite a prosecutor's claim that Fumo had a "strong incentive to flee". Ruth Arnao, a staffer for Fumo, was also found guilty of 45 counts of similar charges and received \$500,000 bail.

Prior to the verdict being read, Fumo's defense attorneys accused a juror of putting trial posts on his Facebook and Twitter accounts, which led to speculation that a mistrial could be declared. Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter denied the request to dismiss the juror after speaking with the juror for about an hour on March 16.

Among the charges were that Fumo helped defraud Citizens Alliance for Better Neighborhoods, a community group he helped found, by using \$1.4 million of its money to buy goods, conduct polls and file a lawsuit against a Republican foe.

Prosecutors also said Fumo arranged for heated sidewalks to be installed at his personal mansion, ordered political operatives to spy on his ex-girlfriend, and took overnight cruises on luxury yachts owned by Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, where Fumo sat on the board.

News of Fumo's conviction quickly

swept through the Pennsylvania State Capitol, where longtime Democratic colleagues said they were saddened by the verdict, but not surprising due to the large amount of evidence that surfaced during the trial.

Madoff prosecutors want assets from wife and children

The wife and sons of Bernard Madoff are now under pressure from prosecutors to give up US\$2.6 million worth of jewelery and \$31.5 million in loans. Madoff made the news recently when he pleaded guilty to running a Ponzi scheme worth billions of dollars.

Prosecutors, who stated their intent on Sunday to seize bonds and cash from Madoff, filed another notice on Tuesday listing assets that they intend to seize, among them "various pieces of jewelry owned or held in the name of Ruth Madoff valued at approximately \$2,624,340," and "approximately 35 sets of watches and cufflinks owned by Bernard Madoff," as well as \$31.5 million in loans made to Madoff's sons.

Bernard Madoff, aged 70, pleaded guilty last Thursday to cheating investors out of as much as \$65 billion in the largest ever Ponzi scheme. He was jailed immediately after his plea, and faces a prison sentence of up to 150 years. Neither his wife nor his sons have been accused of any wrongdoing.

Australian football: Melbourne Victory win A-League grand final

Melbourne Victory has won the A-League Grand Final against Adelaide United at the Telstra Dome. Melbourne came into the match with a 6-0 (2-0, 4-0) win over Adelaide United in their two legged semi final. Adelaide United came into the match with a win

against Queensland Roar in the preliminary final.

The A-League uses the Page playoff system where the winner of the major semi final (1st vs. 2nd) qualifies for the grand final, while the loser plays the winner of the minor semi final (3rd vs. 4th) for the remaining place.

Melbourne midfielder Tom Pondeljak scored the only goal for the match with a long range strike on sixty minutes.

Adelaide were reduced to ten men after ten minutes when Cristiano landed a clumsy elbow to the head of an opposing player. Melbourne was reduced to ten men twenty minutes from time when Danny Allsopp was sent off due to a late fracas.

"It was a great performance. Adelaide were great, they pushed us right to the death but I think we deserved it," Melbourne captain Kevin Muscat said. "Down to 10 men it was a very difficult game for us but the amount of courage and heart the boys showed tonight to get through the game and keep fighting to the end was fantastic. I couldn't ask any more."

"It's one of those things I guess, it changed the game, but what can you do about it now?" Adelaide Captain Travis Dodd told Fox Sports after the match. "We worked hard to keep it scoreless until half-time, to keep our discipline and keep our shape and keep doing what we were doing."

Today in History

1279 – The Song Dynasty in Imperial China ended with a victory by the Yuan Dynasty at the Battle of Yamen off the coast of Xinhui, Guangdong Province.
1687 – The search for the mouth

of the Mississippi River led by French explorer René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle ended with a mutiny and his murder in present-day Texas.

1945 – World War II: A single Japanese aircraft hit the American aircraft carrier USS Franklin, killing over 700 of her crew and crippling the ship.

1978 – In response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the United Nations called on Israel to immediately withdraw its forces from Lebanon, and established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

1982 – Argentine forces led by Alfredo Astiz occupied South Georgia, precipitating the Falklands War against the United Kingdom.

March 19 is Saint Joseph's Day in Catholicism; Father's Day in various countries

Quote of the Day

mandarin n

1. (historical) A high government bureaucrat of the Chinese Empire.
2. A pedantic or elitist bureaucrat.

Word of the Day

"Fools rush where Angels fear to tread!" Angels and Fools have equal claim

To do what Nature bids them do,
sans hope of praise, sans fear of blame!

~ Sir Richard Francis Burton ~

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