



Top Stories

Turkish-Armenian journalist killed in Turkey



An Armenian journalist, Hrant Dink, was assassinated today at the age of 52 in front of the Agos newspaper office, at the Istanbul district of Osmanbey, where he worked as the editor and a journalist.

H5N1 Avian Flu virus mutates; shows resistance to drugs

A mutation in the H5N1 Avian Flu or Bird Flu virus has been found in two humans



infected with the virus located in the Gharbiyah Province of Egypt which is located about 50 miles outside of Egypt's capital, Cairo, Egypt.

Featured story

China shoots down weather satellite with ballistic missile

China has shot down one of their old weather satellites with a ballistic missile and the United States is concerned about the test.



Wikipedia Current Events

•Somalia's presidential palace is hit by two mortar shells. It's unknown if Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf is inside during

Wikipedia Current Events

the attack.

- A close aide to UK Prime Minister Tony Blair is arrested in a corruption probe.
- Hrant Dink, an Armenian-Turkish writer, is shot dead in Istanbul. Dink was convicted in 2005 for 'insulting Turkishness' by writing an article on the Armenian Genocide.
- Hurricane force winds claim at least 40 lives in Western Europe including 10 lives in Britain and 11 in Germany, and other victims in The Netherlands (6), Poland (6), Czech Republic (3) and France (3).
- Robert Gates, the United States Secretary of Defense, visits Basra, Iraq to consult with US and allied commanders.
- Twelve of the thirteen suspects in Norway's NOKAS robbery case from 2004, are found guilty and given sentences from 4 - 19 years in prison.
- Following the furore over the treatment towards contestant Shilpa Shetty in Celebrity Big Brother 2007 by contestants including Jade Goody have resulted in Jade being evicted by popular vote from the show, to an empty crowd due to heighten concerns over safety after the issue reached a highpoint in UK-Indian relations.

Stabbing at Massachusetts high school leaves one dead

A stabbing at the Lincoln-Sudbury

Regional High School in Sudbury has left a 15-year old student dead.

The stabbing happened around 7:20 am EST, before classes had started. A fight broke out in a boy's bathroom between the 15-year old victim, James Alenson and 16-year-old suspect John Odgren, the fight spilled out in the hallway, where the stabbing occurred.

The school was sent into a "lockdown" and students were ushered into the gym, cafeteria and various classrooms. Alenson was rushed to Emerson Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 8:15 am EST. Odgren admitted to the stabbing and was in the principal's office saying "I did it, I did it," to police. However, Odgren also reportedly said "Is he OK? I don't want him to die," according to a police report. All students were released at 10:20 am EST.

Odgen is being charged with "murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and carrying a knife onto school property" and was arraigned in Framingham District Court where he pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Shapiro also asked if his client could go to secure facility at Children's Hospital in Boston. Judge Paul Healy denied the request saying he did not have "enough assurance that Children's Hospital would be secure." Instead, he will be held at Middlesex Jail in Cambridge outside of the general population.

According to the school's website, there will be a community meeting tonight in the school's auditorium at 7pm EST.

Consumer database of several major North American stores hacked

TJX Companies, a U.S. chain, that owns big box stores Winners, a fashion outlet, and HomeSense, a home accessories store, has revealed they had their computers hacked back in mid-December.

It also affected the U.S. and Puerto Rico stores Marshalls, T.J. Maxx, HomeGoods and A.J. Wright, which are also owned by TJX Companies. The intrusion could also affect stores in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

They discovered the hacking in mid-December and revealed the information to the public on Wednesday.

"The company is committed to providing its customers with more information when it becomes available," TJX Companies said in a statement.

The computers contain credit card, debit card, check, and merchandise return transactions information. The hacker could have accessed transactions during 2003 and from May through December 2006.

Jefferies analyst Timothy Allen said the chain should use this as an opportunity for excellent customer service. He added that they should offer coupons to customers to get them back to shopping in stores owned by TJX.

Customers with questions can call one of the help lines at 866-484-6978 in the United States, 866-903-1408 in Canada, and 0800-

77-90-15 for the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Turkish-Armenian journalist killed in Turkey

A Turkish-Armenian journalist, Hrant Dink, was assassinated today at the age of 52 in front of the Agos newspaper office, at the Istanbul district of Osmanbey, where he worked as the editor and a journalist. Witnesses say that after being shot, he was able to stand up for a while, extending his hand in search of help, which never came.

Dink, a brave journalist who was not afraid to discuss one of Turkey's most controversial issues, clearly called what happened to Armenians in 1915 when the land was being governed by the Ottoman Empire the Armenian Genocide. As BBC reports, he said "the word did not need to be accepted by other Turks for it to remain true in his mind."

His body was kept for an hour on the pavement by Turkish security forces.

The assassin was reported to be about 18-19 years old, wearing a white hat and jeans. Two other suspects were taken into custody at the Taksim district. A Turkish TV station broadcasted the images of the killer.

Following his father's assassination, Dink's daughter, referring to the fascist obsession with pure blood, said: "They shot my father. Is their blood purer now? They were afraid to face him, they shot him in the back."

All vacations were canceled for Turkish security forces in Istanbul.

The patriarch of Turkish Armenians, Misrob Mutafyan,

announced a 15-day mourning following the assassination. Mr. Mutafyan called the assassination "barbarian, treacherous, and dastardly".

While the body was taken away, a group applauded Dink, uttered "Long live peoples' brotherhood", "The assassin state will pay", and "Hrants will not die". They then marched to the Taksim Square. Another protest march was organized at the capital of Turkey, Ankara.

Turkey witnessed 62 journalist assassinations after 1909, the last before Hrant Dink being Ahmet Taner Kışlalı in 1999.

Canada beats USA 5-0 in ice hockey at World University Games

In his first play of Winter Universiade 2007 Hockey team of Canada defeated USA 5-0, while in another game the home team of Italy lost to Kazakhstan 3-1.

Italy won its first gold medal in Giant Slalom when Aronne Pieruz was first in both runs of Skiing competition. Czech Filip Trejbal was second and American Adam Cole was third.

Medal table is leaded by Poland who won two gold medals: in Speedskating Katarzyna Wojcicka was first in 1,500 metres and in Cross-Country Katarzyna Wojcicka won 5 km Classical Individual. Other gold medalists in the day were Dutch Mark Ooyevaar in Speedskating 5,000 m, the Russian Alexander Lasutkin in 10km Classical Individual Cross-Country, the Austrian Daniela Iraschko in K95 Ski jumping and Japanese Daisuke Takashasho in Single Figure Skating.

In Men's Curling Switzerland beat

USA 8-5, and South Korea won against Italy 7-5. Following results are to be highlighted in Women's Curling: Sweden- USA 8-7, Switzerland-Great Britain 9-7 and Japan-Italy 7-2.

World's oldest living woman dies at age 115

The world's oldest woman, Montrealer Julie Winnefred Bertrand, died in Thursday, passing away peacefully in her sleep.

She earned the distinction as the oldest living woman when 116-year-old Elizabeth Bolden of Tennessee U.S.A. died on Dec. 11, 2006.

Bertrand was born on Sept. 16, 1891 in Coaticook, a town in Quebec's Eastern Townships, and lived there for the majority of her life. She was the oldest of six children, and never married. She moved to Montreal after the death of her parents, and later moved into a nursing home.

She had never left her sixth-floor room in the nursing home for two years, but unexpectedly, she asked to tour the building the day before she died.

Bertrand will be buried in Coaticook.

Google and publishing business to team up in future

On the 18th of December, Google held the "Unbound" event that attracted about 300 people, who gathered at the New York Public Library. The event's visitors met to discuss the issue of Google's Library Project and Book Search tool and the publishing business perspectives in general. Google decided to bring up the issue, as a lot of representatives of the publishing industry believe that

the project will deprive them from the expected profits from books sold in bookstores and online marketplaces.

The speech of Jim Gerber, manager of content partnerships at Google, opened the event. Mr. Gerber noticed that their meeting was aimed at mutual understanding of changes the book-publishing market was about to face in the 21st century. Among the speakers there were those closely related to the publishing business - authors, publishers and analysts, including Cory Doctorow, a science fiction writer and co-editor of Boing Boing, as well as agents of the leading publishing stores such as Harper Collins and Cambridge University Press.

Having organized the event, Google did not pursue the only aim of improving the perception of its project. The company tried to establish links with publishers and libraries, having offered them to present their content through Book Search. Still, Google stumbled upon skeptical attitude of the publishers. However, some of the publishers supported Google's initiative and gave their reasons for that. Cory Doctorow expressed his belief grounded upon his personal experience that books available free on the net implied commercial benefit. One of the major advantages of the on-line library is the guaranteed attention and interest it is to attract to the publishers' products.

Although the issue aroused a lot of controversial opinions, the speakers came to the conclusion that as the digital world has been experiencing rapid growth, the publishing industry has to keep to the modern pace and broaden its horizons. As it was mentioned by Tim O'Reilly, the founder of O'Reilly

Media, a technical manual publishing company, that in the time of revolutionary changes, brought by the development of digital technologies, it was important for their industry segment not to ignore but embrace the forthcoming changes. He also mentioned that the Library Project and Book Search tool carried out by Google represented an opportunity to become part of the newly-born media culture.

Intoxicated New Zealand policeman keeps job

Mokau, Taranaki, New Zealand policeman, Constable Jonathon "Jono" Erwood has been discharged without conviction by a judge at the New Plymouth District Court and has been allowed to keep his job after he arrived intoxicated at a car crash scene. He was tested for drink driving and found to be over the legal limit.

Constable Erwood, however, has been reprimanded following an official police enquiry. The reprimand notice will stay on his personal file for seven years if he receives further disciplinary charges then the reprimand will be taken into account. Nine previous complaints were investigated but disciplinary action was not taken. However there was considerable local support for him as well.

When Constable Erwood arrived at the double fatality July 9, 2006 crash scene on his day off he was taken aside by another police officer and breathalysed and then charged with drink driving.

The judge who discharged him, Louis Erwood, said that Constable Erwood risked his life by responding to the accident. "There was nothing personal in this for you and it reflects a commitment to your job which you should be

proud of."

Constable Erwood has admitted that he was over the legal limit to drive a car.

The Police Association is applauding the decision to discharge constable Erwood without a conviction. Richard Middleton, vice president of the Police Association, said that common sense has prevailed.

Superintendent Mark Lammas, area commander and Constable Erwood's boss, has said that Mr Erwood did not make the correct decision to drive drunk.

Constable Erwood will return to his job on Monday but has been given the job in North Taranaki as rural liaison officer. He will start on February 5. Mr Lammas said: "Rural police officers in small and somewhat isolated communities in particular, have a fine and sometimes difficult balance to achieve – in being active members of their community but also being seen to be impartial in the discharge of their duties as a police officer."

Provincial capitol assault 'Overkill': Philippine's CHR

Philippine human rights commission (CHR) together with various local government officials branded "overkill" the police assault on the Iloilo provincial capitol on Wednesday.

In an attempt to arrest Governor Niel Tupas, Sr. and seize control of the capitol, hundreds of policemen armed with M-16 rifles stormed the capitol, smashed glass doors and destroyed padlocked iron gates. The rifles were pointed at civilians.

In a television interview, CHR

Chairman Purificacion Quisumbing called the act "frightening".

Quisumbing was worried that it would turn out bloody had the shots been fired. She was "shocked to see policemen going into a public building with assault rifles in a manner not consonant with the picture we are trying to portray of a peaceful country of law-abiding citizens."

"If this can happen in broad daylight to an elected official and (before) the media, (how much) more at night in the barrios?" she said.

The assault was stopped by a 60-day temporary restraining order against the enforcement of the dismissal order.

But Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Ronaldo Puno defended the police and proposed a joint investigation with CHR on the matter.

"The policemen ... should not be condemned. They should even be commended," Puno said.

An initial assessment prompted Quisumbing to declare that the police committed human rights violations. She also indicated in a television interview that CHR would look into the matter independently, thereby rejecting DILG's proposal for a joint probe.

She was quoted as saying "we define our independent investigation as one where we ourselves have to examine the facts and the circumstances."

Quisumbing also noted that a joint investigation with DILG would be in conflict CHR's mandate and function.

Turkish homeless man burns to death after being neglected

On one of the very crowded streets of Istanbul, Turkey, an elderly homeless man died of burns that is thought to have been caused by a fire he lit to warm himself. The police officers who came to help could not extinguish the fire with the small bottles of water they had.

The man was seen earlier in one of the most crowded streets of Istanbul screaming "I do not have a blanket, someone stole my blanket!". He was offered a cookie and a coat by two passers-by before someone called an ambulance. He was refused admittance to two different hospitals because he lacked identification, and the ambulance eventually left him where he was picked up.

"He was shaking. He couldn't walk. I brought him 15 - 20 empty boxes and started a fire for him to get warm. I put my coat on him, he was wet. They told us that he died in the morning."

"He died in front of everyone's eyes. Like an animal. What kind of a government is this? He was shaking like a leaf. He was purple all over because of the cold. His cloths were smoking. My friends thought he was burning. It was that night's dew that was evaporating... We are ignorant, we didn't know. But someone else called for an ambulance. They came, this guy can in fact walk. He is sane. But that day he was almost unconscious and he couldn't walk. We carried him to the ambulance and thought he was saved. They brought him back an hour later. I asked him what happened. He told me that "they didn't want to provide care because I didn't have an ID to

show." For God's sake, what kind of a government is this?"

"I just saw him the other day. I gave him a cookie. He thanked, but didn't accept. He was shaking, miserable. I would have taken him home, only if I knew."

H5N1 Avian Flu virus mutates; shows resistance to drugs

A mutation in the H5N1 avian flu or bird flu virus has been found in two humans infected with the virus located in the Gharbiyah Province of Egypt which is located about 50 miles outside of Egypt's capital Cairo.

The victims, a 16 year-old girl and her 26 year-old uncle both died in December of 2006 and both patients were administered the Bird Flu treatment oseltamivir (Tamiflu®), had shown to be less effective against their illnesses. The virus was also tested against the drugs zanamivir (Relenza®) and amantadine, and it was found that drugs were less effective against the mutated form of this virus.

A sister of the 26 year-old also died of Bird Flu in December of 2006, but health officials have yet to determine if she died from the mutated form of the virus.

The World Health Organization is also stating that the three cases may be human to human transmission, but further tests are needed. The three cases are being treated as an outbreak and officials have yet to determine if the victims received the illness from chickens, or from one another.

"Based on the information we have, we can't yet rule out human-to-human transmission. We need to better understand the dynamics

of this outbreak," said Bird Flu antivirals expert for the WHO, Doctor Fred Hayden. "It would be very worrisome" if human to human transmission did occur.

The WHO however is not concerned that this outbreak may be the start of a world-wide pandemic and it is unknown how many times Bird Flu will need to mutate before it becomes more dangerous to humans.

"Given the information we have, we don't see any broad public health implications," said a spokesman for the WHO, Dick Thompson.

Egypt was added to the list of countries where the H5N1 virus has been found just last year. Since then the virus has only infected 18 people. Of those people, 10 have died so far, including these three cases in December.

The WHO reports that 267 people have been infected with Bird Flu in the entire world and that of those people, 161 have been confirmed to have died from the H5N1 virus.

Mutated Strains of Bird Flu have been found in Vietnam in 2005 and in Turkey in 2006.

Sri Lankan military liberates key town

Sri Lankan troops liberated a key town in Eastern Sri Lanka as they continued their offensive to evict the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE, also called the Tamil Tigers) from the Eastern Province of the country.

The town of Vakarai, which has been under the control of the LTTE since 1996, was a key stronghold for the LTTE and one of their last major bases in the East. Sri

Lankan troops met little resistance as they moved into the town at around noon local time, as the Tamil Tigers were believed to have fled further North.

A Sri Lankan defense ministry statement on its website said the LTTE had fled the town area "unable to withstand the intrusive thrust of the armed forces". A statement from the Media Center for National Security said "triumphant troops are presently consolidating their positions and clearing the terrain to resettle displace civilians."

The Tigers have so far failed to comment on the fighting.

Leading up to the capture of the town, around 12,000 civilians, whom the government claimed the LTTE were using as Human Shields, were reported to have fled to the safety of government controlled areas. This added to the 20,000 who had already fled to government controlled areas since heavy fighting began in December 2006.

Basic necessities for them were provided by the security forces. The government stated that it would make all efforts to resettle the civilians as soon as normalcy is restored in the town.

The fall of Vakarai is expected to badly disrupt Tamil Tiger activities in the East, an also seriously dent their supplies to the North.

The LTTE has been fighting since 1983 to establish an independent state in the North and East of Sri Lanka. Its methods including the recruiting of child soldiers and suicide bombings have been widely criticized, and it is banned as a terrorist organization in a number of countries including the United

States, the United Kingdom, India, Canada and the 27 member European Union. A ceasefire agreement was signed with intentional mediation in 2001, but broke down following a series of rebel attacks on government troops following the election of President Mahinda Rajapakse in November 2005.

In December, Sri Lankan Army commander Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka made clear that the objective of the military was to clear the East of the country of the rebels and then concentrate all efforts towards defeating them in the North.

US air force colonel claims he spotted UFOs over Arkansas

Brian Fields, a retired United States Air Force Colonel, has photographed what he claims are two UFOs hovering over his home in Van Buren, Arkansas.

Fields said, "I believe these lights were not of this world, and I feel a duty and responsibility to come forward. At first I thought they were landing lights from an aircraft. As I continued to observe them they began to slowly disappear, then suddenly one reappeared, followed by two, then three. On at least one occasion four or five appeared. Each time they would slowly fade and eventually disappear. This occurred several times and when they would reappear they might do so in differing numbers and in different positions, sometimes in a triangular shape, sometimes stacked on top of each other, sometimes line abreast, etc. When the objects appeared they might stay illuminated 10 or more minutes. I'm certain it wasn't an aircraft [from Earth]. It's not anything I ever had any experience with. ... They were

some kind of energy or something."

Fields ruled out the possibility of the UFOs being flares saying that the movements made by the UFOs did not resemble that of a flare. In 1997, lights seen over Arizona and Nevada were also claimed to have been UFOs before the US Air Force identified them as flares dropped by an airplane on a training mission.

Fields, now 61, was in the military for almost 32 years of his life, flying F-16 fighter jets.

Sewerage project starts in Pakistan

In Pakistan, the Daily Times reported that construction work on a sewerage project has started in Pindi.

It said that the construction work for the Rawalpindi Environment Improvement Project (REIP) aims to lay a new underground drainage and sewerage system in the area.

The project director of REIP, Aslam Sabzwari, said, according to the report, that improvement of sanitation and sewerage system had started in the eastern zone of the city, consisting of 15 union councils (UCs). The project includes improvement of the sanitation and sewerage systems, a sewage treatment plant, solid waste management, removal of slaughter-houses and construction of public toilets.

Sabzwari also said that 22 new tube wells would be installed, while 32 old ones would be repaired under the project, recalling that the existing sewerage systems in Satellite Town and Kahyabane-Sirsyed were laid in the 1950s and 1969s, respectively, and were the main cause of the increasing case

of hepatitis in the city.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Punjab government sponsor the REIP.

Peasant group to rap Philippine military for 'electioneering'

A Philippine daily reported that peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (Peasant Movement of the Philippines or KMP) plans to file electioneering case against Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) claiming that fully armed troops have been deployed in various areas around the country with strong presence of progressive organizations and party lists groups.

The military says that politicians running for elections have sought the military's protection against what it says is harassment and extortion by the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military wing, the New People's Army.

Danilo Ramos, KMP Secretary General, said they also seek to exclude AFP members from voting in the upcoming May elections, pointing out the possibility of the soldiers as "flying voters".

Prior to that, another group, an urban poor organization Kadamay, hit the increased presence of soldiers in areas where the group is active. The group suspects that the deployment of soldiers in a number of barangays in Quezon City and parts of Metro Manila is an attempt to flush out activist leaders.

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Iran says it's ready for standoff over nuclear activities

Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has stated that his country is prepared to have a standoff with the United States.

The move comes as the U.S. decided to send another aircraft carrier to the Middle East.

According to the U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, the USS Stennis was dispatched to the region to "impress on Iran that the four-year war in Iraq has not made America vulnerable."

In response to the deployment of additional troops, Ahmadinejad

said that Iran was prepared for any possibility in the standoff with the West over its nuclear activities.

"Today, with the grace of God, we have gone through the arduous passes and we are ready for anything in this path. Their aim is to frighten Iran and weaken the resistance of the Iranian nation but they will not succeed," stated Ahmadinejad.

Iran has stated that its nuclear program is strictly for peaceful purposes, but the United Nations disagrees and imposed limited sanctions on the nation last year.

"Unfortunately, some inside the country try to fabricate news and portray a bad image of the great achievement of the Iranian nation [...] prescribe compromise, repeat the words of the enemy. Of course, this will have no effect," added Ahmadinejad.

Ahmadinejad's announcement comes as Iran announces that the country is prepared to begin the installation of nearly 3,000 centrifuges at its nuclear facility, the Natanz uranium-enrichment complex.

According to an unknown European diplomat, "everything has been prepared for assembling [and installing] the centrifuges at Natanz for the beginning of the industrial phase of enrichment. The hardware is now in place."

Ahmadinejad also said that enrichment of uranium will begin at the Natanz facility "very soon" and "bit by bit."

UK Celebrity Big Brother loses sponsorship over racism allegations

In the United Kingdom, The Carphone Warehouse, Celebrity

Big Brother's sponsor, has pulled out after some of the reality TV show's contestants were accused of racism, with which the company did not want to be associated. The Perfume Shop has announced they will withdraw the perfume Shh... of Jade Goody, one of the contestants accused of bullying with a racist undertone. Motorcycle insurance company Bennetts unilaterally terminated its deal with former Miss England Danielle Lloyd to front an advertisement campaign.

The accusations centre around recent comments made by Jade Goody, Danielle Lloyd and Jo O'Meara (a former member of pop act S Club 7) about Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty. The racism row was sparked by Jade's mother, who referred to Shilpa as "the Indian", instead of calling her by her name. She also asked Shilpa: "Do you live in a house or a shack?" There have been remarks over her accent, her alleged lack of hygiene when cooking, and reactions because she touched the food of housemates with her hands. Danielle Lloyd said: "You don't know where those hands have been." Lloyd also commented to Goody about the Indian actress: "She wants to be white".

When asked about the incident in the Diary Room, Shetty said "...I don't feel there was any racial discrimination happening from Jade's end. I think there are a lot of insecurities from her end but it's definitely not racial."

Hertfordshire Police, the constabulary within which the Big Brother House falls, have received numerous formal complaints they will be investigating. Politicians, other celebrities, and fans spoke of their disgust as the UK media regulator Ofcom received a record number of complaints that rose

tonight to 33,000. The Commission for Racial Equality is investigating if the footage was manipulated to deliberately imply racism.

Labour Party MP Keith Vaz even proposed a motion in the House of Commons condemning the abuse. He said "If this racist behaviour goes on, they [Jo O'Meara, Danielle Lloyd and Jade Goody] should be asked to leave". Chancellor Gordon Brown, currently on tour in India, told reporters in Bangalore: "I want to reassure people that what British people are proud of is our reputation for tolerance and fairness." Others believe this reflects a racist tendency in British our Western society in general. The newspaper Times of India ran the headline "Big(ot) Brother bullies Shilpa". "What is happening in Big Brother is just holding the mirror to the western society. This is the real, discriminating face of the West.", was the reaction of Bollywood film director Mahesh Bhatt. Ken Livingstone, the Mayor of London, accused Channel 4 of damaging the country's reputation.

The show was recently losing viewers, but as a result of the controversy, viewing rates are up for the program.

EU report in favour of adopting open source software

An EU Commission-funded research studied costs and benefits of adopting open source software, such as Linux or OpenOffice.org instead of proprietary software such as Microsoft Windows or Microsoft Office.

The study was conducted on six organizations from European nations. The study concluded that: "in almost all the cases, a

transition toward open source reports of savings on the long-term costs of ownership of the software products."

In addition, "Costs to migrate to an open solution are relevant and an organization needs to consider an extra effort for this. However these costs are temporary and mainly are budgeted in less than one year. The major factor of cost of the new solution – even in the case that the open solution is mixed with closed software – is costs for peer or ad hoc training. These are the best example of intangible costs that often are not foreseen in a transition. On the other hand not providing a specific training may cause an adverse attitude toward the new technology. Fortunately those costs are limited in time and are not strictly linked to the nature of the new software adopted."

The study also reported that they found "no particular delays or lost of time in the daily work due to the use of OpenOffice.org" (p. 283) instead of Microsoft Office.

This is bad news for Microsoft, who is in a legal battle with European Union over its monopolist behaviors. It is also competing with a number of open source software distributors for the market. Microsoft recently released an update to its popular operating system Windows, as well as to its browser Internet Explorer and its office productivity suite Microsoft Office. These products are competing with distributors such as Red Hat, Firefox, and OpenOffice.org.

New search engine to search inside Wikipedia

A new search engine that was

announced yesterday finds articles and links within the English Wikipedia. Wikiseek, run by a California based startup company called "searchme", is a website which aims to be "A better way to search Wikipedia."

Although most keywords work without problems, Digg users have found search terms that the site does not recognize. If you enter "Chicago" for example, it shows no Wikipedia articles at all, and clicking "Chicago, Illinois" leads to an article on West Chicago, Illinois and other related articles to the subject. Similarly, entering "Christmas", "United States" or "PlayStation 3" only provides links to related articles on Wikipedia, although they are in the top 10 of most viewed articles in the English Wikipedia. Searching "porn" comes up with commercial websites linked from Wikipedia, but not the relevant articles in the free encyclopedia. For most articles however, the relevant Wikipedia article is the first result or among the results.

The site says that "The contents of Wikiseek are restricted to Wikipedia pages and only those sites which are referenced within Wikipedia, making it an authoritative source of information less subject to spam and SEO schemes." The site also offers a Toolbar plugin and a Firefox extension to add a Wikiseek search button inside of Wikipedia pages.

Danny Sullivan at the Search Engine Land blog found Wikiseek's results inferior compared to the results from established search engines. SearchMe CEO Randy Adams stressed that Wikiseek is still in a beta phase. He pointed out that they welcome feedback more than the average search engine, which can be posted on

their company wiki.

Searchme put a button on their main page, encouraging beta testers to instantly promote the site on Digg. In August 2006, Digg had half a million registered users.

Some media outlets have reported that Wikiseek was created by either the Wikimedia Foundation which runs Wikipedia, or private corporation Wikia, which hosts a collection of wiki communities.

Both rumors are untrue, says Angela Beesley, co-founder of Wikia and chair of the Advisory Board of the Wikimedia Foundation. "Wikiseek is an independent project with no affiliation with either Wikia or the Wikimedia Foundation."

The Wikiseek site says they contribute the majority of its revenue from advertisement to the Wikimedia Foundation's fundraising effort.

World University Games 2007 opened in Turin

The opening ceremony of 23th edition of Winter Universiade took place yesterday night in Turin. The Universiade, also referred to as the World University Games, is an international event for university athletes organized by the International University Sports Federation.

Representatives of 52 countries took part to the event. The participants to this edition of Universiade are the highest number ever, both in terms of countries and athletes (that amount to 2,700). The Olympic Oath was taken by Francesco Ghedina, nephew of famous downhill skier, Kristian Ghedina while Livio Berruti, world medalist in 200 metres in 1960 Olympic

Games, was the last torch relay and ignited symbolically the Olympic Flame. The fire was just symbolic because obvious safety reasons prohibited a real fire inside an indoor arena.

The ceremony show featured the Football World Champion Gianluigi Buffon, goalkeeper of Juventus, the long jumper Andrew Howe and the actor Arturo Brachetti.

Apple Inc. doubled its profits

The American computer company Apple has reached 78 percent increase in its profits during the last quarter, which ended December 30, 2006. This fact is explained by great demand enjoyed by Apple's iPod digital music players during the Christmas and New Year sales period.

As a result of successful Christmas sales, the very beginning of the financial year marked a double increase of the Apple's sales if compared to the \$ 565 million profit reaped during the same period of the last year. The company gained the record-breaking \$ 1 billion. The overall annual revenue of the company made up \$ 7.1 billion in 2006, having boosted from \$5.8 billion in 2005. The company's revenue growth is partially explained by the fact that the laptops produced by Apple are also found among the bestsellers.

Even the Wall Street experts have not broadcasted such remarkable results for the Apple computer company. Apple's results were way ahead of market expectations. Its net profit has made up \$1.14 per share, while Wall Street expected just 77 cents.

During the first quarter of the financial year Apple Inc. sold more

than 21 million iPod players and about 1.6 million computers - it implies the respective growth of 28% and 50% again compared to the previous year. As soon as the results were announced at the New York Stock Exchange, the shares of the American computer company increased by 5 percent.

It should be mentioned that the stock capital of Apple Inc tripled in 2004, doubled in 2005 and increased by 16 percent in 2006. The steady growth is also due to considerable sales of its iPods and computers.

Last week the company presented the iPhone.

Airline checks Dell and Apple computers for hazard

Qantas, Australia's primary airline, has begun checking the batteries of Dell and Apple computers and in some cases removing them for the safety of the passengers. This relatively new safety precaution was sparked by a battery recall a few months ago. 4 million dell laptops worldwide were recalled after some of the laptop batteries exploded, causing the laptop to erupt into a fireball.

Although Qantas has yet to release a statement, they are expected to within the next few days. Qantas said in an interview that the practice has been occurring for a number of months for the passengers' safety to mitigate the rare chance of fire "In some circumstances yes, the cabin staff shall ask some passengers to remove the battery of their laptop in order for them to check there is no chance of the battery being a fire hazard. This is however managed by the cabin crew and not the airline management itself." —Sharron, an employee of Qantas.

Cambodian woman found after 19 years of jungle life

A woman who disappeared in the jungles of Cambodia at the age of 8, has been found after having lived as a feral child for 19 years. She is identified as Rochom P'ngieng, who disappeared in 1988, when tending buffalos in a remote part of the jungles of north-eastern Cambodia.

Her parents had given up all hope of finding her since it was so long ago that she disappeared. The father of the girl is convinced that the woman is his daughter based on a distinct scar on her back and facial features. Authorities have asked for a DNA test to confirm the girl's identity. Rochom P'ngieng would be 27 years old.

The woman speaks no comprehensible language and thus it is difficult to confirm what has happened to her. She was discovered when a villager noticed that food had disappeared from a lunchbox he had left nearby his home, so he decided to watch the area, discovering the naked woman when she came again for some rice, according to the chief of police, Mao San in Oyado. "It is as if she's part human and part animal", said Mao San. A group of villagers were called together to catch the woman. The woman has had a hard time adjusting to normal life.

"She is strange. She sleeps in the day and wakes in the night," said Mao San.

Channel Seven loses control of audio

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Today in History

1265 - Summoned by Simon de Montfort, the first English parliament held its first meeting in the Palace of Westminster.

1320 - After reuniting Poland, Władysław the Short was crowned king in Kraków.

1885 - LaMarcus Adna Thompson patented the roller coaster.

1892 - The first official basketball game was played at the YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts.

1942 - Nazis at the Wannsee conference in Berlin decided the "final solution to the Jewish

question", leading eventually to the Holocaust.

January 20 is The Remembrance of Muharram in Shi'a Islam begins (2007, A.H. 1428).

Quote of the Day

Those who would give up Essential Liberty to purchase a little Temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.
~ Benjamin Franklin

Word of the Day

transmogrify; v

1. To completely alter the form of something.

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