



Top Stories

Interior Ministry, Fatah offices in Gaza hit by Israeli airstrikes

Offices of President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party were hit during an Israeli airstrike which also targetted Hamas's Interior Ministry, Palestinian and Israeli sources say.

U.S. military tribunals in Guantanamo Bay lack Congressional authorization, violate U.S. law and Geneva Conventions

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the military commissions set up to try terrorist suspects are not authorized by Congress and that the President lacks legal authority to establish those commissions without such an authorization. It also ruled that the commission's procedures violate the Geneva Conventions and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Featured story

Film project aims to raise £1 million to make a Creative Commons-licenced film

Matt Hanson aims to raise £1 million to fund the production of a feature-length film which would be distributed freely via the internet under a Creative Commons licence, all funded through 50,000 people each donating £25 to the project, which he's called 'A Swarm of Angels'.

Wikipedia Current Events

- A judge orders the arrest of former Mexican President Luis Echeverria on charges relating to the 1968 Tlatelolco Massacre.
- The United States military orders an investigation into claims that five US soldiers raped an Iraqi woman and then murdered her and three members of her family.
- With the election of Trish Law in a by-election, the National Assembly for Wales becomes the first legislature in the world to have a majority of female members.
- On the sixth day to the abduction of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, his father calls the abductors to provide him with a sign of life from Gilad, as a humane requisite. He also personally thanks Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for his personal involvement in resolving the crisis.
- Israeli air strike kills one Islamic Jihad militant in the Gaza Strip, the first Palestinian fatality in the IDF incursion. A child is lightly wounded in another air strike in the Gaza Strip.
- An upgraded Qassam rocket lands in the cemetery of Ashkelon, an Israeli city with a population exceeding 117,000. This is the furthest range Qassam rockets have reached to date.

Italy brush Ukraine aside 3-0 to reach semi-final

Italy took their chances to take a comfortable win in their Fifa World Cup quarter-final match against

Ukraine, Friday.

Gianluca Zambrotta scored the game winner after six minutes and Luca Toni netted a double in the second half to secure a semi-final game with the host nation, Germany.

Zambrotta's early goal for Italy was a 30 yard low hard swinging drive that beat the Ukraine keeper at his near post.

Italy played a very effective counter attack game ceeding 58 per cent of possession to Ukraine while they equalled their opponents creativity in front of goal with seven shots on target.

Ukraine played good football in the second period and while they were still one goal down were unlucky not to net an equaliser. They were up against an Italian defence that had conceded just one goal in the tournament - which was an own goal - and was to complete a third consecutive shut out.

On 48 minutes Gianluigi Buffon made a match-winning save from Maksym Kalinichenko. In the process of tipping the downward header onto the post Buffon head-butted the upright.

As Ukraine upped the pressure Italy captain Fabio Cannavaro then made a crucial winning header clearance as Andiry Shevchenko lurked behind.

When Buffon saved again and Zambrotta cleared off the line from

Kalinichenko Ukraine coach Oleg Blohkin rued the missed chances. A minute later an Italian attack led to a corner, taken short Totti's near-post ball met a diving Toni and it was suddenly 2-0.

Andriy Gusin then connected with a header and hit the crossbar but though the Ukraine effort was vigorous on the day they did not score.

Ten minutes after Toni's first World Cup goal, Zambrotta dribbled into the penalty area from the left side and passed the ball to Toni who tapped in his second goal from five yards.

An unsung hero of the match was Gennaro Gattuso whose hardwork in midfield earned him Fifa's Man of the Match award.

Nickelback: Lead singer arrested for drunk driving

Chad Kroeger, lead singer of Canadian rock group Nickelback was caught drunk and arrested last week in Surrey, B.C. The investigation started last week after the lead singer was pulled over on June 22 at about 2 a.m. for driving erratically. Kroeger is from Hanna, Alberta, 170 km northeast of Calgary, Alberta.

The RCMP said the incident involving Chad Kroeger happened on June 22. Cpl. Roger Morrow said officers in two RCMP vehicles were suspicious of the way a vehicle was being driven, and stopped the car without incident.

Charges of impaired driving have been recommended by police against 31-year-old Chad Kroeger to the Crown prosecutor's office. But, no charges have been laid yet. Representatives for Kroeger had no comment.

Palestinian PM: Israel aims to topple government

Ismail Haniyeh, the Palestinian Prime Minister, said Friday that; "This total war is proof of a premeditated plan. When they kidnapped the ministers they meant to hijack the government's position, but we say no positions will be hijacked, no governments will fall."

Haniyah said that that Israel's offensive in the Gaza strip was part of a premeditated plan to bring down the elected Palestinian government led by Hamas, and that it would fail.

Israel's air force struck roads, bridges and a power plant in Gaza within the past 24 hours, and the United Nations said it believes the destruction of the Gaza power plant has pushed Gaza close to a humanitarian crisis.

Israel maintains that its military activities are for the purpose of obtaining the safe return of one of its soldiers, Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who was kidnapped by Palestinian militants this past Sunday. Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz said; "The quicker this is done the better it will be. If the soldier will be returned and the Qassam (rocket) fire will be halted, we will also return our soldiers to their bases."

Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs Freitas do Amaral resigns

June 30, 2006

The Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs Freitas do Amaral has resigned from his position. Replacing Freitas do Amaral in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be Lu s Amado, current Minister of National Defense.

Prime Minister Jos  S crates requested President Cavaco Silva to relieve Freitas do Amaral of his posts of minister of state and foreign affairs, on his request, for reasons of health, according to a cabinet press release.

In the press release, Jos  S crates also proposed the nomination of the current minister of defense, Lu s Amado, to replace Freitas do Amaral. Jos  S crates also proposed the nomination of Nuno Severiano Teixeira as the new defense minister. Teixeira was the Internal Administration Minister in the second executive lead by Ant nio Guterres (1999/2001). Both possessions are scheduled for next Monday morning.

"In this occasion, the Prime Minister desires to underline the extraordinary contribute which, with all his experience and international prestige, the professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral gave to the Government and the national interests in the conduction of the Portuguese external politics", the press release stated.

In a press conference this Friday afternoon, Foreign Affairs spokesman Ant nio Carneiro Jacinto said that Freitas do Amaral will be operated next Monday (July 3) to an injury in the cervical column which hinders him from travelling by airplane in the coming months.

"The resignation was not motivated by politic divergences of any type, which had not existed, nor exist. It's because the aggravation of the health" of Diogo Freitas do Amaral, said the spokesman in the press conference.

The resignation of Freitas do Amaral was expected has for some time. On March, in an interview to the Portuguese newspaper "Expresso", the Minister said that he arrived home "at the end of the day completely tired" and admitted that he would not be able to handle the work of the ministry when Portugal starts to exercise its presidency of the European Union, in 2007.

Germany master penalties to beat Argentina to semi-final spot

Germany beat Argentina 4-2 on penalties to book a place in the Fifa World Cup semi-finals in Berlin, Friday.

The match had drawn 1-1 without many clear chances for either side due to defensive play on both sides. First it was Germany who were unable to be positive as Argentina dominated play with 65 per cent of ball possession.

Until their goal Argentina controlled the game.

Four minutes after half-time Roberto Ayala got across Miroslav Klose to meet Juan Riquelme's corner which he powered between Jens Lehmann and his near post guard, Philipp Lahm.

The goal early in the second period made for a more exciting match which had been mostly uneventful in a first half during which neither side could muster more than a single shot. However; good scoring chances were hard to come by.

Juergen Klinsmann may be credited with a substitution change that partially helped Germany get an equalising goal. The fast David Odonkor troubled Juan Sorin and the Argentine left

flank and allowed Germany to press forward nearer to the opposition penalty area.

Argentine manager may also have made a tactical mistake and suffered form a moment of bad fortune. In the minutes before Germany equalised from Ballack's wonderful left field cross his goalkeeper had to be stretchered off with a muscle injury.

Jose Pekerman followed his keeper's substitutions with two defensive ones; taking off creative midfield playmaker Riquelme and forward Hernan Crespo. The gifts of Lionel Messi and Javier Saviola were left on the bench while Julio Cruz, a long ball-holding forward, was brought on to partner Carlos Tevez.

The bad luck and changes seemed to put Germany in charge of the tactical game for the first time in the match.

A minute after Cruz arrived Pekerman might have regretted his decision. Klose's fifth World Cup goal ten minutes from time put him at the top of the Fifa Golden Boot leaderboard as the tournament's highest goalscorer. He beat his marker to dip and head beyond Leonardo Franco after Tim Borowski, a substition on 74 minutes, had flicked on a Ballack cross.

The game finished 1-1 and the two halves of extra time mirrored the match; first half uneventful, the second half more attacking. Fabricio Coloccini came closest to breaking the deadlock when he hit the crossbar from 45 yards trying to catch Lehmann off his goalline.

Neither Germany or Argentina had lost in a World Cup penalty contest; both sides had won three.

All the penalties hit the target and were well struck, except Ayala's who hit a soft effort which Lehmann saved to his left. Cambiasso's effort to Lehmann's left was better struck but the keeper had guessed the right side to dive to break Argentine hearts.

Interior Ministry, Fatah offices in Gaza hit by Israeli airstrikes

In response to the abduction of Israeli soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit by Hamas militants, The Israeli Defence Forces carried out 5 to 8 airstrikes targeting the office of The Palestinian interior ministry's headquarters occupied by the governing party Hamas in Gaza and an office of President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party in Gaza, Palestinian and Israeli sources say.

There were mixed reports of casualties from the airstrike, although one source said a member of Islamic Jihad had been killed in the airstrikes. Television images showed emergency crews responded to the attacks.

The Israeli military said the ministry office, controlled by Hamas, was "a meeting place to plan and direct terror activity." In addition, an Israeli official stated to the Associated Press that the attacks will only end when the captured Israeli soldier is unconditionally freed.

Days after the initial raid reports from Israeli officials stated that they had found the body of 18-year-old Eliyahu Yitzhak Asheri who was kidnapped by the Palestinian ruling party, Hamas, and shot in the back of the head on Sunday.

In his first appearance since the raid began, Palestinian PM and leader of the Hamas organization,

Ismail Haniya denounced the raid saying it was a "premeditated plan" to bring down the new Hamas government. He accused Israel of hiding behind Cpl. Shalit to carry a "systemic campaign" against Hamas.

Australian shot in Thailand

An Australian has been shot in the abdomen in Thailand. The 22 year old man from Wagga Wagga, Lee Burkinshaw, was shot in the Chantaburi province during a drive by shooting. He was evacuated to Bangkok hospital after receiving some treatment at a local hospital. An operation is needed to remove the bullet from his abdomen. He is expected to make a full recovery.

His spleen was removed but no vital organs have been damaged.

His father received a call at 2 am (AEST)

Lee went to Thailand to study the gem cutting.

It is the gem capital of the world, and a lot of the rough cut gemstones come into there to be cut and styled, Mr. Burkinshaw said.

He is undeterred from revisiting Thailand.

This is purely a one-off incident ... Thailand is a wonderful country, it's just an unfortunate incident, said Lee.

This is the second incident in recent weeks in which an Australian had been shot in Thailand. Last week a nurse was killed when she was shot in the neck near a bar.

Ullrich and Sevilla suspended from Tour De France

T-Mobile suspended the Tour de

France testers Jan Ullrich and Oscar Sevilla, and they will not participate in the Tour de France. Ullrich's mentor, Rudy Pevenage, is also suspended.

The news was published at today's press meeting.

It is the first consequence of the big Spanish doping-scandal. The 32-year old Jan Ullrich won Tour de France in 1997. He was together with Team CSC's Ivan Basso the favorite winner in Tour de France, and the Spaniards Oscar Sevilla was one of Ullrich's most important helpers.

All three have to prove their innocence before they can be released, said the German crew who will try to get the two new bikers in the game.

Team CSC-owner Bjarne Riis said Friday, when he was on his way to meet the other sports executives, and the Tour-management:

"It is sad news. I just heard it. It is of course a shame."

All together 22 riders are mentioned on the list.

French Parliament adopts controversial copyright bill

The French parliament has today finally adopted a law known as DADVSI implementing the 2001 European directive on copyright, roughly an equivalent to the US Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The final text criminalizes sending copyrighted data over peer-to-peer networks, and enacts tough penalties for those designing programs "evidently designed" to send copyrighted data or meant for circumventing DRM protection techniques.

Free software groups contend that

the law could in effect make it impossible to implement free software capable of reading DRM-encumbered formats. EUCD.info denounces the "worst copyright law imaginable". [1]

The text started to be examined in Parliament in December 2005, when it took an unexpected twist with an amendment decriminalizing peer-to-peer networks (in exchange for the payment of a flat fee), since repealed. In March, other amendments were strongly criticized by Apple Computer, and as a result the US government pressured the French government to rescind them.

The ruling UMP party voted in favor of the law, but a number of its parliamentarians, including a vice-president of the National Assembly, expressed strong reservations; the centrist UDF split over it, with its president François Bayrou being opposed to the bill, but some other members abstaining from voting; the left-wing opposition PS and PCF voted against it. The opposition has announced it would mount a challenge over the law before the French Constitutional Council.

Proponents of the bill claim that it will rein in unauthorized copying of copyrighted content, which they claim jeopardizes artistic creation in France. Opponents opposed both the way the bill was examined in Parliament, which they claim was put under pressure, and some clauses that they claim may violate civil liberties or jeopardize free software.

The bill is due to be signed into law by president Jacques Chirac following the probable examination

by the Constitutional Council.

Police crackdown on illegal tow operations in Sydney

New South Wales Police, in connection with the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, Tow Truck Authority and Centrelink (the agency responsible for providing income support) conducted random checks on tow trucks on Thursday. The checks were carried out in Bankstown, a suburb in Sydney's South-West.

According to police, 50 tow trucks were pulled over during the operation, coined "Operation Hook" between 8:30AM AEST and 4PM. Of those, 26 were directed to report to a vehicle inspection facility for further investigation.

Police issued 70 infringement notices (fines) during the operation. 11 were for being unlicensed to conduct business as a tow truck driver or business, and 13 for having incorrectly secured loads. 17 vehicles were issued defect notices as part of the operation.

Tow truck operators (business owners) are required to make a payment of AUD\$770 per year to the NSW government, while drivers are charged \$152 per year for their licence. An additional charge for tow truck number plates of \$292 per year also applies.

The maximum penalty for operators not being licenced correctly is \$11,000 or 12 months imprisonment, drivers without the correct licence can be fined \$5,500 or sentenced to 6 months.

Today in History

251 - The Goths under Cniva defeat the Roman Empire at the Battle of Abrittus and kill both Roman Emperors, Decius and his son and co-emperor Herennius Etruscus.

1867 - Canada Day: The Province of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia united in Confederation.

1904 - The first Olympic Games in North America opened in St. Louis, Missouri.

1916 - The First day on the Somme, the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army.

1991 - The Warsaw Pact was officially dissolved.

1997 - The sovereignty of the British crown colony of Hong Kong was transferred to the People's Republic of China, to be governed as a special administrative region under the policy of "One country, two systems".

Quote of the Day

"Perhaps in time the so-called Dark Ages will be thought of as including our own."

~ Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

Word of the Day

ragamuffin; n

1. A dirty, shabbily-clothed child; an urchin.

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