



Top Stories

Former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet fingerprinted



Former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet had his mugshot taken and fingerprinted by police in his home. Pinochet is being

charged with crimes involving the disappearance of 119 political dissidents during his time as president of Chile.

South Korea begins sending indictments via SMS



South Korean prosecutors plan to begin sending legal notices such as

indictments and fines via SMS text messaging. The move was prompted by the high percentage of the population carrying mobile phones, as well as the cost and slow delivery of paper notices.

Featured story

69-year-old Australian mother and son on drugs charges



A 69 year old woman and her 39 year old son from southern Australia have been charged with drug offenses following

their arrest last week. Evelyn Harvey, a pensioner from Perth, and her son Johnny Harvey, from Prospect have been charged with "(possessing) a prohibited drug with intent" in Western Australia.

Wikipedia Current Events

•At least 30 people have been killed following a large landslide in a village close to Sanaa in Yemen.

•A suicide bomber attacks a checkpoint near the West Bank city of Tulkarm, killing one Israeli soldier, two Palestinian civilians and himself. Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the attack.

•A statement is posted, apparently from from Al-Qaeda in Iraq, on several websites claiming responsibility for a recent Katyusha bombardment of northern Israeli towns.

•A Scottish human rights worker and her parents have been kidnapped in Gaza. Palestinian authorities have stepped up work to find them.

•Chinese state media announce that the country's government will abolish its national agricultural tax starting January 1, 2006.,

New text message encryption method developed

It was reported a month ago on The Prague Post that two Czech programmers, Dr. Marian Kechlibar and Jiří Šatánek, have developed SMS007, which is a program that advertises that no third party would be able to read text messages sent with this method. "We felt that there is too much phone tapping going on in this country," Šatánek said. "Everyone

has a right to their privacy."

The two are working on a version, set for release next summer, that will encode phone calls made from cell phones as well. Their Prague company, Circle Tech, is offering a 1 million Korona reward (\$40,270 U.S.) to anyone who can crack their code.

The program took about a year to develop and uses AES, a symmetric cipher. There are two keys to their code, one on the sender end and one on the recipient end. The keys to the code are not generated until after a person installs the software on his or her mobile phone.

Dr. Kechlibar is a mathematics professor at the Charles University in Prague.

South Korea begins sending indictments via SMS

South Korean prosecutors plan to begin sending legal notices such as indictments and fines via SMS text messaging. The move was prompted by the high percentage of the population carrying mobile phones, as well as the cost and slow delivery of paper notices.

A South Korean official, Lee Young-pyo, said, "Most people in South Korea have mobile phones, and since the notices don't reach them immediately by regular mail, this is a more definite way for the individuals to know they have received a legal notice."

Mr. Lee also emphasized that SMS notices did not replace existing paper notification, and people must apply for the service.

About 70 percent of the South Korean population use mobile phones, according to the The World Factbook.

Man buys his stolen camera on eBay

A German businessman who had his camera stolen at a restaurant found and made a purchase for the same camera model on eBay.

To his surprise, it was his own stolen camera.

The reason he wanted to same model was because he had matching accessories. The seller was from his hometown, making it even more suspicious. Police on Thursday were questioning a 34-year old vendor. His statement said, "claims he got the camera at a flea market, but was also offering other cameras on the Internet".

69-year-old Australian mother and son on drugs charges

A 69 year old woman and her 39 year old son from southern Australia have been charged with drug offenses following their arrest last week. Evelyn Harvey, a pensioner from Perth, and her son Johnny Harvey, from Prospect have been charged with "(possessing) a prohibited drug with intent" in Western Australia.

West Australian police arrested the pair last week after police intercepted a package sent via road courier, allegedly from the son in South Australia to his mother in Perth. The package contained 3.16kg of compressed

cannabis head with a street value of AU\$40,700.

Police allege that Mrs. Harvey was knowingly receiving the drugs and distributing them to dealers in Perth.

Detective Senior Sargent Dockery said "If convicted we will apply to the court to have both of them declared drug traffickers". Under Western Australia's crime legislation, the pair's property could be confiscated by the state.

According to police, \$5000 in cash was also seized from the pensioner's housing commission unit.

Former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet fingerprinted

Police arrived at Augusto Pinochet's home this morning in the Chilean capitol of Santiago to fingerprint the 90 year old man and take a mugshot, in an incident his lawyer called an insult. His lawyer, Pablo Rodriguez, said, "This is insulting but what pains us the most is not that a police record has been made for a former president but that there are no legal grounds to do so," and "this is an arbitrary procedure by the judge."

Judge Victor Montiglio ordered the mugshots and fingerprints to create a file on Pinochet. He has been under house arrest since November 2005.

Pinochet is being charged in relation to Operation Colombo, where 119 political dissidents disappeared during his reign in the mid-1970's. Pinochet's regime claims that they all died in clashes with various opposition groups. A government spokesperson said, "Once more in Chile we can

happily affirm that there is equality before the law and that the courts of justice are functioning impeccably."

Pinochet is also in other legal trouble. In November he was indicted for tax fraud and other crimes related to some \$27 million in foreign bank accounts, according to [[1]]. And also on Monday he was ruled fit to stand trial for the disappearances in Operation Colombo. This comes as a change of court rulings, previously cases have been dismissed because of medical reasons.

US consumer confidence up

Consumer confidence rose in December to levels closer to those before hurricane Katrina according to the Conference Board Consumer Research Center's consumer confidence index. The index was at 105.5 before the hurricane hit the port of New Orleans disrupting oil production and trade for a large part of the country. The index was at 102.7 in December last year.

The index rose to 103.6 from a revised 98.3 for November. The index was expected to only rise to 102.5.

"Consumer confidence continues to bounce back and is now at its highest level since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast" said Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board Consumer Research Center.

Most of the change is attributed to falling gas prices and an improved job outlook.

"The resiliency of the economy, recent declines in prices at the pump, and job growth have consumers feeling more confident

at year-end than they felt at the start of 2005," Franco said. "Even though all of the improvement over the past twelve months has been in consumers' assessment of current conditions, and expectations remain below earlier levels, consumers are confident that the economy will continue to expand in 2006."

Today in History

1853 - Gadsden Purchase: The United States bought 30,000 square miles of land south of the Gila River and west of the Rio Grande from Mexico for 10 million U.S. dollars.

1880 - Paul Kruger became the President of the Transvaal Republic.

1927 - The Ginza Line, the oldest subway line in Asia, opened in Tokyo, Japan.

1947 - King Michael was forced to abdicate as Romania became a People's Republic.

1965 - Ferdinand Marcos became President of the Philippines.

December 30 is José Rizal Day in the Philippines.

Quote of the Day

If you can keep your head when
all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on
you,
If you can trust yourself when all
men doubt you,
But make allowance for their
doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by
waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in
lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to
hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor
talk too wise . . .
If you can fill the unforgiving
minute
With sixty seconds' worth of
distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything
that's in it,
And — which is more — you'll be a
Man, my son!
~ Rudyard Kipling ~

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