

## Thais won't bow to US demand

BANGKOK, May 3: Thailand is ready to comply with international rules, but could not bow to any "unacceptable" demand by Washington on the issue of intellectual property rights, reports Xinhua.

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai stressed this on Sunday while talking to local reporters in Naphon Pathom, about 100 kilometers west of Bangkok.

"We will not let ourselves be pressured by unacceptable demands, because we adhere only to international principles," Chuan said, adding that Thailand is willing to comply with US demands if they are "reasonable".

This was one of the Chuan's toughest comments on the Thai-US trade dispute, which could result in retaliatory taxes on Thai exports to the US.

Over the weekend, Washington placed Thailand,

along with Brazil and India, on its "Priority Foreign Country" (PFC) watch-list.

The three countries are accused of failing to protect US trademarks, patents and copy rights and could be subject to retaliatory trade tariffs.

Washington cited problems of legal enforcement and deficiencies in Thai Patent Law as the main causes of concern over protecting US intellectual property rights in Thailand.

Although the Chuan administration has tried to improve copyright enforcement, the US trade representative suggested it would not be satisfied with Thai steps until there are changes in Thailand's intellectual property rights laws and regulations, Washington said.

"It is our policy to make things conform with the law and we will do so, even if the United States had not requested us to," Chuan said.

## Plea for elimination of N-arms by 2010

NEW DELHI, May 3: Declaration on elimination of nuclear arms has been made public by the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Initiative for the Advancement of Human Civilization here on Sunday, reports Xinhua.

The signatories of the declaration called for the immediate commencement of a negotiating process aimed at the elimination of all nuclear weapons by international treaty as early as possible, and in any case, not later than the year 2010, based on a comprehensive verification system that precludes the production of any nuclear weapons.

The Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Initiative for the Advancement of Human Civilization was organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Foundation on May 1

and 2 and attended by former President of Mexico Miguel de La Madrid Hurtado, former Prime Minister of New Zealand David Lange, former Prime Minister of Nepal K P Bhattarai, former State Secretary of Russia Guennadi Burbulis and former US Senator Alan Cranston among others.

The declaration commended the Rajiv Gandhi action plan on nuclear arms and called for illegitimacy of any threat or use of nuclear weapons.

It emphasized the need for cessation of any further production of nuclear weapons and weapons—grade fissionable materials, including the closure or conversion of nuclear weapons production facilities and test sites.

## Thousands of Muslims take to streets for independence 110 Kashmiri policemen suspended

NEW DELHI, May 3: The Kashmir administration Sunday suspended 110 policemen for instigating an unprecedented police strike after a colleague died in the custody of Indian Security Forces, officials said, reports AFP.

The 110 included Commandant A S Lone of the 11th battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir armed police, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported from Srinagar, the summer capital of the troubled state.

Thousands of policemen went on strike in the Kashmir valley on April 22 after a constable arrested on charges of being linked to Muslim guerrillas died in the custody of the security forces.

The policemen, who sought the arrest of a senior officer for allegedly condoning the constable's death, seized the police control room in Srinagar and took several offi-

cers hostage. Indian Army troops stormed the control room April 28 and arrested some 1,000 policemen. Twenty of them were sacked two days later.

PTI quoted official sources as saying that senior officers were screening the policemen who had struck work and that "more dismissals or suspensions could not be ruled out."

But it added that most policemen in the valley had returned to work, ignoring calls by their underground leaders to pursue the protests to insist on the arrest of the senior officer.

Meanwhile, thousands of Muslims took to the streets in a Kashmir town yesterday demanding independence from India after a border guard and a civilian died in an attack by Muslim guerrillas, witnesses said.

The thousands of residents marched through the narrow lanes of Sopore, about 60 kilometres (37 miles) from Srinagar, carrying the body of the civilian who died overnight Saturday, the witnesses said by telephone.

A member of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) was also killed when militants fired rockets at a two-storey security post and later targeted half-a-dozen other BSF bunkers in Sopore town.

The guerrilla attack on the security post triggered a major fire which gutted some 60 houses and shops, officials here said. But the residents alleged that they were destroyed by rampaging BSF troops.

Five other BSF personnel were injured in the attack on the paramilitary post after 11:30 PM (1800 GMT) in a residential district.

The militants attacked with rockets and guns," Kashmir state government spokesman Ram Mohan Rao said in New Delhi. "Sporadic firing was continuing when last reports came in."

The civilian's death sparked a crippling strike in Sopore. Hundreds of BSF personnel, including reinforcements, virtually sealed the town as Muslim residents took to the streets, blaming the BSF for the death.

The security forces may continue to burn Sopore, but none can stop us from achieving the goal of self-determination," said Altaf Ahmed, a lawyer in Sopore said over telephone.

BSF personnel were accused of shooting dead some 50 civilians in a frenzy on January 6 after an ambush, and six more civilians on April 19.

## Israeli minister tells cabinet to withdraw from Golan

JERUSALEM, May 3: Israeli police Minister Moshe Shahal told a cabinet meeting Sunday his country should withdraw from the Golan Heights in return for total peace with Syria, reports AFP.

It was the first time a Minister from the ruling Labour Party of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had adopted such a position involving a complete pullback from the plateau.

Last week, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid of the left-wing Meretz Party said publicly that Israel must be ready to give up the Golan to achieve complete peace with Syria.

The two ministers' proposals have not come up for a cabinet vote.

Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War and an-

nexed it in 1981.

Rabin has said he was willing to partially withdraw from the Golan but never said by how much. He voiced hope Israel would not be forced to return the entire territory.

Syria, for its part, has called for complete withdrawal in exchange for peace.

Elsewhere, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shara said Israel was not serious in its search for peace. He said in Damascus that the Jewish state rejected the principles of the peace process, notably the exchange of land for peace.

Meanwhile, a Washington report said, improving human rights conditions in the occupied territories is on the agenda for the second week of Middle East Peace Talks between Israeli and Palestinian delegations, beginning Monday the

two sides said.

A working group on the topic was formed over the past few days following consultations between the parties, and input from officials from the US State Department, where the negotiations are being held.

The group's work comes in addition to that of two separate sub-commissions—one responsible for land and water issues, and another charged with defining the concept of autonomy that Israel says it wants to grant the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks opened here Tuesday, and the first week of resumed dialogue ended Thursday on an upbeat note.

## Former East German spy chief goes on trial today

DUESSELDORF, Germany, May 3: Former communist East Germany's shadowy spy chief Markus Wolf, head of the secret service for almost three decades, is to go on trial here tomorrow facing treason charges, reports AFP.

The 389-page charge sheet reads like a who's who of the secret agents used by East Germany against West Germany, Wolf, 70, whose face remained unknown to western intelligence services for many years, personally ran the most spectacular spies when he headed the service from 1958 to 1987.

They included Guenter Guillaume, who became the adviser and close confidant of Chancellor Willy Brandt, who had to resign when Guillaume was unmasked in 1974.

## BRIEFLY

**Kuwait, Iraq exchange fire:** Kuwaiti border guards returned fire after they came under attack from Iraqi border guards, but nobody was hurt, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Anbaa reported Monday, says AFP from Kuwait City.

Iraqi police at the Sanam post fired 20 shots at the UMM Sudetra post on the Kuwait side of the border late Friday, but nobody was hurt, the paper said. UN forces patrolling the demilitarized zone refused to comment on the report.

Al-Anbaa also said gunfights involving four Iraqi and Kuwaiti border posts took place on Thursday.

**Tributes to Ray:** Film directors, artists, and critics paid glowing tributes to Satyajit Ray, at a seminar organised on the occasion of his 72nd birth anniversary at Nandan, the West Bengal Film Centre, here on Sunday. PTI reports from Calcutta.

Eminent film personalities like Shyam Benegal, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Govind Nihalani, Soumitra Chatterjee and artist Partho Sen spoke on the subject, Satyajit Ray-life and work. The seminar also marked the end of the ten-day observance of Ray's first death anniversary which had begun on April 23, the day Ray died last year after a prolonged illness.

Noted Malayali Film Director, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, described Ray as a trend setter in Indian films. "Discussion on Indian films should start with Pather Panchali (Ray's first film) and then come others", he said.

**Pilot killed in crash at air show:** A Korean war-era jet fighter crashed Sunday at an air show, killing the pilot in front of hundreds of thousands of spectators, none of whom were harmed, AFP reports from California.

The F-86 plane crashed and burst into flames just 0.4 kilometre (0.25 mile) in front of a horrified crowd.

The jet had been about to enter a mock dogfight with a Soviet-built mig-15. The crash was the third at the annual air show in the last eight years.

The air show drew nearly one million people on Saturday and Sunday.

**27.5 kg drugs seized in Myanmar:** A total of 27,584 kilograms of narcotic drugs were seized by anti-drug squads in Myanmar, Xinhua reports from Yangon.

According to official reports here, of the drugs seized, there are 26,454 kilos of opium and 1.1 kilos of heroin.

Seven people including five drug traffickers were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. In the first three months of this year, 874 kilos of narcotics including 91 kilos of heroin were captured by the Myanmar authorities.

## Filipino Muslim rebels kill policeman

ILIGAN, Philippines, May 3: Suspected Muslim rebels killed a police officer and blasted an electric transmission tower over the weekend in intensified attacks against the government, officials said Monday, reports AP.

Senior police officer Mateo Maliso was killed Friday as he was watching television at his home in Zamboanga del Sur province, about 800 kilometres (500 miles) southeast of Manila, police said. The gunmen who barged into his house were believed to be members of the Moro National Liberation Front, which has been waging a secessionist war against the government since the early 1970s.

Military brigade chief Col Samuel Dunque said homemade bombs damaged an electric tower Saturday.

## Forger of Hitler's diaries turning to dodgy old masters

BERLIN, May 3: A decade after he turned the country upside-down with the bogus diaries of Adolf Hitler, Germany's favourite forger, Konrad Kujau, is turning to some rather dodgy old masters to earn a crust, reports AFP.

"I've got my own art gallery now," Kujau says. "It's called the counterfeit gallery, with forgeries by me."

"I've got 65 paintings, they're all up for grabs," Kujau says. "I can let you have a nice duer for 60,000 marks (37,700 dollars)."

Ten years after Stern Magazine published the "diaries," bringing disaster on its head and that of foreign newspapers which bought the rights to the "Scoop," Kujau, 54, remains cheerful,

roguish and popular. He lives comfortably in Stuttgart, where he regales streams of visitors with anecdotes about how his jottings caused the biggest hoax in publishing history.

The story fascinates Germans: An irresistible mix of journalistic hubris, ridicule and big money, all imbued with the macabre essence of the Fuehrer himself.

Several books have been written about the story, which has also bred a movie, Schtonk — nominated for an Oscar this year — and selling Hitler, an acclaimed British TV series.

The man whom Kujau suckered was Stern's former star reporter, Gerd Heidemann, dubbed, "The Bloodhound" for his ability to sniff out a story — especially anything involving a

swastika. In a hothouse of secrecy, Stern accumulated more and more of Kujau's diaries, but decided against any early forensic tests, fearing the "Scoop of the Century" would be leaked to its rivals.

Only handwriting tests were commissioned, and three separate experts all agreed the diaries were genuine.

With that Stern rushed into print, convinced that forensic scientists at the Federal Archives would also bear it out.

On May 6, the news broke like a thunderclap: The diaries were a "crude forgery," written in post-war ink; the brown stains that realistically spotted its pages came from Kujau's teapot, and Hitler's gold initials on the covers were in fact made of plastic.

The initials were actually "H." as Kujau had run out of the letter "A" and stuck on the gothic letter "T" instead. Today, Stern is still fighting to recover its credibility, as well as five million of the 9.34 million marks it paid out for 50 diaries a mooted second volume of Mein Kampf and even an imaginary Hitler opera.

Heidemann was sentenced to four years and eight months for allegedly siphoning off F 1.7 million marks, while Kujau, who received 1.5 million marks, got four years and six months. Heidemann, who lives from scraps of work today, has always denied embezzlement and says he believed the diaries were genuine all along. "It's the biggest catastrophe in my career," recalls Stern's

Deputy Editor, Michael Seufert, who led an internal inquiry after the scandal broke.

He contends that after "10 years" hard work the magazine has restored readers' faith, but admits it is far more cautious about touching stories from the Nazi era.

Circulation is around 1.4 million today and rising, compared with 1.7 million in May 1983, he said.

Wilfried Rogasch of the German Historical Museum says many people — foreigners more than Germans — are captivated by the figure of Hitler and any document, garment or object he may have possessed. "There's a certain fascination

## 8 more bodies of Indonesians recovered

SINGAPORE, May 3: The bodies of eight more Indonesians were recovered from the sea Monday, bringing the known death toll from a boat capsizing off Singapore to 17, a police spokesman said, reports AP.

A passing coast guard patrol boat had rescued 17 survivors on Saturday, more than eight hours after the sampan capsized Friday night.

The sampan was believed to be carrying about 35 people, and marine police boats and helicopters still were searching for more bodies of survivors, said the spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with usual practice.

The Indonesians were on their way from Indonesia's Bantan Island.

## Off the Record



Queen Noor hugs King Hussein of Jordan as she congratulates him on the 40th anniversary of his assumption to constitutional powers during festivities in Amman Sunday.

## They want court to force father to visit them

LONDON: The children of a separated couple said Monday they want a court order forcing their father to visit them, reports AP.

Aaron Wilson, 11, and his sister, Nicole, 10, are acting under the Children's Act, which gives youngsters the right to take legal action against their parents.

Their parents, Mark and Tracey, separated four years ago. Mark Wilson phones the children on their birthdays and at Christmas, but has not seen them for two years, they said.

"We want our Dad to come and see us," said Nicole, who lives with her mother, Aaron, and 4-year-old sister Jade in Birmingham, 100 miles (116 kms) northwest of London. Mark Wilson lives in Ireland.

"The kids are desperate to see Mark," Mrs Wilson said. "They dream of going on holiday with him or playing in the park like other children."

Lawyer Brendan Fleming, who is acting for the children, said he believes this is one of the first cases of its kind in Britain.

Previous cases under the 1989 Children's Act have involved teenagers applying to live away from their parents.

Jade is not a party in the legal action, as she is considered too young by law to understand what is happening.

No court date has been set.

## It was hostility toward homosexuals

YOKOSUKA, Japan: An American sailor charged with intentionally killing a homosexual shipmate in southwestern Japan pleaded guilty Monday to a lesser charge of unpremeditated murder, reports AP.

Airman Apprentice Terry M Helvey, 21, of Westland, Mich., testified at a pretrial hearing that he continued to kick and beat his shipmate after the victim fell unconscious.

Gay-rights activists say the killing was a hate crime that illustrates widespread hostility toward homosexuals in the US military at a time when President Clinton is deciding whether to end a ban on gay soldiers.

Helvey was arrested after the body of 22-year-old Allen Schindler was found beaten and mutilated in a public restroom in Sasebo last October.

I remember hitting him in the face and stomping on his neck and kicking him in the groin," Helvey testified at the hearing at Yokosuka Naval Base, headquarters of the US 7th Fleet, southwest of Tokyo.

Helvey has been charged with premeditated murder, which carries a maximum penalty of death.

## 7-m-word poetry anthology

HANGZHOU: A seven-million-word poetry anthology including the cream of poems of all countries and regions in the world is expected to be completed in this capital of east China's Zhejiang Province by the end of 1993, reports Xinhua.

Work on the 10-volume anthology, said to be the first of its kind in the world, have involved leading poetry translators of the country and was listed as one of the country's major projects in the 1991-95 period.

The poems will be assembled according to their cultural regions and compiled in the order of historical periods.

In addition to poems, the anthology has some one million words on regional poetry history and introduction of the poets.

The anthology was compiled chiefly by the Hangzhou University. It will also include poems of Chinese nationalities and will fill literary blanks in a country which has hardly introduced any poems in such languages as ancient Latin and Greek.

## He has no intention to auction car licence

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's top police officer said Monday he has no intention of auctioning his No 1 car licence plate to raise money for charity, reports AP.

Police Commissioner Li Kwan-ha told the Legislative Council's Public Accounts Committee that such an auction would be detrimental to the history and tradition of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

Last week, Hong Kong's director of audit, Brian Jenney, urged Li to auction off his licence plate, following the example of the financial secretary, Hamish Macleod.

Macleod's No 2 car licence plate was auctioned for a record 9.5 million Hong Kong dollars (US \$1.2 million) in February.

The financial secretary's licence plate now has the first letters "FS".