



Top Stories

North Korea test-fires missiles

North Korea has test-fired multiple short and long-range missiles, including the Taepodong-2, which landed in the sea near Japan, Tuesday.

Switzerland accuses Israel of breaking international law in Gaza

The Swiss government has accused Israel of "not taking the precautions required of it in international law" with Palestinians in their response to what Israel claims was the kidnap of an Israeli soldier.

Featured story

France beat Portugal 1-0 and reach FIFA World Cup final

An experienced French side beat Portugal 1-0 in an unspectacular semi-final of the Fifa World Cup in Munich, Wednesday.

Wikipedia Current Events

• Light Sweet Crude futures close at an all-time high at \$75.19/barrel, with an intraday all-time high of \$75.40/barrel in New York. This is mainly because of North Korea's missile launch and tensions with Iran.

•Former Enron executive Kenneth Lay has died of a heart attack at the age of 64.

•A North Korean state-run broadcaster states that his country is ready to cope with any provocation by the United States.

•New Jersey casinos have shut

Wikipedia Current Events

down for the first time in their history. The closure started at 8 AM Local Time, 1200 GMT, since the state's budget has not been decided requiring the shutdown of nonessential state offices, including casino regulators.

•North Korea launches a 7th missile despite earlier condemnation of its earlier tests. One of the missiles landed "near Russian territory." The U.N. Security Council has scheduled an emergency meeting for Wednesday, and Japan warns of economic sanctions against the country.

•Israel's Prime Minister has allowed the IDF to expand its offensive in the Gaza Strip against the Hamas-controlled Palestinian government, in order to free the abducted soldier Gilad Shalit.

•A Palestinian suicide bomber is arrested in the West Bank on his way to the center of Israel.

•Corporal Gilad Shalit and 7 militants were living off food hoarded in advance to spare the captors the risk of emerging.

France beat Portugal 1-0 and reach FIFA World Cup final

An experienced French side beat Portugal 1-0 in an unspectacular semi-final of the Fifa World Cup in Munich, Wednesday.

The team that lined-up against Luis Felipe Scolari's side had an average age over 30 and after

they went ahead from a 32 minute Zinedine Zidane penalty used their experience to control the game.

In the second half French tactics became increasingly defensive which saw ball possession go from a direct split at half time to 59 per cent in favour of Portugal as, at times, every French man sat back in his own half of the pitch.

There were few good chances in a slow game and in the first half Portugal were particularly guilty of wasting possession near the French box, giving Portugal's only striker Pauleta no chance.

On 23 minutes Cristiano Ronaldo and Luis Figo swapped sides but this did not seem to help. French defending was tight and the majority of shots at goal Portugal got were from long range.

On 38 minutes Ronaldo created the best chance; on the left touchline he got passed two French and ran almost 30 yards into the penalty area. His shot was deflected away by a diving Lilian Thuram challenge.

France were also unable to get a sight of goal, confined to three efforts in the first period, to which they were to add two more in the second. The only goal came from a penalty awarded on the half hour when Thierry Henry wrong-footed Ricardo Carvalho and the Chelsea defender impeded Henry's movement with a leg.

Ricardo had saved three penalties

against England in the quarter-final shootout but Zidane's low shot to his right just evaded his finger tips.

Portugal did not score in their quarter-final and they were not to score in the semi-final. They came closest to scoring on a Fabien Barthez error when the veteran of France's successful 1998 World Cup campaign failed to catch Ronaldo's driven freekick. He somehow managed also to throw the ball onto Figo's head but the Portugal captain did not keep it down.

Two minutes into added time Fernando Miera had a sight of goal at the edge of the French area but the central defender hit the ball high and wide.

It did not seem like a 100 per cent effort from the French team who might be glad that the game did not go to a punishing Extra Time. Italy awaits Raymond Domenech's side in the Olympiastadion, Berlin, on July 9.

Yell threatens to shut down Yellowikis

Yell, the worlds biggest yellow pages publisher, today threatened to shut down Yellowikis, the wiki based yellow pages directory.

They accused Yellowikis co-founders Paul Youtlen and Rosa Blaus (his 15 year-old daughter) of "misrepresentation", "passing off" and suggested that using the name Yellowikis could "constitute an 'instrument of fraud'"

Yell are demanding that Paul and Rosa Close down the website, transfer the domain names to Yell and agree to pay damages to Yell for loss of profits. (Yell made \$2.4bn in 2005, Yellowikis made a loss of \$500 which was used to

print t-shirts promoting Yellowikis at the Wikimania conference in Frankfurt)

Paul Youtlen said: "This threat from Yell to shut us down looks like a sign of desperation. The whole yellow pages industry is in crisis. Use of the paper directories is collapsing as people get broadband internet connections in their homes. Small and medium sized businesses are beginning to notice that their customers are ringing them up and saying "I found you on Google" and not "I found you in the yellow pages""

Rosa Blaus said: "Maybe they are a bit jealous of Yellowikis because we allow companies to add videos, skype IDs, email addresses, instant messaging, in as many categories and languages as they like for free.

Rosa Blaus suggested to her father that they set up Yellowikis after she noticed small businesses were deleted from Wikipedia for not being "encyclopaedic".

Yellowikis has been growing at 8.7% month-on-month and has 494 editors and about 5,000 articles listed.

The threat of legal action came after an article mentioning Yellowikis was published in The Independent newspaper.

Enron founder Ken Lay dies in Aspen, Colorado

Kenneth L. Lay, the Enron ex-chief executive and ex-chair, died early Wednesday morning at his vacation home at the age of 64 after a massive coronary attack, according to a family spokesperson.

Lay was found guilty of six counts

of fraud and conspiracy related to the Enron scandal on May 25, 2006 and convicted on four counts of bank fraud in a separate non-jury trial. He was awaiting a sentencing on October 23 and faced the possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison.

In 2001, Enron went bankrupt with debts of \$31.8bn (£18bn), and 4,000 people were left jobless.

As a result of Lay's death prior to exhausting his appeals, his conviction is abated, and Lay is legally considered never to have been indicted or convicted of criminal charges.

British soldier killed in Afghanistan

he Ministry of Defence has confirmed that a British soldier has died while on patrol in Afghanistans Helmand Province.

The soldier, from the third Para Battle Group, was patrolling the town of Sangin with colleagues when they came under fire from Taliban forces. The soldier, whose details have not been revealed, died while he was being given treatment.

"It is with deep regret that we can confirm that during the incident a British soldier has been killed," the Ministry of Defence said.

The soldiers death means six British soldiers have died in the unstable Helmand region in the last four weeks. Since 2001 when operations began in Afghanistan, thirteen British soldiers have lost their lives.

On Saturday, two British soldiers were killed after a rocket-propelled grenade struck the headquarters they were in.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Tony Blair said he would give more resources to British troops to assist them in their fight against the Taliban, but he said the British Army has not yet made such a request.

"If they need more, we will make sure that they get more," he told the House of Commons during Prime Ministers Questions today.

Along with the Conservative Party leader David Cameron, Mr Blair also commended the efforts of British soldiers by praising their "extraordinary and heroic job".

"They are fighting a battle that I think is important not just for the security of Afghanistan. It is important for the security of the wider world," the Prime Minister said.

Approximately 4,000 British soldiers are stationed in Afghanistan, and almost 3,000 of them work in Helmand Province.

In general, they are in Afghanistan to help train the country's troops, provide security, and assist with reconstruction. As 20% of the world's opium is produced in Helmand Province, the main task for troops there is to control drug lords.

Italian intelligence chief arrested over CIA kidnap

Marco Mancini, a director of a division of the Italian SISMI military intelligence agency has been arrested in Milan over his role in the alleged kidnapping of an Egyptian terrorist suspect by agents of the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in what is believed to be an instance of Extraordinary Rendition.

Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, also known as Abu Omar, is an Egyptian cleric living in Italy who was abducted, allegedly by covert agents of the CIA on February 17, 2003 from Milan and flown to Egypt, where he says he was tortured.

Italian investigators suspected that Nasr had links with Al Qaeda and say that they were investigating him when he was abducted.

In June 2005, Italian judge Guido Salvini issued a warrant for the arrest of 22 persons said to be agents or operatives of the CIA over the kidnapping.

Scientist makes world's smallest soccer pitch

A German scientist has made the world's smallest soccer pitch with nanotechnology. The pitch is so small that you could fit 20 000 on the tip of a human hair.

The simulated soccer playing field measures 500 by 380 nanometres. It can only be seen under a special microscope.

He spent a whole day engraving the lines with an electron beam.

"I am really, really proud," said Stefan Trelenkamp, nanotechnology researcher from the University of Kaiserslautern.

"The only problem is that I really don't know what to do with it. I can't put it on show as no one can see it," he said, "I guess it'll just stay in my drawer for the time being."

Microsoft to drop parts of WGA program amid controversy

controversy over that part of the application, mainly because every

time your PC is booted it sends the data. If the PC is reported to be a pirated version the user is presented with numerous pop-ups and icons stating that the PC is running an illegal version of Windows.

The dropping of pirate checks in WGA could be because of a class action lawsuit that was filed last week by San Diego lawyer, Scott Kamber, on behalf of U.S. users on allegations that the software is spyware.

A statement from Microsoft Australia says, "WGA is not spyware. It's installed with the consent of the user and seeks only to notify the user if a proper licence is not in place."

Ian Smith, a user angered by the WGA pirating checks, said to Australian IT "I bought my software legitimately, I validated it, I go to Microsoft for updates, and if they want to check it then, that's okay. But coming back every day is too much."

The main problem with the tool was that it was downloaded automatically with automatic updates and then automatically installed by the computer and then periodically sent data back to Microsoft, which is what spyware does.

Five convicted in abortion case in Portugal

A doctor, his assistant and three women who were found to have undergone abortion were convicted of violating abortion laws in Portugal.

The three women were found to have undergone abortion in violation of Portuguese law. Abortion is illegal in Portugal except where a pregnancy is

caused by rape or when the health of the mother is in danger due to the pregnancy. Further, abortion cannot be performed after the first trimester (the end of 12th week).

Twelve other defendants, mostly women and their partners, were found not guilty. The doctor was sentenced to 3 years and 8 months in prison. His assistant was deemed an accomplice and sentenced to 1 year and 4 months in prison. The three women were given 6 month suspended sentences.

All the defendants had earlier been acquitted of the charges in 2004 for lack of evidences. That decision was declared void by a superior court on appeal. The court decided that the medical examinations conducted on the women, which were performed without a court order or the presence of a state witness were legal.

Australian Big Brother cleared of breaching content laws

Australia's media watchdog - the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has cleared Australian Big Brother of breaching content laws following a sexual misconduct scandal, which was broadcast via the Internet. The determination has prompted Australia's communications minister, Helen Coonan to request that the ACMA to review the free-to-air television code of conduct and extend content regulation to content streamed via the Internet.

According to Senator Coonan the ACMA found that because Channel Ten did not broadcast the incident on television that the television broadcast standards were inapplicable.

The ACMA also found that despite the video being streamed on the

Internet, Big Brother had not breached online content censorship laws as the media had not been stored on Big Brother's website. The Broadcasting Services Act provides for the regulation of Internet content, however to be considered Internet content, it must physically reside on a server.

Senator Coonan said that live content distributed via the Internet or mobile devices should be subject to the same restrictions as those on television. This matter has reinforced the need for changes to the Act to ensure that these new services being offered over the internet and mobile devices are subject to the same content restrictions that apply to television broadcasts," said the minister.

On June 14 2006 in an address to the National Press Club I announced that legislation would be introduced to ensure that appropriate content safeguards would be imposed on all non-broadcasting commercial content services, including live services."

This important legislation is presently being drafted and will be introduced into Parliament at the earliest opportunity. I will be urging all of my Parliamentary colleagues to support the extension of these essential safeguards."

The minister said that she had also requested that the ACMA review the television code of practice. "Given the community outrage about this matter, it would appear the codes applying to television program classifications may also be out of step with community standards," said Senator Coonan.

I will direct ACMA to conduct a detailed review of whether the free to air television code of practice is operating to provide appropriate community safeguards in relation to reality TV programming."

Mexican election very close, both candidates claim victory

Mexican poll workers began a lengthy recount of vote tallies Wednesday in the contested Mexican presidential election.

Both leading Mexican presidential candidates, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and Felipe Calderon have proclaimed victory in the Mexican Presidential race despite notice from Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) that the numbers are currently too close to determine the winner.

In a live televised speech, Lopez Obrador claimed victory by approximately 500,000 votes. Calderon has also claimed victory after revealing his own exit polls by GEA-ISA. With as many as three million ballots uncounted on Tuesday, Calderon held a lead of less than than 400,000 votes. By Wednesday evening, with 70 percent of the tallies counted, Lopez Obrador had 37 percent to 35 percent for Calderon.

Lopez Obrador has called for a full vote-by-vote recount after the president of the IFE, Luis Carlos Ugalde, said on national television that the preliminary count could not be used to call the race, and that more than three million votes had not been counted yet. Ugalde has said that those votes were valid as they were not illegible or reached late.

Questions were raised about the vote count after discrepancies were noticed in the counting.

While some of Lopez Obrador's supporters have alleged manipulation of the counting process, Lopez Obrador himself has discounted the possibility of outright fraud and international election observers have said that the election was transparent and largely free of problems.

The interior minister, Carlos Abascal, has said that a total recount is "physically impossible and also legally impossible."

In accordance with Mexican electoral law, workers were counting the tallies attached to ballot boxes at polling stations, but were not opening properly sealed and tallied ballot boxes.

Once the final count is complete, Mexico's Federal Electoral Tribunal of seven judges can hear complaints and consider overturning the election. It must declare a winner by September 6.

Poland wins in Wagner's Volleyball memorial

Poland has won in 4th annual Hubert Jerzy Wagner's Volleyball Memorial, after defeating Cuba 3:1 in the final match. Third place has been taken by Canada, and fourth by Italy. Poland B was 6th.

The memorial, which was set up to commemorate Hubert Jerzy Wagner, ex-coach of the most successful Polish national volleyball team in history, who have died in car accident in 2002, was held in both Olsztyn and Ostroda.

Raul Lozano, Polish coach, has said in Tuesday, that main target for current season is World Cup, which will be held in Japan. Judging the appearance in the memorial, Lozano has stated the team has 18 valuable players, of

which everyone can be in the starting line-up. He added that the victory is dedicated to Arkadiusz Golas, former Polish national team star, who died in car accident about year ago.

Bomb scare in Dublin Airport

A bomb scare caused an evacuation of Dublin Airport on Tuesday afternoon. The scare reportedly was caused by a man who walked into the arrivals area claiming he was carrying a bomb. The man was later apprehended by the Garda. The airport main building was closed for passengers for two hours, but flights were continuing to land.

Today in History

- 1609 - Bohemia was granted freedom of religion.
- 1785 - The dollar was unanimously chosen as the money unit for the United States. This was the first time a nation had adopted a decimal currency system.
- 1885 - Louis Pasteur successfully tested his vaccine against rabies on Joseph Meister.
- 1887 - King Kalakaua of Hawai'i was forced by armed foreign businessmen to sign the Bayonet Constitution.
- 1966 - Malawi became a republic, with Hastings Banda as the first President.
- July 06 is Independence Day in Malawi (1964) and in Comoros (1975), Statehood Day in Lithuania (1253); Jan Hus Day in the Czech Republic; the festival of San Fermin begins in Pamplona, Spain.

Quote of the Day

"They thought I was a Surrealist, but I wasn't. I never painted dreams. I painted my own reality."
~ Frida Kahlo

Word of the Day

fraternize; v

1. To associate with others in a friendly manner, especially with an enemy.

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