



WIKINEWS NZ

PRINT EDITION

Wikinews would like to wish everyone a happy holiday!

New Zealand PM drops in on Microsoft April 2, 2007

Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand visited Microsoft's corporate headquarters in Seattle last week. She was welcomed by CEO Steve Ballmer, senior vice-president and CFO Chris Liddell, a New Zealander, and Microsoft New Zealand managing director Helen Robinson.

During the visit, they looked at ways technology could help the continuing growth of New Zealand's economic development. Ms Clark also examined Microsoft's newest productivity software, mainly including offerings in the areas of video conferencing and online collaboration tools. "There is no comparison" between Microsoft's technology and that of the Beehive, Clark said after the meeting.

This disparity she blamed "unquestionably" on the state of New Zealand broadband Internet access, which still uses the outdated copper 'local loop' system. She also referred to the importance of fibre optic networks, which "some are now calling the 'fourth utility'."

Mr Liddell responded that despite New Zealand being behind in some areas, "...the rate of change is such that that is not really such a big issue. ...I don't see New Zealand at a disadvantage and one of the great things about New Zealand is we are early adopters of technology. Attitude is as important as current status."

"We have got what is radical telecommunications legislation reform, but you can't stand still and think that will do the trick either. We have got a lot of technological challenges but I think the will to address them," Ms Clark said.

Unlike other guests, Ms Clark was not given a copy of the new Windows Vista during her visit. Instead, she was given a glass plate and a paperweight.

The visit to Microsoft follows her meeting with United States President Bush.



Microsoft's logo at a German campus.

2007 Cricket World Cup: Bangladesh vs New Zealand April 2, 2007

New Zealand beat Bangladesh by 9 wickets (with 124 balls remaining) in the Super 8 phase in the World Cup at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda.

This was Bangladesh's second defeat in three days in the Super 8 stage, having also lost convincingly by 10 wickets to Australia.

By contrast, New Zealand have yet to

taste defeat.

Toss: New Zealand won, and elected to field first.

Fall of wickets (Bangladesh): 1-55 (Tamim Iqbal, 16.4 ov), 2-62 (Javed Omar, 18.4 ov), 3-105 (Aftab Ahmed, 28.2 ov), 4-122 (Habibul Bashar, 33.3 ov), 5-127 (Saqibul Hasan, 35.1 ov), 6-127 (Mushfiqur Rahim, 35.6 ov), 7-129 (Mohammad Ashraful, 38.2 ov), 8-140 (Mashrafe Mortaza, 42.1 ov), 9-140 (Abdur Razzak, 42.3 ov), 10-147 (Syed Rasel, 48.3 ov)

Fall of wickets (New Zealand): 1-44 (Fulton, 9.2 ov)

Bangladesh: Javed Omar, Tamim Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Saqibul Hasan, Habibul Bashar (capt), Mohammad Ashraful, Mushfiqur Rahim (wkt), Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafe Mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Syed Rasel

New Zealand: P G Fulton, S P Fleming (capt), H J H Marshall, S B Styris, C D McMillan, J D P Oram, B B McCullum (wkt), D L Vettori, J E C Franklin, S E Bond, M J Mason

Player of the match: S E Bond (New Zealand)

Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and R E Koertzen (South Africa)

TV umpire: Asad Rauf (Pakistan)

Match referee: M J Procter (South Africa)

Reserve umpire: B F Bowden (New Zealand)

Full analysis of this cricket match and others are available online at en.wikinews.org.

Virginia law bans mobile phone use by teen drivers

April 3, 2007

Virginia governor Tim Kaine signed a bill into law on Friday last week that prohibits the use of mobile phones by newly licensed drivers under the age of 18 while operating a motor vehicle. Mobile phone users must pull off to the side of the road, or into a parking lot, to use a phone. The law takes effect July 1.

The newly signed bill by Virginia's governor makes it the 14th state in the U.S. to enact a partial ban on mobile phone use. The age group affected, 16 and 17-year-olds, need consent from their parents or guardians to obtain a driver's license in the state.

"I believe this is a common-sense restriction on those new drivers who may be tempted to pay more attention to phone calls and text messages than the road, endangering themselves and other drivers," said Governor Kaine.

State legislative proposals to restrict mobile phone use while driving have failed in 17 U.S. states where similar bills were introduced. There are currently four U.S. states, California, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, that have passed laws limiting mobile phone use as an on-road hazard while driving. For example, both New York and New Jersey classify use of a handheld mobile phone without an earpiece as a moving violation.

California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law mobile phone use limitations that will take effect on July 2008. It imposes of fine of \$20 for, "... anyone caught driving and using a cell phone unless the driver uses a headset, ear bud or other technology that frees both hands." according to Matt Hamblen of ComputerWorld.com.

45 countries currently ban use of the

hand held devices while driving. Botswana and New Zealand are debating similar measures.



Mobile phone in use while driving.

Pupils in detention forced to wear orange overalls

April 4, 2007

Pupils who are given detention at a Christchurch, New Zealand high school are being forced to wear orange overalls with the words 'Work Crew' on the back.

The New Zealand Parent Teacher Association (NZPTA) have said that this is unacceptable humiliation and will make each student stand out. The vice-president of the NZPTA, Margaret Mooney described the overalls as radical. The principal of Shirley Boys' High School, John Laurenson, denied these allegations, stating that the only reason for the overalls is to keep uniforms clean. Since each pupil's punishment is the opposite of what they committed, then the uniforms need to remain clean. "The average fellow, he [sic] doesn't want to get mud or muck on his uniform."

"If a boy's seen dropping litter, he picks up litter. If he's treading all over the rose garden, he might do weeding."

He said that the school hasn't received any complaints about the overalls from students or parents in the years it has been running.

OECD releases report on New Zealand's environmental performance

April 5, 2007

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has released a report on the environmental performance of the New Zealand Government. Although the Government applauds the findings as vindicating its path to sustainability the report makes a wide range of recommendations in order to improve environmental performance. It calls for better protection of water, a clarification and strengthening of climate change policy, an upgrade of waste management and improvement environmental reporting.

The previous report was released in 1996 and a number of improvements have been noted. These include minimising harmful substances in agriculture and fisheries, improving drinking water, balancing social and environmental concerns and expanding protected areas.

It is part of a second cycle of peer reviewed reports on the OECD member countries.

Tennis: Philippines beats New Zealand in opening singles at Davis Cup

April 5, 2007

The Philippines beat New Zealand in the Asia-Oceania Group Two semi-final opening singles matches for the Davis Cup at the intimate surroundings of the Parnell Club Courts.

The Philippine team took the lead over New Zealand with two wins to zero.

The Good Friday morning match showcased the Philippines' Cecil Mamiit, ranked 194 by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), against the 19-year-old Rubin Statham, New

Zealand's second ranked player and ranked 749 by the ATP. Mamiit defeated Statham with straight set wins of 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

The following match featured Eric Taino (547) against Kiwi, Simon Rea (668). Taino took command of the match at 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

The Filipino duo showed their best form amidst a home court crowd favouring their opponents.

Team Manager, Jean Henri Lhuillier President of Cebuna Lhuillier hailed the victory and said, "We are delighted over this victory. We have always believed that Cecil (Mamiit) and Eric (Taino) can carry the game against New Zealand even if it's in their home court advantage."


Lhuillier further added, "We are hoping to sweep matches. It's a tall order but with the wins, we hope our momentum will carry us to the next match."

Philippine Tennis Association president Luis Mendoza and Lhuillier applauded Eric Taino for playing a very good game against Rea.

Dan King-Turner (ATP 480) was omitted from the single's match with Statham by team captain James Greenhalgh believing that Statham and Rea would be the best to beat Mamiit and Taino.

Patrick John "PJ" Tierro (ATP 890) and Johnny Arcilla (no ATP rank) is expected to play against King-Turner and Rea to determine if New Zealand can even the series against the Philippines.

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