

Chen removes cast, still limping, secretary says

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Former president Chen Shui-bian's secretary said yesterday that Chen had taken off the cast on his right foot, but was still hobbling when he walks.

Chiang Chih-ming said the former president no longer needed the cast for tendonitis in the foot, and did not need a wheelchair.

However, Chen still walks with a bit of a limp, so he may not be able to get much exercise at the detention center, Chiang said.

Last week Chen was diagnosed by Taipei Detention Center physicians with tendonitis in his right foot, caused by abnormal bone growth.

He wore a cast and used a wheelchair when he appeared at Taipei District Court last week for his corruption trial.

The former president, who has been held at the detention center since December, received visits from former college classmates yesterday.

Chen was glad to see his old friends, but said that because he had difficulty walking and exercising, he asked friends and family to refrain from giving him too much food, otherwise he might put on too much weight, Chiang said.

The former president's daughter, Chen Hsing-yu, son Chen Chih-chung and son-in-law Chao Chien-ming, as well as former Taipei Financial Center Corp chairwoman Diana Chen were charged with perjury on Friday.

On the same day, former first lady Wu Shu-jen was indicted for perjury after allegedly instructing her children to lie during a probe into the embezzlement charges against her and her husband.

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