THE WORLD

'US troops may start Iraq withdrawal this year'

AFP, Washington

US troops could start withdrawing from Iraq this year as Iraqi forces take over security in the violencewracked country, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday.

In an interview with National Public Radio, Powell was unable to say how quickly American forces might be able to pull out of the country or what their troop levels in Iraq would be at the end of 2005.

'But with the money we're putting into the growth of the new Iraqi army and national guard and police force, I believe that during 2005 they (the Iraqis) will be able to assume a greater burden," the outgoing chief US diplomat said.

He added that "with the (Iraqi) assumption of that greater burden, the burden on our troops should go down and we should start to see our numbers going in the other direc-

COUP PLOT Mark Thatcher pleads guilty

AFP, Cape Town

Mark Thatcher, son of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, yesterday pleaded guilty in a Cape Topwn court to charges of bankrolling an alleged coup plot in Equatorial Guinea.

Thatcher, 51, was fined three million rand (roughly 380,000 euros, 505,000 dollars).

He was arrested on August 25 last year at his Cape Town villa on charges of contributing 275,000 dollars to help finance the suspected plot to overthrow longtime Equatorial Guinea leader Teodoro Obiang Nguema.

EU lawmakers back disputed constitution

AFP, Strasbourg

European Union lawmakers voted massively in favour Wednesday of the EU's proposed constitution, which will be submitted to a series of make-or-break referendums from next month in the 25-nation bloc. In a symbolic ballot, 500 deputies

in the Strasbourg-based European Parliament voted in favour of the historic treaty, 137 against and 40

The EU's Luxembourg presiomed the vote, an national parliaments and EU citizens to also support it in the ratification process, which is expected to take the best part of two years.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who took over the EU's reins on January 1 for six months, said the constitution was "an important step on the path of a unified Europe".

Bush has no regrets for Iraq invasion

Top Democrat blasts president for failing to find WMD

US President George W. Bush said Wednesday that the invasion of Iraq was "absolutely" worth it, even though no weapons of mass estruction have been found. "Well, like you, I felt like we'd find

weapons of mass destruction," he said, according to excerpts released from an ABC television interview.

"Or like many, many here in the United States, many around the world, the United Nations thought he had weapons of mass destruction, and so, therefore, one, we need to find out what went wrong in the intelligence gathering. Saddam was dangerous. And .. the world was safer without him in power."

Bush made his comments on the ABC News 20/20 program, as the

White House confirmed Wednesday that the United States had quietly halted its search for WMD in Iraq -one of its key reasons for invading the country.

Asked whether it was worth it to

invade Iraq even without WMD found, Bush replied, "Oh, abso-

ABC will broadcast its entire interview with the US president on

Meanwhile, a top congressional Democrat on Wednesday slammed President George W. Bush's Iraq policy, now that US inspectors have formally acknowledged that their exhaustive search has yielded no weapons of mass destruction there. 'After a search that has con-

sumed nearly two years and millions of dollars, and a war that has cost thousands of lives, no weapons of mass destruction have been found - nor has any evidence been uncovered that such weapons were moved to another country," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said in a state-

"President Bush has refused to concede what has been obvious for months -- the primary justification for the invasion of Iraq was not supported by fact," she said. Now that the search is finished.

the American people why he was so wrong, for so long, about the reasons Pelosi made her remarks after the White House confirmed Wednesday that the Iraq Survey Group have

halted their search for nuclear,

biological and chemical weapons

President Bush needs to explain to

Outrage greets 'Harry the Nazi' AFP, London

Britain's young Prince Harry faced stinging criticism yesterday after being pictured wearing a Nazi sol-dier's uniform, just a fortnight before the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

"Harry the Nazi" cried The Sun, the nation's top selling tabloid, alongside its exclusive front-page photo of a slouching Harry, 20, cigarette and beer in hand, dressed in the tan uniform of the Afrika Korps -- complete with red swastika

The photo was snapped last weekend at a "native and colonial" fancy dress party also attended by Harry's brother Prince William, 22 who opted for a rather less controversial "lion and leopard outfit", The

Spokesmen for the royal family immediately went into damagecontrol mode, issuing a statement in which Harry -- the younger son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana -- apologised.



A man reads yesterday in Paris the British tabloid The Sun featuring Prince Harry, the youngest son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, wearing a khaki uniform with an armband emblazoned with a swastika, emblem of the German WWII Nazi Party.

Aceh rebels call for truce

US, UN want Jakarta to clarify aid restriction

AFP, REUTERS, Jakarta

Rebels in Indonesia's tsunami-hit Aceh called yesterday for ceasefire talks to help the aid effort as new restrictions on foreign relief workers prompted the United States to demand "clarification" from

The move by the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) came as political wrangling cast a shadow over humanitarian efforts in the area worst hit by the December 26 tsunamis, where more than 106,000 people died and thousands of bodies are still being recovered

The rebels' "prime minister in exile" Malik Mahmud said in a statement that his men were willing to sit down for discussions with Jakarta to ease fears over the safety of foreign humanitarian workers operating in Aceh.

Indonesia has used the alleged threat of rebel violence to strengthen its military grip on Aceh, requiring all foreigners to register and seek military escort when travelling outside main towns.

The rebels have pledged that aid workers will be safe, and Mahmud said a unilateral ceasefire declared after the tsunamis still stands. The United Nations said it feared

Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait and concurrently accredited to Yemen

Nazrul Islam Khan (L) is presenting his credentials to President of Yemen Ali

Abdullah Saleh (R) while Foreign Minister Abubakr A. Al-Qirbi (C) looks on in

restrictions on aid workers in Aceh could hinder international relief operations in the Indonesian province devastated by last month's

The United States also said it was seeking clarification on news that Indonesia wanted all foreign troops helping in relief to leave the region by the end of March. Jakarta's worries about a large

foreign presence in a region scarred by a long-running insurgency came as the Paris Club of creditor nations announced on Wednesday that it would freeze debt repayments of all nations affected the tsunami, free-

US warns Russia against selling missiles to Syria

AFP, Washington

The United States on Wednesday warned Russia against selling missiles to Syria amid reports that Moscow was ready to provide Damascus with a sophisticated weapon that could hit any target in

But Russia denied it had any such

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Washington could consider sanctions against Moscow if it went through with reported plans to sell Syria its SS-26

Baghdad hotel

REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad

An aide to Iraq's top Shia cleric has been murdered barely a fortnight before elections which the Shias are tipped to win, while gunmen seized a Turkish businessman and killed seven Iraqis outside a Baghdad hotel.

attack kills 7

As the country prepared for its first free and fair polls in half a century despite the relentess bloodshed across the country, US-led forces stepped up operations against insurgents, roundingupalmost50 suspects. Meanwhile, Washington said it

had wrapped up a fruitless hunt for weapons of mass destruction, which was the main justification for the March 2003 war against Saddam Hussein's old regime.

An aide to Grand Ayatollah Ali al-

Sistani, his son and four bodyguards were murdered Wednesday night after they left prayers in the lawless Sunni-majority town of Salman Pak, southeast of the capital, an official at Sistani's office in the holy city of Najafsaid Thursday.

Sheikh Mahmud al-Madahaini had been the target of several threats and attempted assassinations in the past, the official added.

Salman Pak lies on the highway linking the capital with Kut, further to the southeast. It is a lawless area where armed men hijack trucks and carry out kidnappings Sistani, the spiritual leader of the

country's majority Shias, is not running for office but has emerged as the kingmaker after he blessed the United Iraqi Alliance, a grouping of political and religious parties.

SC verdict puts US deportation on hold Top court limits detention

of immigrants

REUTERS, Washington

The US Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that the government may not indefinitely imprison immigrants who have been in the United States illegally for years and cannot be deported to their home countries.

The high court's 7-2 ruling was a defeat for the US Justice Department, which said the issue affected more than 2,000 detained immigrants who cannot be deported. Nearly half of them had arrived in the United States illegally from Cuba as part of the 1980 Mariel boatlift. The court agreed to extend the

reach of a ruling issued in 2001 that limited detention to a "reasonable period," generally six months. That ruling concerned immigrants who entered the country legally, committed crimes that made them deportable, and then were refused reentry by their home governments. The latest decision involved

immigrants in similar circumstances, but who had entered the country illegally.

The Washington Legal Foundation, a conservative public interest

legal group that supported the government in the case, predicted the decision would likely result in the immediate release of more than 1,000 illegal aliens who have been convicted of violent crimes. The Department of Homeland

Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement has reported that it has detained about 2,300 individuals who arrived at the border illegally and are awaiting deportation.

More than half of those being detained, including 920 who attempted to enter the United States illegally as part of the Mariel boatlift, have been imprisoned for more than six months while the government seeks to deport them. Most of them had been in the

country a number of years, committed a crime, served their sentence and then were taken into custody by immigration authorities.

Iranian judiciary summons Shirin Ebadi

Iranian human rights activist and Nobel Peace prize laureate Shirin Ebadi said Thursday she has been summoned to answer questions by the country's hardline judiciary or else risk arrest.

"I have received a summons to a revolutionary court," the human rights activist and lawyer told AFP.

"In the summons, it simply says that I must present myself to the court within three days to provide some explanations and that I will be arrested if I refuse," she added. The petite 57-year-old was

Peace Prize in October 2003 as recognition for her campaigning for increased legal rights for women and children in Iran. Her work has seen her challenge

awarded the prestigious Nobel

Iran's so-called "red lines" -- often ill-defined boundaries of thought or speech that protect the 25-year-old clerical regime against overt dissent.

Since winning the prize, she has continued to be locked in simmering warfare with Iranian authorities --and especially the hardline-run judiciary -- notably because of her defence of the family of Zahra Kazemi, a Canadian-Iranian photographer murdered in custody in 2003.

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Leaders of the world's smallest islands yesterday joined UN chief Kofi Annan in calling for action to fight climate change, with the Pacific atoll of Kiribati accusing polluting countries of waging "ecoterrorism.

Kiribati, along with Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands and a handful of other low-lying island states, are threatened by the rise in the sea level caused by global warming that could see them entirely submerged.

"Our future looks bleak in the face of climate change, climate variability and sea level rise," Kiribati's President Anote Tong told UN conference on small islands beingheld in Mauritius.

Black hole secrets revealed

AFP, SAN DIEGO, California

Black holes, the invisible celestial bodies whose enormous gravitational pull sucks in everything around them, are beginning to share some of their secrets. Using the newest generation of

satellite-mounted x-ray telescopes, astrophysicists are starting to divine the shape and size of these mysterious objects, whose gravitational pull appears to be the fundamental source of energy at the heart of galaxies.

At the same time, their discoveries are producing new evidence for the 89-year-old theory of relativity of legendary physicist Albert Einstein.

Black holes are created by an immense gravitational contraction of matter after the universe's largest stars burn up their nuclear cores and explode as supernovas.



১৩তম চট্টগ্রাম আন্তর্জাতিক শিল্প পণ্য মেলা (CITF) '২০০৫ আয়োজনেঃ চিটাগাং চেম্বার অব কমার্স এন্ড ইন্ডাপ্তি

স্থান ঃ রেলওয়ে পলোগ্রাউভ

তারিখঃ ১০ ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০০৫ ইং থেকে মাসব্যাপী

১৫ জानुशाती, २००৫ देश खाक जाका जाजक जाका পাবেন ডিন্তিতে বৃথ ও প্যাডিলিয়ন বরাদ্দ দেয়া হবে

মেলার বিশেষ আকর্ষণঃ

পার্টনার কান্দ্রি হিসেবে থাইল্যান্ডের অংশ গ্রহণ

ইউরোপ, আমেরিকা, এশিয়ার দেশসমূহ এবং দেশের বিপুল সংখ্যক বহুজাতিক ও বৃহৎ শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানের অংশ গ্রহণ

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> IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION) MATTER NO. 152 OF 2004

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Section 43 of the Companies Act, 1994 AND IN THE MATTER OF: Westmont Power (Bangladesh) Limited

Versus Westmont Offshore Sdn Bhd (In Liquidation) and others . Notice is hereby given that an application under section 43 of the Companies Act, 1994 has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for declaration that the respondent Nos. 3 and 4 [i.e. Christopher Morris and Sarah Bell - the Receivers appointed at the prayer of Westmont Offshore Sdn Bhd in Claim No. HC04C03698 pending in the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division for

19,09,058 shares registered in the name of Energycorp (UK) Limited in the capital of

Westmont Power (Bangladesh) Limited] not being the registered holders of the shares

in question cannot be treated as registered holders of the shares in the capital of the

petitioner Company and for rejection deletion of their claim as alleged shareholder.

Upon hearing, the Hon'ble Court was pleased to admit the application on 05.12.2004 and fixed the matter on 02.02.2005 for hearing. The Hon'ble Court was also pleased to direct the respondent Nos. 3 and 4 to show cause within 4 (four) weeks as to why the said respondents shall not be restrained by an order

of injunction from exercising any power as alleged shareholders of the petitioner Pending hearing of the matter the Hon'ble Court was further pleased to pass an adinterim order restraining the respondent Nos. 3 and 4 from exercising any power a alleged shareholders of the petitioner Company for a period of 3 (three) months. Any one else interested in the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court on the date fixed for hearing either personally or through duly appointed Advocate. Copy of the peti-

(A. S. M. Abdur Razzaque) Barrister-at-Law, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh For: LEE, KHAN & PARTNERS Suite # 5/8, City Heart (4th Floor) 67 Naya Paltan, Dhaka- 1000 Phone # 880-2-8313508, 880-2-6318787 Fax # 880-2-8319279

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আইনগত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আমার মঞ্চেল ইউনাইটেড ডেভেলপমেন্ট ইনিসিয়েটিভূস ফর প্রোগ্রাম্ড একশন্স-উদ্দীপন পক্ষে চেয়ারপারসন জনাব শহীদ হোসেন তালুকদার,পিতা-মরহুম শফী হোসেন তালুকদার, ৯/২৫, স্যার সৈয়দ রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ নিম্ন তফসিলভূক্ত মোট ৩৫৮০ বর্গফুট সম্পত্তির বর্তমান মালিক আলহাজু নজিব আহমেদ পিতা-মৃত এ, এস, কবির উদ্দিন আহমেদ, গ্রাম-দরগা খোলা, পোষ্ট-কুলপন্দি, থানা ও জিলা-মাদারীপুর এর নিকট হইতে ক্রয় করিতে ইচ্ছুক। উক্ত সম্পত্তিতে যদি কোন ব্যক্তি, ব্যাংক, আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান অথবা অন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের কোনরূপ ওজর আপত্তি বা দাবী-দাওয়া থাকিলে অত্র বিজ্ঞান্তি প্রকাশের ০৭(সাত) দিবসের মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করিতে অনুরোধ করা হইল, ব্যর্থতায় যে কোন প্রকার গুজর আপত্তি বা দাবী সর্ব আদালতে অগ্রাহ্য বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

তফসিল

জিলা-ঢাকা, থানা ও সাব-রেজিট্রি অফিস মোহাম্মদপুর এলাকাধীন জনতা কো-অপারেটিভ হাউজিং সোসাইটি লিমিটেডের এফ ব্লকের ৯ ও ১০ নং প্রট। তৎসামিল বর্তমান মহানগর জরিপের ৪৩৮৬ নং খতিয়ানের দাগ নং ৪৩৮১। জমির পরিমান ১৮০০ বর্গফুট+১৭৮০ বর্গফুট মোট ৩৫৮০

> (মোঃ মিজানুল হক চৌধুরী) ১১/১, পুরানা পল্টন লাইন, (নীচ তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০