Truce breaks down in Azerbaijan

30 I F F Y

China to close an airport: Gansu

province in northwest China will close its airport in the

provincial capital of Lanzhou for 10 days beginning May 16 for

repairs, the official Xinhua news agency said, AP reports from

when planes take off or land, which is believed to be capable

Editor shot dead in India: The editor of

a local Indian newspaper was shot by unknown attackers and

died of his wounds on Tuesday, the Press Trust of India (PTI)

Hindi-language daily Jaidesh in the northern city of Varanasi,

Vietnamese PM in Myanmar:

Vietnam's Premier Vo Van Kiet arrived in Yangon Wednesday

The Vietnamese, including deputy ministers for

Kiet is the third prime minister to visit since the junta

for a goodwill visit along with four ministerial-level officials,

Commerce and National Defence, will hold talks with

Myanmar officials and visit an oil refinery during the four-day

seized power in Myanmar after crushing pro-democracy

Six more executed in China: China

has executed six people as part of a crackdown on property

theft from the state railway, oil, electricity and

communications sectors, according to a report carried by all

Vice President of China's Supreme People's Court, Liu

Jiachen, reflecting the importance attached to the

HR groups criticise US policy:

Human rights groups criticised the Clinton administration

Tuesday for failing to follow through on human rights policies,

and what called under-reporting of abuses in Haiti, AP says

"The rhetoric has far outstripped its performance," said

Burkhalter and other human rights advocates testified

Holly Burkhalter. Washington director of Human Rights

about the State Department's annual country report on human

rights practices released earlier this year. They appeared

before a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee in

15 die in Dominican poll violence:

President Joaquin Balaguer says campaign violence that has

claimed 15 lives and put two opposition candidates under

arrest will not hamper Monday's general elections, AP reports

Ambassador Robert Pastorino on Sunday that the Clinton

administration is concerned about the violence and wants to

Lesotho police on strike: Lesotho soldiers

took control of central Maseru on Tuesday to halt looting by a

mob raiding stores after police went on strike in the capital,

townships in an effort to recover goods seized from shops

owned mainly by Indians and South Africans in the centre of

windows and grabbing clothing and electrical equipment in

Plea to cancel Ukraine polls:

President Leonid Kravchuk asked lawmakers of Ukraine's

newly-elected parliament Tuesday to pass legislation

cancelling presidential elections scheduled for June 26, AP

months, has said he won't be a candidate unless elections are

postponed and a law is adopted clarifying the division of

disarmament pact he signed in February with the United

States and Russia. Other likely presidential candidates have

A decision not to run would put in question the nuclear

Kravchuk, whose popularity has plummeted in recent

Witnesses saw soldiers chasing looters into outlying

A mob of about 300 people went on a rampage, smashing

Balaguer's statement came in response to comments by US

"I don't think the violence means anything," Balaguer told

In a rare move, the executions were announced by the

The six men were sentenced to death and executed on

major newspapers yesterday, AFP reports from Beijing.

clampdown on state theft, launched in March.

The agency said Ram Narain Gupta, chief editor of the

It said the runway tarmac was bumpy, "causing great jolts

BAKU, May 11: A new truce in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan broke down after only a few hours on Tuesday. with heavy fighting raging between Azeri and Armenian forces, reports Reuter.

Each side accused the other of breaking the latest Russian brokered ceasefire which was supposed to have begun at midnight on Monday.

The Azeri Defence Ministry said its forces repulsed a large scale Armenian offensive at around 1000 local time (0600 GMT) in the Agdam and Ter-Ter regions, east of Karabakh, and that battles were continuing to the north and southeast as well.

Azerbaijan accused Karabakh Armenians of breaking out of the disputed territory and penetrating 20 km

of putting flights in peril."

AP reports from Yangon.

demonstrations.

Tuesday, Liu said.

from Washington.

Watch, on administration policy.

the House of Representatives.

see free and clean elections.

Reuter reports from Maseru.

reporters Monday.

the old town.

the absence of police.

reports from Kiev, Ukraine.

parliamentary and presidential power.

stated their opposition to the accord.

from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

said, Reuter reports from New Delhi.

was shot near his home on Monday.

The motive for the attack was not clear.

Beijing.

(12 miles) northeast into Azerbaijan proper.

"Today at 0900 hours (0500 GMT), Karabakh Armenians launched an offensive in the Agdam district. The offensive, supported by armoured personnel carriers, has reached the northern suburbs of Akhmedgaly settlement," the statement said.

Karabkh Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman Masis Mailyan told Reuters that Azeri forces had opened fire several times after midnight on Karabakh Armenian positions along the front.

But the parties involved were reluctant to write off completely the most recent of dozens of peace-making efforts in the six-year conflict, which has killed thousands of people.

All previous attempts at negotiation have failed.



Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (R) is saluted on her arrival at Nelson Mandela's inauguration Tuesday at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. - AFP photo

Mitterrand, Balladur divided over future of N-tests

PARIS, May 11: Socialist French President Francois Mitterrand and Conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur clashed publicly on the future of French nuclear weapons tests on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"It is a major point of disagreement," Mitterrand said bluntly in a television interview after Balladur distanced himself from the President's freeze on nuclear testing.

Marking his 13th anniversary in office. Mitterrand also criticised Balladur's social and education policies in the most serious public rift in 13 months of "cohabitation" with a centre-right government.

The prime minister earlier told defence students that his government would not sign a nuclear test ban treaty as long as it felt further tests were "essential to the technical credibility of our deterrent

India to launch

Prithvi after

Rao's US visit

is expected to launch its 13th

medium-range surface-to-sur-

face missile Prithvi on May 23

after the prime minster's visit

to the US defence sources said

test of the missile during the

last launch in November 1993,

Prithvi was scheduled to enter

the user phase trials with the

Prithvi is designed to be an

It is due to Prime Minster

artillery weapon and the user

trials are meant for the

Narasimha Rao's visit to the

United States starting from

May 16, the missile launch was

delayed so as not to sour the

forthcoming Clinton-Rao talks

on May 19, reports said.

present test flight.

After the high-performance

here today, reports Xinhua.

NEW DELHI, May 11: India

Mitterrand, whose term expires in May 1995, retorted - "I informed the Prime Minister, the defence minister and the foreign minister of my decision. I said there would be no more nuclear tests as long as I am here...'

"We disagree. But in this

case, it is the president of the republic who decides. So I used my right." Despite their differences, Mitterrand said he would not

prevent the government from carrying out its domestic poli-But he said, "Balladur is

carrying out a policy of which I disapprove in many aspects. I do not approve of the attack on a number of social achievements."

He described his relations with the Gaullist premier as loyal and frank.

The president suspended underground nuclear tests at the South Pacific Mururoa atoll

in April 1992. The United States, Russia and Britain have since followed suit.

Mocking his right-wing critics, Mitterrand said "Some people would like us to go on doing nuclear (tests) all the time even when we don't need to.

Balladur said France would only sign a test ban treaty if all countries believed to have nuclear weapons or the capacity to produce them signed along with the recognise nuclear powers - the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

He also said a resumption of tests would not be incompatible with French participation in negotiations, due to start shortly in Geneva, to draw up a test ban treaty.

It has about 500 warheads in an arsenal that includes missile-launching submarines. land-based missiles and air-toground missiles and bombs.

Mandela urged to halt arms sale to Lanka

COLOMBO, May 11: Tamil guerillas have appealed to South Africa's first black President, Nelson Mandela, to halt arms sales to Shri Lanka, a rebel statement said, reports

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) made the call in a message to Mandela on Tuesday "congratulating has excellency" on his inauguration, the statement issued here said.

The LTTE urged Mandela "to take steps to stop the sale of armaments and armored vehicles" to the Colombo government, saying such weapons, supplied by the former apartheid regime, were being used against the Tamil minor-

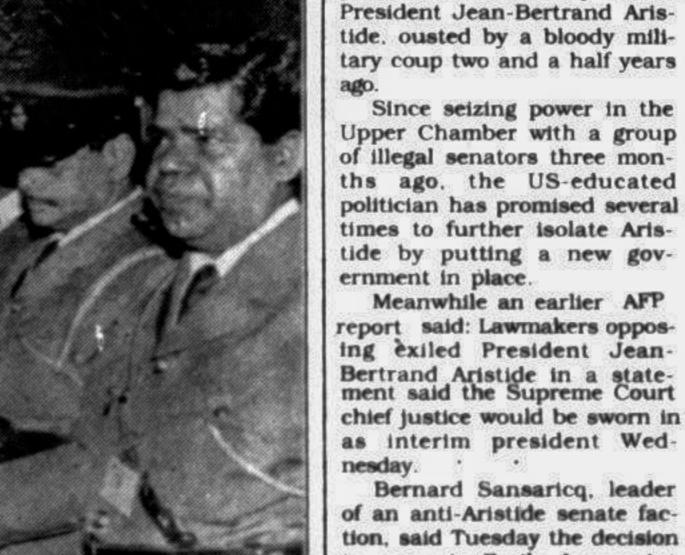
The Shri Lankan military

uses South African-made mineresistant armored vehicles in its offensives against guerillas in the island's northeast. The LTTE hailed Mandela's

achievement of bringing peace and freedom to his people by overcoming all odds and hoped that South Africa would now help "other oppressed peo-

"There cannot be any doubt that your great country is destined to play a major role in the affairs of oppressed peoples who strive for emancipation all over the world."

In their message to Mandela, the guerillas alleged that Tamils had been subjected to "humiliation and atrocities to the extent of genocide" by majority Sinhala racist govern-



Bernard Sansaricq, leader of an anti-Aristide senate faction, said Tuesday the decision to swear in Emile Jonassaint had the backing of the military, army leaders, however, made no comment on the announcement. US Embassy spokesman

Stanley Schrager said mean while that any interim gov ernment would not be recognized by Washington and that members of the new regime would not be allowed entry to the United States.

Communists' return to power doesn't worry US

Legislators have further stripped powers from the WASHINGTON, May 11: The Malaysian monarchy by curbing United States said Tuesday it its constitutional authority to was unconcerned about former communists returning to power in Europe so long as they did not revert to totalibills approved by the House of tarianism, reports Reuter.

Malaysian King's

power reduced

reject laws, reports AP.

rch's approval.

monarchy.

says AP.

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11:

Under a constitutional am-

endment passed Tuesday, all

Representatives will become

law regardless of the mona-

The Malaysian Yang Di-Per-

tuan Agong, as the king is

called, formerly had the power

to return bills back to the leg-

islature back for further de-

although they have reduced

the King's powers, they have

no intention to ban the monar-

call for the abolishment of the

It is seditious in Malaysia to

to extradite its

two nationals

istan is asking the United

States to extradite two Pakistani nationals and a US citi-

zen on charges of immigration

fraud, the state-run news

agency reported Wednesday.

ways been demanding the ex-

tradition of alleged criminals

from Pakistan and now we are

demanding our people," Im-

migration Director Rehman

treaty between Pakistan and

the United States. In the past

Washington has sought the ex-

tradition of several people ac-

cused of drug trafficking

According to Malik, this is

He refused to name the

the first time Pakistan has re-

quested anyone be extradited

three people being sought or.

release any details about the

alleged immigration fraud. One

of the accused was a US citizen

of Pakistani origin, according

to the Association Press of

Haiti's SC chief

denies taking

over power

The head of Haiti's Supreme

Court Tuesday denied reports

he was about to take over as

president but said he would

consider the job offer if it was

within the grounds of the con-

Emile Jonassaint said sev

eral broadcast reports quoting

Senator Bernard Sansaricq as

saying he would install the

elderly judge as president at

noon today were untrue.
"I have only heard about it

on the radio," Jonassaint said.

that he speaks regularly with

Sansaricq but said the rene-

gade senator has never offi-

cially asked him to take over as

It was not the first time

that Sansaricq has vowed to

install a new president in

place of democratically elected

Jonassaint, 81, admitted

"No one has asked me."

president.

stitution, reports Reuter.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, May 11:

Some have been extradited.

from the United States.

Pakistan.

There is an extradition

Malik was quoted as saying.

"The United States has al-

ISLAMABAD, May 11: Pak-

Officials have said that

Department State spokesman Mike McCurry, asked about the success of former communist in last weekend's elections in Hungary, as well as in other former Soviet bloc nations, said times had changed and with them political attitudes.

"In many cases, those who have been associated with past regimes have adopted new policies, new programmes and, frankly, new political attitudes as they've contested for political power," said McCurry.

"Obviously, our concern would be a return to anything Pakistan asks US that suggests the totalitarian past of these countries, but that's certainly not the story as you look across central and Eastern Europe, where you see transformation towards democracy, towards free markets and towards freedom of expression."

Hungary's reformed communists, buoyed by widespread discontent with four years of conservative rule, crushed the incumbent coalition in the first round of parliamentary elections Sunday.

Hungarians flocked to the polls to support the revamped Hungarians Socialist Party, giving the ex-communists nearly a third of the votes for regional party lists that decide 152 of the 386 seats in parliament.

McCurry said the United States would look at the current policies of former communists rather than their

Off the Record

Castro doesn't even dream about smoking

NEW YORK: Cuban President Fidel Castro says he hasn't smoked a cigar in nine years. Not even when he's alone Really. Doesn't even dream about it, reports AP. In an interview in Havana

with Cigar Aficionado magazine, Castro seemed to vacillate between regarding cigars as revolutionary and seeing them as politically incorrect. Castro the young

guerrilla leader used to smoke in the mountains to celebrate a success or to console himself after a setback.

"It's hard to believe that you've stopped completely," said Marvin Shanken, Cigar Aficionado publisher.

Castro replied: "I said, look, in order to smoke you need some accomplices (to get the cigars and cover up)... I chose not to do that.

Shanken: "You are saying that you do not smoke even in the privacy of your home by yourself?"

Castro: "No." Shanken: "Not even a puff?"

Castro: "No. No." Later, Shanken asked, "Do you ever dream about cigars?"

Castro: "I think it happened to me in the first five years. Even in my dreams I used to think that I was doing something wrong. I was conscious that I had not permitted myself to smoke anymore, but I was still enjoying it in my

Asked if he would smoke a cigar with President Clinton as a symbol of peace if the two leaders even met, Castro said: "Now that would be an interesting thing... But I would have to ask for permission from the World Health Organisation. I wouldn't want to lose my medal."

Princess Kiko expecting

TOKYO: The wife of Emperor Akihito's youngest son, Princess Kiko, is expecting her second child, the Imperial Household Agency announced Wednesday, reports AP.

The agency said in a statement that Kiko, 27, is two months into a pregnancy that has been trouble-free so far.

Kiko is a commoner by birth. She married Prince Akishino, second in line to Japan's Chrysanthemum Throne, in June 1990. She gave birth to their first child, a daughter named Mako, in October 1991.

Kiko was a graduate student at Gakushuin University before marring her former classmate, known then as Prince Aya. She is the daughter of professor at the school.

Emperor Akihito, 60, ascended the throne in January 1989 after the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito, at age

Jackson wants nude photos back

SANTA BARBARA, California: Nude photos of Michael Jackson taken to corroborate claims he sexually molested a teen-ager were an invasion of privacy and should be returned, Jackson's lawyers told judge Tuesday, reports AP.

The lawyers say the search was unconstitutional and that the warrant allowing the photos to be taken should not have been issued

The photos and body search were part of an ongoing criminal investigation. The 13-year old boy and Jackson settled a lawsuit out of court for a reported 15 million dollars.

The photos were taken at Jackson's Neverland

Ranch on December 20. Sneddon said the 35 year-old entertainer was an hour late for the meeting

and "threw a tantrum." Criminal investigators said the photographs were necessary to verify the teen-ager's detailed description of Jackson's genitals. Jackson said two days after the photos were taken that the session was "the most humiliating ordeal of my life."

Sneddon assured the judge and Jackson's lawyers that the photographs are secure in a bank safe deposit box. Only top law enforcement officers have access to the box and permis-

sion to view the photos must first be approved by Slater.

Indian army chief in Myanmar

mar military junta leader General Than Shew held talks Tuesday in Yangon with visit ing Indian army chief Bipin Chandra Joshi, state-run Radio Yangon reported in a broadcast monitored here, reports AFP.

The meeting was attended by other senior Myanmar junta members and Indian diplomats to Yangon the Radio said without providing further details.

A senior Indian military official told reporters in New Delhi on Monday that Joshi and Myanmar leaders would discuss the activities of Myanmar's Karen tribals and Indian Naga militants in the frontier regions of the two countries.

BANGKOK, May 11: Myandent, a new parliament and a new cabinet, but lacks a first lady and the nation is wondering what to do about it, reports Reuter. Standing proudly beside

Nelson Mandela as he took the oath of office was not his estranged wife Winnie, but their daughter. Princess Zenani Dlamini, who is married to a Swazi prince.

Mandela separated from Winnie in 1992 after her conviction for kidnapping four black youths, including Stompie Seipei who was beaten to

death. A court dismissed her ap-

South Africa has a new presi- but substituted a 15,000 rand (5,000 dollar fine)

separatist civil war.

Since then, Mandela has repeatedly distanced himself from his wife, who was herself elected to the country's new parliament last week.

He publicly snubbed her at the first sitting of the parliament on Monday, looking straight ahead as she briefly sat beside him during the pro-

Newspapers said Mandela had specifically asked that Winnie not be invited to his inaugural luncheon on Tuesday attended by dozens of kings. prime ministers and other world leaders, and she was not

at his side when he made his victory speech last week.

Police inspectors chosen for United Nations peace-keeping duties in Mozambique meet at their

headquarters in Colombo Tuesday for a last briefing before leaving for the African state. The

12 men will be the first batch of policemen sent abroad by Shri Lanka despite its own Tamil

The slender, grey-haired Mandela's semi-bachelor status has aroused considerable comment in the country's media and is a frequent subject of conversation among South Africans.

The one burning passion Winnie Mandela has that she will never realise is one she shares with many women around the world: To be President Nelson Mandela's first lady, the Johannesburg Star said in an article speculating on various possible new partners for the leaders.

A cross-section of Johannesburg residents said they approved of Mandela's decision a very charismatic man." to drop his wife.

- AFP photo

praise Nelson Mandela for separating from her," said Cathleen Bayne, an 18-year-old are student. "You could hardly call her a good ambassador for our country."

Many equally felt, however, that Mandela needed a consort. "He's the president of the country, he's supposed to have a wife," said David Ntuli, 25, who felt Winnie could possibly earn her way back to the position.

Karl Kroeger, 50, a factory owner, thought Mandela could easily find someone else. "He's got the pick of the land as far as the ladies go," he said. "He's

The Star called Mandela, a handsome man known for his flirtatiousness.

Winnie, 59, has been quoted in several interviews as saying she still loved her husband and hoped they could be reconciled. But Mandela has been quoted as saying they had different ideas of marriage and

he would press for a divorce. The couple, who married in 1958, were together for only six years before Mandela was jailed for his anti-government

activities in 1964 Winnie herself became a prominent activist and was revered for her hardline op-

position to apartheid. She was

banished to remote parts of the country and suffered months of solitary confine-

after scandal and the ANC has said it is investigating her on allegations of graft. Her image was further marred last year by published reports of an affair with a young ANC lawyer.

ever. Winnie still has her supporters.

"If you worked hard like Winnie and your husband became president and a big per son in the world, how would you feel?" asked 39-year-old Florence Sizondile.

"Winnie should sit by him. She is his wife."

ex-Soviet Union BADEN-BADEN, Germany.

in the former Soviet Union will die over the next 10 years of radioactive contamination from the Chernobyl nuclear accident, a Russian expert said "And that does not count

victims abroad." Vladimir Chernusenko, head of a group of scientists that presented an official report on the world's worst civilian nuclear accident, in Ukraine in April 1986, said over a German radio station-One of Chernobyl's four reactors exploded, spreading ra-

diation over a wide area of Eu-

South Africa is wondering what to do about lack of first lady Chernobyl disaster 15m to die in May 11: Fifteen million people But she attracted scandal Tuesday, reports AFP. Despite her disgrace, how-