Top Stories

Internet virus circulates disguised as e-mail from US government
E-mails containing the Sober X worm are being sent around the Internet disguised as an e-mail from either the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Central Intelligence Agency, both organizations of the United States government. Opening the e-mail on a system running on the Microsoft Windows operating system should be avoided at all costs, experts say.

Tens of thousands of workers demonstrate in Ljubljana, Slovenia
Despite heavy snowing, tens of thousands of workers and supporters assembled today in Ljubljana, Slovenia to demonstrate against the government programme of economic reforms.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Four Westerners have been kidnapped in Iraq while in Baghdad.
- The former Prime Minister of Iraq, Iyad Allawi, has claimed in the Observer newspaper, that Human Rights abuses in Iraq are as bad now as they were in the time of Saddam Hussein.
- Presidential elections are taking place today in Honduras with either Porfirio Pepe Lobo or Manuel Mel Zelaya expected to win.
- Singapore's hangman Darshan Singh is dismissed after his identity is revealed in an Australian newspaper prior to the planned 2 December execution of Australian Nguyen Tuong Van. A new hangman is expected to be imported from Malaysia for Nguyen's execution.
- An earthquake hits southern Iran, measuring 5.9 on the moment magnitude scale.

Featured story

Four US soldiers face disciplinary action for burning Taliban soldiers' bodies

Four US soldiers involved in the burning of two dead Taliban bodies on October 1st now face disciplinary measures for their actions. The two officers who ordered the burning of the bodies were reprimanded for lacking cultural and religious sensitivity when they allegedly shouted harmful messages to Taliban fighters while burning the bodies.

Kandahar's governor, Asadullah Khalid, expressed his confidence into the investigation. Religious leaders in the region, however, have criticised its findings and called for more severe punishment of the soldiers involved. An Afghan investigation into the matter that was ordered by President Hamid Karzai has also been completed, although the results have not been released.

The US army investigation concluded that there was no intent to desecrate the bodies as the intention behind the burnings were hygenic reasons. No criminal charges were pressed against any of the soldiers involved. Two of the soldiers who are responsible for recording a message about the act of the burning and broadcasting it on loudspeakers will face non-judicial punishment, which may include a loss of pay or demotion in rank.

The footage, filmed by Australian journalist Stephen Dupont, has not been aired in Afghanistan, according to the Associated Press.

One third of English pubs allowed to extend their opening hours

At midnight on November 24, a new licensing law concerning the opening hours of English and Welsh pubs, clubs or shops selling alcohol came into effect, allowing around 60,000 establishments in England and Wales to extend their opening hours beyond the 23.00 limit in force until then, and dating back to the First World War. About 1000 premises, among which 359 are pubs or clubs, have applied.

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and been granted a round the clock authorization, allowing them to stay open for 24 hours.

Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, expressed hope that this extension in opening times will lower the crave for massive drinking, prompted by the early closing of establishments. The British Beer and Pub Association, in a press release from 25 November, 2005, states "The change is about treating adults like grown-ups, and giving them more choice for a social life after eleven o'clock."

Concern has been raised throughout the media and diverse health organisations about a possible rise in violence and alcoholism due to this new law, but the first night seems to have gone well, although authorities claim that the effects can only be really measured in six months time, when more establishments have been granted extended hours and the public has gotten used to the new hours.

Further details about Bush-Blair memo stopped

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Jazeera's Baghdad bureau was also hit by US forces, resulting in the death of an al-Jazeera journalist during the April 2003 assault on Baghdad. The Pentagon claimed U.S. troops were responding to enemy fire from the building.

**Japanese probe snatches first asteroid sample**

25143 Itokawa

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency has achieved the primary goal of the Hayabusa probe's mission by touching down on the surface of an asteroid in an attempt to collect a sample of what is thought to be the oldest material in the solar system.

Despite an earlier aborted attempt, and the apparent loss of an exploratory "micro rover", Hayabusa's achievement is significant. No other mission has attempted to bring back material from an asteroid which is believed to be a remnant from the formation of the solar system.

The actual success of the mission to the Itokawa asteroid cannot actually be known until 2007 when the probe returns to Earth. Only at that time can it be established if firing a metal pellet into the surface of the asteroid disturbed it enough to allow a sample to be obtained.

**Today in History**

1660 - Christopher Wren and other leading scientists met at Gresham College in London, England and founded a learned society now known as the Royal Society.

1905 - Irish nationalist Arthur Griffith (pictured) first presented his "Sinn Féin Policy".

1925 - The country music radio program Grand Ole Opry was first broadcast on WSM radio in Nashville, USA.

1943 - World War II: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin met at the Tehran Conference.

1990 - After being elected as leader of the British Conservative Party, John Major succeeded Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

November 28 is Independence Day in Albania (1912) and Mauritania (1960)

**Quote of the Day**

"A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees." ~ William Blake

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