



Top Stories

Eritrean minister warns of war over Ugandan troops in Somalia

Eritrean information minister warned of a war between Somalis and "external forces" after the first African Union led peacekeeping troops arrived in Somalia.

U.S. Justice Department says FBI misused Patriot Act

The United States Justice Department has concluded an inquest into the FBI's use of the Patriot Act saying that the FBI had been, in some cases, misusing the Patriot Act, sometimes illegally.

Featured story

Bacterial outbreak forces closure of Toronto hospital neo-natal unit

An outbreak of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in a wing of the Women's College Hospital has resulted in the temporary closure of the hospital's High Risk Perinatal Service in the neo-natal Intensive Care Unit.

Wikipedia Current Events

•Thousands of supporters of legislation giving equal rights on issues to de facto heterosexual and gay couples in Italy attend a rally in Rome.

•Sri Lankan Civil War: More than 30,000 Sri Lankans flee intensifying fighting between the Government and the Tamil Tigers in the east of Sri Lanka.

Wikipedia Current Events

•Tens of thousands of people protest in Madrid to protest about the release of a jailed Basque separatist José Ignacio de Juana Chaos.

•The launch of the European Space Agency's latest Ariane 5 mission from French Guiana, carrying a platform for the Skynet 5 military satellite system for use by the UK's Ministry of Defence, is postponed due to a minor technical failure

•Zambia starts a program of mass demolition of illegal housing starting in the capital Lusaka. The demolitions are to end corruption in the distribution of land plots highlighted by the recent sacking of Lands Minister Gladys Nyirongo.

•Yearlong talks on the future of Kosovo end in stalemate between the Serbian Government and the ethnic Albanian leaders of the province.

•A major international conference starts in Baghdad to look at ways to stabilise Iraq featuring representatives from Iran, Syria and the United States.

•A number of bombs detonate at the above event, but there are no casualties

United force replay against 'Boro in FA Cup

A penalty by Christiano Ronaldo midway through the second half kept Manchester United in the FA Cup earlier today at The Riverside. United, who have their eye on three

trophies this year, were forced to scramble back for the draw against Middlesbrough, who have been forced into replays in all three previous rounds, with two going all the way to penalties. United were the strong favourites for the match, and sent Wayne Rooney and Henrik Larsson up front as strike partners, with Ronaldo supporting from midfield. 'Boro also fielded a strong attacking side, with Yakubu and Mark Viduka leading the way. United was forced into a keeper change before the match, as Edwin Van Der Sar had a calf injury and was replaced by Tomasz Kuszczak.

Middlesbrough had the first of the chances in the game through Stuart Downing after he received a pass from Julio Arca and was able to run in alone at Kuszczak. The keeper positioned himself well however, and he deflected Downing's shot out for a corner. United soon was in control of the game, and their first chance came when Larsson passed in a ball to Rooney, but the young Englishman's shot flashed wide. Rooney would not miss on his next chance though, as he received a pass from Giggs and slotted the ball past Mark Schwarzer from outside the penalty area. Kuszczak was then called on again to keep United in the lead when Yakuba did well to turn defender Rio Ferdinand, and released a shot at the net, but Kuszczak dove to make the save. Manchester's skipper Gary Neville then provided Ryan Giggs with a long cross into the box, but the Welshman's one-time volley clipped off the opposite post and stayed

out of the net. Middlesbrough made United pay for their missed chance before the break, and the 18 year old Lee Cattermole was the goal scorer. Kuszczak made an error of coming out to catch the ball, and he became mixed up with Ferdinand, who headed clear instead. The ball went to Arca however, and the Argentine headed the ball to Cattermole, who controled, spun, and volleyed neatly past the sprawling Polish keeper, tying the match.

Middlesbrough would start the second half the same way they ended the first; with a goal. Cattermole earned a corner off Heinze, and Downing curled the free kick deep, where skipper George Boateng was waiting to head the ball easily past Kuszczak. The goal was the first for Boateng in all competitions this season. Being a goal down was a shock to United, who have rarely fallen behind after leading this season, and they soon were on the attack. Henrik Larsson had the first of the chances, but his shot was blocked by Parnaby. A flick on by Ferdinand after a Giggs corner hit Boateng's hand, and the hero soon became the villian as referee Rob Styles rewarded a penalty to Manchester United. Christiano Ronaldo stepped up, and after a studder step slotted the ball past Schwarzer's right side, even though the German keeper went the right way. The game was tied yet again, and both teams pushed for the win, neither wanting a replay. Middlesbrough looked the most likely to score for much of the rest of the match as Viduka made space for Parnaby to shoot, but the ball was aimed right at Kuszczak who collected easily. 'Boro then introduced Jason Euell and Lee Dong-gook into the match in an attempt for the win, but the game ended in stalemate instead.

The replay will take place March 19 between the two at Old Trafford, which doesnt give either club much rest after their March 17th Premiership games, when United take on Bolton at home, and 'Boro will host Manchester City at the Riverside. Manchester also will be playing their European charity match beforehand, which takes place on the 13th.

Eritrean minister warns of war over Ugandan troops in Somalia

The government of Eritrea warned of "dire consequences" unless Uganda removes its troops from the African Union (AU) peacekeeping force deployed to Somalia.

Ali Abdu, Eritrea's information minister stated, "We believe the government of Uganda must rectify its error and pull out from Somalia, otherwise the situation will become increasingly dangerous. It will not only worsen, but will become a war between the Somali people and external forces. That will have dire consequences for the whole region."

Uganda has already sent 1,000 of a planned 1,500 troops under AU auspices to the area. The AU plans to send 8,000 multinational troops in total, and has recently vowed to continue their deployment despite attacks on its first deployed forces and threats of an Islamist commander. The Islamic Courts Movement has also threatened to wage jihad against the peacekeeping forces.

Reacting to the comments, Paddy Ankunda a spokesman for the Uganda Peoples Defense Force (UPDF) said, "Eritrea has no right to demand that we withdraw. Unless they are claiming they are not part of the African Union. We

received a mandate, not only from the AU but also from the UN."

The UPDF forces have been attacked since arriving at Mogadishu on March 6. They came under mortar fire at the airport during a hand-over ceremony. Over this week, two UPDF troops were wounded in an ambush and a landmine was discovered on the road leading to the airport. Two UPDF soldiers were also wounded by shrapnel in the attack and were flown back to Uganda. The AU is still investigating the incident.

Another mortar attack that missed a UPDF convoy and hit a nearby restaurant on March 7 killed 13 civilians and wounded 20.

The UPDF attributed the loss of one of its planes, which burst into flames while landing, to a technical problem and not the result of an insurgent attack.

Eritrea also took the opportunity to condemn its longtime rival Ethiopia that helped install the provisional government of Somalia. Eritrea claimed that Ethiopia (whom it has a long border conflict with) is seeking to carve up the country and was acting as a puppet of the United States. In the past the United Nations has accused Eritrea of providing arms and equipment to the Islamists.

Boy missing in Glynn County, Georgia

Six-year-old Christopher Michael Barrios, Jr. has been missing since Thursday night. He was last seen near his home in the Canal Mobile Home Park just north of Brunswick, Georgia.

He is a hispanic/black male, 3'06" - 4'00", and 60-70 lbs. He has short black hair and brown eyes, and was last seen wearing a blue or green

long sleeve shirt with a white T-shirt underneath and long black pants. He also was wearing white tennis shoes with a blue stripe on the side with a velcro closure on top.

Police say neighbors spotted a white car driving slowly in the area, but they are not sure if the car has anything to do with Christopher's disappearance.

If you know anything about this you are asked to call the Glynn County police at 912-554-7803 or First Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS (1-866-845-8477). There is a \$26,000 reward for the return of the missing boy.

Bacterial outbreak forces closure of Toronto hospital neo-natal unit

An outbreak of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in a wing of the Women's College Hospital in Toronto, Canada has resulted in the temporary closure of the hospital's High Risk Perinatal Service in the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

The NICU, operated by the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, will not accept direct newborn admissions or maternal transfers, temporarily, until the outbreak is controlled. Current patients are being cared for in the NICU and Sunnybrook has created a separate area to accommodate new babies.

The closure of the NICU at Women's College Hospital is expected to put a strain on availability of high-risk neo-natal services in Ontario. According to Sunnybrook, the NICU cares for one in five of all babies born in Ontario weighing less than three pounds.

Head of Sunnybrook's department of newborn and developmental pediatrics, Dr. Michael Dunn, suggests that some patients of the NICU will need to be transferred to other facilities to allow for intensive cleaning of the area.

In a CBC interview, Dunn explains that, "all the babies who developed infections have been successfully treated, but we were not able to completely prevent the spread of the organism from one baby to another."

New patients will have to be diverted to other facilities in the province of Ontario or even out of country. Buffalo, New York in the United States may be a potential destination for some women in Ontario with high-risk pregnancies or premature babies.

According to a Sunnybrook press release, the High Risk Perinatal Service will remain closed until there are no new transmissions of the Staphylococcus aureus bacterium. It further explains that outbreaks in the NICU are rare and that several measures have been put in place to keep the bacterium from spreading. The hospital has isolated babies who have symptoms and are ensuring that a specific team of clinicians only treat the affected babies.

The Sunnybrook press release suggests that, although MRSA bacteria are commonly found on the skin of newborns, the organism that has surfaced in the NICU has caused a variety of infections to the skin and eyes of the babies. The babies in the NICU are, apparently, responding to antibiotic treatment.

New Zealand woman reports marijuana plants stolen

Police in Napier, New Zealand were amused when a 45 year old woman

called up crying to report a theft of her "nurtured carefully" cannabis plants, that she had been growing in buckets at her home.

The crying woman told a constable the plant theft was the fourth from her property in four years.

"I have had three marijuana plants stolen. They were in buckets," a police communications officer was told "I am a good person. I am sick of these low-lifes stealing my things."

Senior Sergeant Mal Lochrie said that the officer found it hard to stop smiling as the woman gave details of the theft over the phone.

The gardener has now been warned that her cannabis plantation could have legal consequences. However, police had decided no action would be taken against the unaware gardener, Snr. Sgt. Lochrie said.

Turkish court lifts YouTube block

On Friday, Türk Telekom was informed that a court had lifted the ban on YouTube. YouTube had asked to remove the restrictions because it had removed the disputed videos used in a row between Greek and Turkish users of the YouTube site.

Thousands demonstrate against house arrest for ETA convict

In the Spanish capital Madrid, thousands demonstrated against the government's decision to place a convicted ETA member under house arrest. Jose Ignacio de Juana Chaos went on a hunger strike for 114 days in a Madrid prison. His condition deteriorated and he was moved to a hospital in the Basque region. Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero decided he could serve out the rest of his

sentence under house arrest.

Today in History

1801 - Russian Tsar Paul I of Russia was assassinated, leading the way for his son Alexander I to accede the throne.

1917 - World War I: British forces led by Sir Stanley Maude captured Baghdad, the southern capital of the Ottoman Empire.

1966 - In power since World War II, President Sukarno of Indonesia was ousted by Suharto and the military.

1996 - John Howard took office as the 25th Prime Minister of Australia.

2003 - The International Criminal Court held its inaugural session.

March 11 is Independence Day in Lithuania (1990).

Quote of the Day

Science has a simple faith, which transcends utility. Nearly all men of science, all men of learning for that matter, and men of simple ways too, have it in some form and in some degree. It is the faith that it is the privilege of man to learn to understand, and that this is his mission. If we abandon that mission under stress we shall abandon it forever, for stress will not cease. Knowledge for the sake of understanding, not merely to prevail, that is the essence of our being. None can define its limits, or set its ultimate boundaries.

~ Vannevar Bush

Word of the Day

mutter; v

1. To utter words, especially complaints or angry expressions, indistinctly or with a low voice and lips partly closed; to say under one's breath.

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