

THE FRONT PAGE

In the headlines today: chaotic scenes unfolded outside the Protea Magistrate's Court in Soweto yesterday - and inside the court the hip hop singer, charged with the death of four young schoolboys, wept. A tussle between the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry about local companies getting preferential treatment over foreign rivals in one of the pillars of the department's new industrial policy action plan, if not resolved soon.

NEWS REVIEWS

THE DAY IN SHORT

In the news today: President Jacob Zuma's eight-month delay in declaring his financial interests, assets and liabilities ended yesterday - but a probe by the Public Prosecutor into why he failed to comply with the law by disclosing on time could still go ahead; this time Freedom Front Plus has laid criminal charges against African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) President Julius Malema, as well as AfriForum, who says it will lay a charge of hate speech against him; Western Cape Premier Helen Zille is also set to sue Julius Malema after the ANCyl President accused the Democratic Alliance (DA) leader of suffering from satanism; seething residents and pupils shouted as they pelted the armoured van that carried Molemo Maarohanye, popularly known as Jub Jub, and Themba Tshabalala - the two men accused of killing the four boys during a road race on Monday.

NEWS REVIEWS

TOP STORIES

Why Jub Jub faces murder rap

An outraged community, stirred by the deaths of four teenage boys, beat a frantic path to the court gates in Protea, Soweto, yesterday. Seething residents and pupils shouted as they pelted the armoured van that carried Molemo Maarohanye, popularly known as Jub Jub, and Themba Tshabalala - the two men accused of killing the four boys during a road race on Monday. "You give them bail, we kill them", "No bail for bloody Jub Jub", Life sentence for bloody Jub Jub" and "First example. Celeb or no celeb, pay the price" were some of the posters they carried. Almont Technical High School pupils spurred the angry crowd on as they rattled the court gates and sang "Awulethe uJub Jub" (Bring Jub Jub) - adaptation of President Jacob Zuma's controversial machine gun song.

STAR; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00; CITIZEN (Second Edition); PRETORIA NEWS

Political party lay charges of hate speech against Malema

African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) President, Julius Malema, is in trouble again. This time Freedom Front Plus has laid criminal charges against him. Malema also looks set to return to the Equality Court as AfriForum says it will lay a charge of hate speech against him. AfriForum and Freedom Front Plus are outraged after Malema sang "shoot the boer" at a Johannesburg rally on Tuesday. The Human Rights Commission has previously called the song hate speech. The ANC says it won't comment until it has met with Malema. He is still awaiting the outcome of another Equality Court case. Gender rights activists took Malema to court for suggesting Jacob Zuma's rape accuser enjoyed having sex with him.

ENews PRIME @ 19:00; STAR

Zuma declares interests - eight months late

President Jacob Zuma's eight-month delay in declaring his financial interests, assets and liabilities ended yesterday - but a probe by the Public Prosecutor into why he failed to comply with the law by disclosing on time could still go ahead. Under the Executive Members' Ethics Code, Zuma was to have submitted his declaration within 60 days of assuming office. Yesterday - three days after The Sunday Independent revealed that he had not done so, sparking political outrage, Zuma finally did so. His attorney Michael Hulley, in a statement published on the Presidency website at 15:00, said Zuma had yesterday submitted a list of "any gifts, benefits or financial interests held or received either by him or by the code" - to the Cabinet secretary and Zuma's Director-General, Vusi Mavimbela.

STAR; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Helen Zille to sue Julius Malema

Western Cape Premier Helen Zille is to sue Julius Malema after the African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) President accused the Democratic Alliance (DA) leader of suffering from Satanism. The Freedom Front Plus announced that it would lay a formal criminal complaint against Malema for a song he sang during a speech at the University of Johannesburg which recalled former ANCyl leader Peter Mokaba's signature chant of "Kill the Boer, kill the farmer". Zille said that she asked her attorney to sue Malema. She said that she sent her attorney a formal written instruction in the early hours. CAPE ARGUS (City Late); TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00

POLITICAL NEWS

Malema shooting song not uncommon

As Julius Malema was slammed on Wednesday for singing a song about shooting Boers, it emerged that it was not the first time he had sung the song in public. While addressing students at the University of Johannesburg on Tuesday, Malema mimicked pointing a gun using his finger. In the song, he says the cowards are running away, shoot the Boer. In 2009 he also sang the song in Balfour, while addressing residents who were demonstrating over poor service delivery. Malema also used his platform at UJ on Tuesday to lash out at the opposition, calling Democratic Alliance leader Helen Zille satanic and saying no man would marry Independent Democrats leader Patricia de Lille. Analyst Nhlanhla Mtaka said Malema was clearly trying to divert the public's attention from his financial problem. "What is unfortunate is that South African politics have shifted from discussing serious economic issues."

HIGHVELD STEREO NEWS @ 10:00;

'Malema attacks opposition to deviate attention'

Political analyst Tinyiko Maluleke says the recent attacks on opposition leaders by African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) President Julius Malema is an attempt to deviate attention from the controversy surrounding him. Malema says Democratic Alliance leader, Helen Zille is suffering from satanism. He also attacked Independent Democrats leader Patricia de Lille saying she does not behave like a married woman. Maluleke says Malema is fighting for his political life. "Whether this will work this time around remains to be seen. We know that until now, the Julius Malema strategy has worked but, we must see whether it will continue to work," says Maluleke. The ANCyl President has been under fire recently for questionable tender deals and his lavish lifestyle. However, he has rejected as malicious, reports that he is 'living it up'.

SAFM NEWS @ 11:00

IFP urges SAA to drop fares

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) on Tuesday called on the Minister of Public Enterprises to instruct South African Airways (SAA) to run a six months promotion of SA as a tourist destination, with all airfares lower than \$999. The national airline is currently being investigated for allegedly colluding with other airlines to hike prices during the World Cup. "The astronomical airfares charged by SAA have turned South Africa into a non-competitive tourist destination," said IFP MP Mario Oriani-Ambrosini.

PROJECT2010.CO.ZA

ANC: Madikizela-Mandela to be grilled over UK interview

The African National Congress (ANC) would wait for struggle stalwart Winnie Madikizela-Mandela to return from the US to South Africa to ask her about a UK media interview in which she reportedly lashed out at Nelson Mandela. "This is not a matter we could sort out over the phone." said ANC spokesperson Ishmael Mnisi.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

SAFETY & SECURITY NEWS

England FA happy with SA's security

The Football Association of England has given South Africa's safety and security plan a big thumbs up for the 2010 World Cup. Chief Police Officer Andy Holt said the association was happy with the presentation by Bheki Cele, South Africa's Police Commissioner, during a World Cup workshop in Zurich last week. Police heads of the 32 countries that have qualified for the World Cup attended the two-day meeting organised by FIFA in Zurich. "We are very happy that this two-day workshop has helped to tackle all the issues that might previously have been unclear in relation to security," Holt said.

SOWETAN (Late Final), Sport

No bail for Jub Jub and co-accused

Musician Jub Jub and his co-accused Themba Tshabalala were denied bail yesterday morning. Tshabalala and JubJub are accused of causing the deaths of four schoolboys during an allegedly illegal drag race in Soweto. JubJub and Tshabalala were called briefly to the dock at the Protea Magistrate's Court on Wednesday morning, causing a loud outcry outside as police battled to keep noise levels down from hundreds of people protesting outside. Prosecutor Liezi van Jaarsveld told the magistrate the pair faced four murder charges, two attempted murder charges, one count of reckless and negligent driving and another of driving under the influence of alcohol. Van Jaarsveld said the state requested a seven-day postponement for further investigation on grounds that further witness statements were needed, including those of two passengers. The Protea Magistrate's Court postponed the case to 15 March.

IOL.CO.ZA; TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 12:00

The law is closing in on illegal medicine traders

International Criminal Police Organisation's (Interpol's) targeting the illegal trade in traditional medicines containing protected wildlife products has resulted in a series of arrests. Interpol has arrested 15 people over the past few weeks, for selling medicine containing wild life products. Its part of Operation Tram which was conducted in the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and Mpumalanga. Medicine to the value of about R4 million was also confiscated. A primary goal of Operation Tram was to combat the illegal trade in endangered wildlife.

RADIO 2000 NEWS @ 13:00

Octogenarian's killers get lengthy jail term

Three illegal immigrants who murdered an 86-year-old woman have been accused of fuelling xenophobic attacks. Johannesburg High Court Judge Kathy Satchwell expressed this opinion when she sentenced three Mozambicans to an effective 26-year jail term each for the November 2008 murder of the octogenarian.

STAR

Fidelity wins court order on Cup guns

The country's largest private security company has obtained an urgent court order against the Central Firearms Registry to obtain 600 temporary firearm permits in time for the World Cup. Fidelity Security Services had applied to the Pretoria High Court for the urgent order. These permits were refused shortly before Christmas last year.

STAR

Kriegler rebuts Hlope's 'falsehoods'

In an unusual move, former judge Johann Kriegler was given time in the Cape High Court yesterday to rebut what he said were "injurious falsehoods" by Cape Judge President John Hlope. The court is hearing an application by Western Cape's Premier Helen Zille asking it to invalidate last year's Judicial Service Commission (JSC) finding that Hlope was not guilty of gross misconduct. At issue are the JSC's meetings last year at which it dismissed a complaint by Constitutional Court judges that Hlope has tried to improperly influence their pending decision on a case involving President Jacob Zuma.

CITIZEN (Second Edition); BUSINESS DAY (National)

Gauteng paramedics on call to be escorted by police

Gauteng paramedics are to be escorted by police when they are called out to dangerous areas. This follows the attack on two female rescue workers on the West Rand on Friday. While attending to a toddler one of the women was raped. Paramedics say this was not an isolated criminal incident. Critics say the new plan will cause a dilemma for paramedics, deciding whether to wait for a police escort or respond immediately to the call for help. Johannesburg Emergency Services has promised risk management training for its personnel.

NEWS PRIME @ 19:00

Transport MEC to begin street-racing clampdown

Gauteng MEC for Transport, Bheki Nkosi, has declared zero tolerance on street racing on the province's roads and has vowed to clamp down on these activities. In a statement issued to the media yesterday, Nkosi said he has said that he is going to push for street racing to be treated as a serious criminal and civil offence in Gauteng. "Strict and punitive measures would be put in place to discourage such activities."

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

NEWS BRIEF

Zakumi factory defends itself

A Chinese factory, ordered to stop producing mascots for the soccer World Cup has defended itself. Shanghai Fashion Plastic Products was closed down, after allegations of sweatshop conditions in its factories. But the company says its facilities are among the best in China. This despite allegations that it employed teenagers who have to work thirteen hour shifts, for just three dollars a day. "Considering China's actual conditions... the environment in our factory, if not the best, is very good indeed," a company official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. The toy and gift manufacturer also produced merchandise for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and is a supplier for this year's World Expo in Shanghai, according to its website.

KAYA FM NEWS @ 09:00

Lance Armstrong speaks of his love for cycling

Cycling legend Lance Armstrong enthralled a group of youngsters in Mitchells Plain when he spoke to them about how his love of cycling drove his success. The children from Mitchells Plain Armstrong spoke to were part of the JAG Foundation, which uses sport to motivate and empower youth. Armstrong is in Cape Town to drum up support for the foundation. The legend spoke frankly about his childhood, growing up with a tough mother and not knowing his father, and how 13 years ago he became sick and was diagnosed with cancer. He said these were obstacles he had needed to overcome and was able to, because of his love for sport.

CAPE ARGUS (City Late)

Special Eskom deals for 2 companies

Two Eskom customers have special electricity pricing deals. Yesterday, Eskom spokesperson Andrew Etzinger said there were two customers on the special deals, with different contracts for various sites and a total of "less than 10 contracts" between them. He would not identify the customers or give further details. Eskom's Chief Executive Officer for generation, Brian Dames, told The Star that the key industrial customers (KICs) were billed according to the tariff book. He would not provide details, except to say these agreements meant that those customers were not affected by the recent price increases approved by the National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa).

STAR; BUSINESS DAY (National)

Crash and burn closes N1

The N1 near the Atterbury Road bridge was expected to remain closed until today after a truck transporting chemicals and industrial cables careered out of control yesterday, crashed into a construction crane and four cars before exploding, killing the motorist.

STAR

Copy of Freedom Charter to be sold

A copy of the original Freedom Charter will be auctioned in London later this month, Bonhams said yesterday. The document was expected to fetch between £20 000 and £30 000 pounds on 24 March, the auctioneer said. Bonhams spokesperson Julian Roup said the document was a copy of the original Freedom Charter, "to which the original signatories attached their signatures".

STAR

Gauteng's link between Joburg and Pretoria closed

The morning rush to work was severely delayed today. The N1 north and south was still closed following a major accident at the Atterbury off-ramp in eastern Pretoria on Wednesday afternoon. A truck driver lost control of his vehicle and slammed into three other cars causing a massive fire and bumping a crane. One person, believed to be the truck driver, died. Engineers worked through out the night to stabilise the crane but the it moved and will now have to be rebuild, which could take several hours. Traffic was diverted via the on and off- ramps. The Atterbury Bridge which was closed off traffic on Wednesday night and will remain so indefinitely.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00; CLASSIC FM NEW @ 06:00

Army set to encourage Bafana Bafana to do their best

The deployment of the SA Army during the FIFA World Cup tournament will encourage Bafana Bafana to do their best, Major General Vusi Masondo, Chief Director of Army Force Preparation said in Pretoria yesterday. Masondo said just like Bafana Bafana, members of the army were also the pride of the country.

CITIZEN (Second Edition)

Uniplate accused of manufacturing non-compliant plates

According to Eyewitness News, several 100 000 illegal number plates were fixed to vehicles in Gauteng. Numerous number-plate manufacturers have accused a major competitor of flooding the market with the non-compliant plates. This could result in motorists picking up serious fines and in drivers dodging speeding tickets by tampering with their license plates. The South African Bureau of Standards said it was aware of the problem. Number-plate manufacturers said market leader Uniplate was selling non-compliant products. They said it had a fake watermark, the Gauteng logo can be easily rubbed off with nail polish remover and it was delaminating.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Drought scorches 2010 pitch

The green pitch at Port Elizabeth's World Cup stadium has become an island in a sea of brown, exempt from water limits imposed due to a drought that has scorched the land outside. Five people work day and night to maintain the grass inside the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, designed to resemble a flower that now appears to blossom from the baked earth. "To reduce our water consumption, we water in the morning at two o'clock. It's more economical," said Rob Hitchens, manager at the 46 000-seat stadium that will host eight World Cup matches. It is the only stadium suffering from the drought along South Africa's southern coast, and authorities are scrambling to find solutions. "We are now implemented to investigate the possibility of filtering the lake water or storage tankers of water from elsewhere. Before the World Cup, we will be using reclaimed water," Hitchens said. "We want it as soon as possible because we are in a crisis."

SPORT24.CO.ZA

Kirkwood residents feeling left out of WC hype

With less than 100 days to go before the 2010 World Cup, many residents of small rural towns and villages have been left out in the cold when it comes to the hype of the build-up to kick-off. One such place is Kirkwood in the Eastern Cape, where residents say the Soccer World Cup is pretty much a foreign idea to the people there and surrounding farms. Kirkwood is only about 80km from one of the world cup stadiums in Port Elizabeth. The stadium will host eight matches and thousands of soccer tourists are expected to pass through the town. While Bafana Bafana jerseys have been sold out in the rest of South Africa, shops in Kirkwood have not even stocked the prized possession. The Nelson Mandela Bay 2010 team has blamed their provincial counterparts. 2010 Communications & Marketing Manager Nelson Mandela Bay, Putco Mafani says, "As the team of 2010 here in the metro our role is to encourage those people in the city, in the metro and surrounding areas. When we say remote we mean places like Colchester which we have visited and places like Green Bushes that we will visit next week."

SABCNEWS.COM

Shebeeners stage sit-in at CT police station

Several liquor traders staged a sit-in at the Khayelitsha Police Station on Wednesday. There was a tense stand-off as the traders demanded that authorities to retract notices forcing illegal traders to shut down their operations. The traders vowed they would not vacate the police station. Police officers issued dozens of notices on Tuesday to illegal traders in the area, ordering them to close their businesses with immediate effect. Representatives of the Liquor Traders' organisation were in discussions with the station commander in order to find a solution. Shebeeners however were adamant that shutting down was out of the question.

EWN.CO.ZA

Okasi forced to buy water

Residents of North West's Oukasi township, outside Brits, say they have to buy water because their own water carries the risk of cholera. They also complain of potholes, a lack of housing, and electricity cuts.

STAR

EDUCATION NEWS

Jansen happy with transformation at Free State Uni

University of the Free State (UFS) Rector Jonathan Jansen says transformation has been a success at the tertiary institution that was embroiled in a racial row last year. Jansen was participating in a debate about leadership and transformation at tertiary level at the University of Cape Town (UCT) Tuesday night. Jansen says he is satisfied with the rate of transformation at UFS. He says the university tackled the issue of racism head on and that students are now looking to the future and not the past. Jansen's counterpart at UCT, Max Price says the transformation challenges at the country's 23 universities are all different. He says integration at so called former white liberal universities like UCT, has to focus more on the transformation of its staff, student bodies and the attitude of students when they leave university.

SAFM NEWS @ 08:00

Students burn lecture hall, vandalise campus

Demonstrating students on Wednesday set fire to a lecture room and vandalised the Tshwane South College, on the second day of protests at the Atteridgeville campus. Three students were arrested for public violence. On Tuesday, lecturers and other members of staff had to lock themselves in the institution's buildings when hundreds of students went on the rampage over a lack of textbooks among other things. Fire fighters doused the flames that ravaged one of the lecture halls at the campus. It is understood the students returned to the building after an earlier fire had been put out. The demonstrators locked the gates to their campus for the second time before vandalising buildings. The fire brigade cut open the gates allowing police to enter the premises.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 13:00

UCT chairperson Ndungane defends Max Price

University of Cape Town (UCT) council chairperson and Anglican Archbishop Emeritus Njongonkulu Ndungane has come out in defence of vice chancellor Max Price's criticism of authorities for failing to curb violent crime. Price told students that President Jacob Zuma and Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa had failed to protect student. Ndungane says Price has not breached a UCT council agreement governing his public statements.

CAPE TIMES

TCS to be monitored

The principal of the Tshwane South College (TCS) has been temporarily withdrawn, following this week's violent protests by students. The students set fire to a class room yesterday after they held lecturers hostage. The staff members were also held against their will on Tuesday, but were later rescued by the police. They are demanding more class rooms, a library and text books. The students also want some managers, whom they accuse of corruption, to be dismissed.

KAYA FM NEWS @ 06:00

Report into KZN schools

A first quarter report on the state of schools in KwaZulu-Natal prepared by the Education Department and provincial legislature has found that a total of 866 primary and 575 secondary schools in the province are over-enrolled. The report was based on findings from 1 675 schools visited and was tabled by Education MEC Senzo Mchunu at the legislature sitting in KwaMaphumulo yesterday. The survey also showed a high level of teacher absenteeism on the first day of the term, as high as 25 percent. Mchunu also said that 531 of the schools visited experienced safety and security issues. He is expected to meet with the Public Works minister to iron out school infrastructure issues soon.

MERCURY

GOVERNMENT BRIEF

We're not disregarding parliament - SAA

South African Airways (SAA) has denied claims that it is undermining Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises. The committee called off a briefing by the national carrier on Tuesday when it failed to present a full delegation - including the new CEO Siza Mzimela. SAA was supposed to brief the committee on a range of issues, including allegations of collusion and missing baggage. The carrier said it considered the committee as a key stakeholder, therefore denying claims that it was not taking them seriously. SAA Spokesperson Vimla Maistry said there may have been miscommunication. "We certainly did not ignore the committee and its request for SAA to present to them," she said. The committee rescheduled the briefing for 16 March.

HIGHVELD STEREO NEWS @ 11:00

Manuel bags top UN job

Minister in the Presidency responsible for National Planning, Trevor Manuel, has been appointed as a member of the High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing established by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. The group was launched in February this year to mobilise financing for assisting developing countries in combating climate change. The Group of 19 experts will be co-chaired by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The group will study potential sources of revenue for financing mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries. The group is also tasked with creating practical proposals to boost both short and long-term financing for mitigation and adaptation strategies in developing countries.

IAFRICA.COM; HIGHVELD STEREO NEWS @ 10:00; FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

China keen to invest in South African mines

South Africa's mining minister said yesterday that China had shown strong interest in investing in the country's mining sector, and reassured investors there were no plans to nationalise mines. "There is a lot of interest from China. They are interested in manganese, platinum, uranium and I would say almost every commodity," Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu told the Reuters Global Mining and Steel Summit in New York. "But we are also cautious to see if their investment is going to benefit South Africa. It is critical for us to ensure our own interest is catered for." Shabangu said the Chinese were keen to invest in the processing of minerals in the country - a key priority of South Africa's government, which hopes to extract as much value from its mines as possible and boost job creation.

SAFM NEWS @ 06:00; REUTERS.COM

SA government own property worth R4.3bn

South Africa's government owns property around the world valued at more than R4.3 billion. Responding to a question by the Democratic Alliance in Parliament, International Relations and Co-operation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, said most of these properties are in European countries. In terms of the departments asset management policy the properties are valued at five yearly intervals. Nkoana-Mashabane said the next valuation will be performed in 2012.

RADIO 2000 NEWS @ 11:00

Questions about the president's advisors

As President Jacob Zuma hands his list of interests to the Cabinet Secretary, more than 200 days late, questions were being asked about the quality of advice being given to him. Over the last few months he has been criticised for the handling of his love child, several mistakes made on his trip to Britain and what was seen as a weak State of the Nation address. At the same time, Presidency Chief Operations Officer Jessie Duarte has claimed she was the victim of infighting within the Presidency. Independent political analyst Dr Somadoda Fikeni said Zuma's office may have let him down. "The Presidency has limped from one PR crisis to the next one within a very short space of time and that has to be putting a strain on the president himself," said Fikeni. But other analysts disagreed, saying these mistakes were just a function of Zuma's political weakness.

TALK RADIO 702 NEWS @ 06:00

BUSINESS BRIEF

Cup boosts job hopes

Employment expectations in the wholesale and retail sector are growing, as bosses look towards the Soccer World Cup and a global economic recovery. The employment expectations index of the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry's latest trade conditions survey rose to 57 last month from 55 in January. It was the fourth month the figure had been in positive territory. A figure above 50 indicates growth and below 50 contraction.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

In Business news today, a delay in infrastructure-related projects and further volume declines had knocked Dawn's headline earnings in the six months to December severely, the company said yesterday, acknowledging its "worst financial period" ever. The group's revenue declined 16% to R1.8 billion, while earnings a share were down 63% to 31.9c. Pamodzi Investment Holdings yesterday sold its 77% stake in Foodcorp for more than R500 million. The sale of its stake in Foodcorp, which the unlisted Pamodzi took private in 1998, is part of a transaction that sees Foodcorp's management take control of the company with the backing of a UK funder. Massmart Holdings extended a four-day rally yesterday after saying earnings might improve and on speculation Wal-Mart Stores might look to buy the retailer. Massmart closed 1.48% up at R107.38.

NEWS REVIEWS

Black empowerment expected to drive mergers

Black economic empowerment will continue to be a major driver of mergers and acquisitions activity this year. Many of South Africa's investment professionals in private equity expect funds to be black empowered this year, said Athol Williams, a senior partner at business consulting firm Bain. Multiple international and local acquisitions had collapsed as a result of the global economic downturn. "Empowerment would drive activity in the private equity sector in the next year or two," Williams said this week. More than R100 billion was invested in the SA private equity sector, despite the financial crisis. "Although SA was not immune to the financial crisis, it was better off than other markets," said Williams.

BUSINESS DAY (National), Companies & Markets

SABC cuts its foreign service

SABC News International would be "substantially" scaled down from 1 April, the broadcaster said yesterday. The truncated service will provide the basis for a future 24-hour domestic news channel that will be part of the new digital channels yet to be launched. Full-scale operations were no longer financially viable, it said.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

RICA 'impossible' for ISPs

A failed appeal for exemption from legislation that forces communications companies to register customers could see local internet service providers (ISPs) pay a R2 million fine, or face a 10-year jail sentence. The Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-Related Information Act (RICA) got under way in June last year, leaving operators and ISPs with 18 months to collect customer documentation, including proof of residence and ID documents. However, ISPs have been fighting the clauses in the legislation in an attempt to be declared exempt under certain clauses in the law, in a battle that now seems to have come to a head. The Internet Service Providers' Association of SA (ISPA) on Monday released a statement saying the Act may well be impossible for local ISPs to comply with.

ITWEB.CO.ZA

Icasa pulls competition strings

The Independent Communications Authority of SA (Icasa) has released guidelines on how it plans to promote competition in the markets it governs. The guidelines are based on the hotly-contested Chapter 10 of the Electronic Communications Act (ECA), which the Department of Communications (DOC) plans to overhaul. Competition regulation has been the bane of the regulator, specifically in the telecoms space, where operators previously managed to dodge competition clampdowns. One of the larger problems is that Chapter 10 forces the regulator to carry out long-winded and costly studies of the markets it regulates, before it can declare any given market anti-competitive. Icasa's Chairperson, Paris Mashile, last year called on the DOC to consider amending the Act. At the time, he said high communication costs in SA could be traced back to the "labyrinth" of the Act.

ITWEB.CO.ZA

Maize contracts close lower

White maize for July delivery, the most active contract on the South African Futures Exchange, fell R11, or 1%, to R1 091 a ton yesterday. Yellow maize for July delivery declined R12 to R1 163 a ton. Wheat for May delivery was down 0.6% to R2 072 a ton.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Strong rand weakens wool

The strong rand again weighed down wool prices during the weekly national sale, Cape Wools said yesterday. The company's merino indicator shed 2.6% to close at R63.43/kg (clean). The rand was trading at R7.37 against the dollar, which was an appreciation of 2.2% on last week's rate. Yesterday's offering consisted of 9 464 bales, of which 98% were sold. Major buyers were Standard Wool (3 188 bales); Lempriere (1 902 bales); Modiano (1 746 bales); and Stucken (1 709 bales). About 6 500 bales will be on offer next week.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

BANKING BRIEF

In Banking news this morning, the African National Congress Youth League (ANCyL) said yesterday that it is losing confidence in Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan for "not following party policy" and "ignoring the plight of the young"; in addition, Gordhan yesterday accused some SA Reserve Bank shareholders of trying to create the conditions for the bank's liquidation for their own gain. He also said that South Africa's Reserve Bank will shortly release results of a study into the gap between the central bank's main interest rate and prime lending costs, but is not formally investigating competition between commercial banks. In business, investment bank Investec is set to replace insurance-focused takeover vehicle resolution in the FTSE 100 index after the latest quarterly index review yesterday.

NEWS REVIEWS

Gordhan slams Sarb shareholders

Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan on Wednesday accused some SA Reserve Bank shareholders of trying to create the conditions for the bank's liquidation for their own gain. Replying to a written parliamentary question by Dion George of the Democratic Alliance, Gordhan reiterated that no changes were being considered to the bank's shareholding structure. "No changes are under consideration at this stage," he said. In the vast majority of cases around the world, the central bank was owned by the state, and South Africa was an exception to the norm in having private shareholders. "However, the shareholding structure of the Reserve Bank should not impact on the bank's independence, mandate or daily operations." The Constitution enshrined the operational independence of the bank in pursuing its duties and mandate.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Sarb report out soon

South Africa's Reserve Bank will shortly release results of a study into the gap between the central bank's main interest rate and prime lending costs, but is not formally investigating competition between commercial banks, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan said yesterday. The banking sector in South Africa is dominated by four major banks, Standard Bank, Absa, Nedbank and FirstRand and has been criticised for being uncompetitive, allowing banks to charge consumers more than their overseas peers. On Tuesday Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said more competition should be introduced into the banking sector to help tackle inflation. "The South African Reserve Bank has indicated to the National Treasury that there is no investigation on interest rates charged by commercial banks," Gordhan said in response to a written question in parliament.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

Tackle structural issues, Strauss-Kahn urges SA

The government could only address the problems of the jobless by tackling the country's "structural problems", International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Strauss-Kahn said yesterday at the end of a two-day trip to South Africa. He met President Jacob Zuma, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and other ministers during his visit. At a press conference ahead of his departure for Zambia, he said, "Monetary manipulation is always the easy way to hide the real problems". His comments followed repeated calls from trade unions and others for the government to cut interest rates and weaken the rand to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Strauss-Kahn identified the "real problems" as the failings in education and the lack of competition in the economy among other things.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Stoke competition, says Strauss-Kahn

Lack of competition was a much bigger challenge for South Africa's economy than the level of the rand, the MD of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said yesterday. He criticised the dominance of the country's banking, telecoms and food sectors by a few big companies, saying this was "not in the interests" of the economy. "For many historical reasons, competition was not as vivid and as active as we would expect," he told reported at the end of a two-day visit to SA. Improved competition would also create more jobs and curb inflation, raising the living standards of the poor, he said.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Dykes hopes for economic surprise on the upside

The economy could "surprise on the upside", according to Dennis Dykes, the Nedbank group chief economist. At a presentation yesterday, he said that growth should come from an inventory bounce as businesses rebuilt their depleted stocks, the World Cup effect, which could add 0.2 to 1 percentage points to gross domestic product (GDP) and a delayed response to interest rate cuts. The Reserve Bank slashed its repo rate from 12% to 7% between December 2008 and August last year, but household spending continued declining until at least the third quarter of last year, after starting to contract in the third quarter of 2008.

BUSINESS REPORT (Star)

Some sectors still in recession

Although the economy grew 3.2% in the fourth quarter, the agriculture, wholesale and retail sectors were still in recession, said Mike Schussler, CEO of Economists Dotcoza. "Many consumers are still hesitant to spend on big-ticket items". His group expects 3% growth this year, below the long-term potential of 4%.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

SARS investigated 1 740 taxpayers last year

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) conducted 1 740 in-depth investigations of individual taxpayers in the 2008/2009 tax year out of a total of 72 926 audits across all tax types and on all categories of taxpayers, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan said in a written reply to a parliamentary question about lifestyle audits. Lifestyle audits have become a hot potato after calls were made by Congress of South African Trade Unions General Secretary Zwelinzima Vavi that politicians with flashy lifestyles be subjected to them.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Youth league losing faith in Gordhan

The African National Congress Youth League (ANCyl) said yesterday that it is losing confidence in Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan for "not following party policy" and "ignoring the plight of the young". The league, which is pushing for mines to be nationalised, said Gordhan had ignored the development of poor and unemployed youth. Its criticism of Gordhan, whose appointment last year was welcomed by markets and investors, is the most vocal yet from within the ruling party. Gordhan's budget, delivered last month, was criticised by the Congress of SA Trade Unions for not doing enough for the poor.

BUSINESS DAY (National)

Manuel joins UN financial group

Minister in the Presidency responsible for National Planning, Trevor Manuel, has been appointed as a member of the High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing established by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. The group was launched in February this year to mobilise financing for assisting developing countries in combating climate change. The Group of 19 experts will be co-chaired by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Manuel joins other high-level officials from Ministries and Central Banks as well as experts on public finance, development and related issues. Members include Guyanan President Bharrat Jagdeo Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg. The group will study potential sources of revenue for financing mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries.

FIN24.CO.ZA - FINWEEK

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

The news in his native Holland that Guus Hiddink will coach the Ivory Coast at the World Cup bodes well for the chances of an African nation progressing to the latter stages of the tournament. The vastly experienced Hiddink has guided three different nations - Holland, South Korea and Australia - to the World Cup and progressed to the knockout rounds with each. He also took Russia to the semifinals of the 2008 European Championship and has won league titles and the European Cup with PSV Eindhoven. Count in his successful spell as Chelsea boss last season and it becomes clear that Hiddink is a coach of almost unparalleled stature. He has proven he is the perfect man to lead a country at the World Cup and go far. The Ivory Coast are star-studded but in a tough group so their task will not be easy. But with Hiddink on the sidelines, their chances appear a lot better.

News Reviews

Du Toit scoops top award

South African swimmer Natalie du Toit, who won five gold medals at the 2008 Paralympic Games, received the Laureus Disability award at the Laureus Sports Awards in Abu Dhabi last night. Record-breaking Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt picked up the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award for the second straight year, while American tennis player Serena Williams won the women's award for the second time. Belgian tennis player Kim Clijsters won the award for Comeback of the Year for winning last year's US Open after being absent from the sport for almost two years.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport; ENEWS PRIME @ 19:00; CAPE TIMES; CLASSIC FM NEWS @ 06:00

Spies, Potgieter back for Bulls

Pierre Spies has been included in the Bulls' starting line-up for Saturday's Super 14 match against the Highlanders after recovering from a knee injury which sidelined him for two weeks. Spies replaces Danie Rossouw at No 8, with Rossouw moving to lock in place of Flip van der Merwe. Meanwhile, flank Dewald Potgieter will make his first start of the season after coming on as a substitute in the Bulls' previous match.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

United cruise through, Lyon stun Real

Manchester United beat AC Milan 4-0 in their Champions League last 16, second leg at Old Trafford last night to progress to the quarterfinals 7-2 on aggregate. United held a 3-2 lead from the first leg at the San Siro last week.

Real Madrid were eliminated from the competition in the round of 16 for the sixth straight season following a 1-1 draw with Olympique Lyon in their second leg last night. The French side progressed 2-1 on aggregate.

STAR, Sport

Hiddink to lead Ivory Coast at World Cup

Guus Hiddink has agreed to coach the Ivory Coast at this year's World Cup, Dutch broadcaster NOS reported last night. NOS said the Dutchman would lead the Ivory Coast from 15 May to 15 July before taking up the job as coach of the Turkish national team in August. It was reported, however, that Hiddink must confirm that his contract with Russia, which expires in June, has been ended before signing on to coach the Elephants.

CITIZEN (Second Edition), Sport

INDICATORS

Rand - Dollar \$	7.3986	(+0.0004)
Rand - Sterling £	11.0461	(+0.0376)
Rand - Euro €	10.0747	(-0.0306)
JSE Allshare	28087.7	(+189.53)
Gold	\$1120.5	(+4.75)
Platinum	\$1605.0	(+31.00)
Brent Crude Oil	\$81.2	(+1.28)

The figures quoted are from the close of business yesterday, along with any movement, either up or down, from the previous day.

WEATHER

Bloemfontein	16	(30)
Cape Town	19	(24)
Durban	20	(29)
East London	19	(27)
Johannesburg	14	(30)
Kimberley	15	(34)
Mafikeng	14	(32)
Nelspruit	20	(32)
Pietermaritzburg	17	(30)
Polokwane	17	(30)
Port Elizabeth	17	(27)
Pretoria	16	(32)