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MONDAY, MAY 27, 2002



Virgin chief sets sights on the IPO market

BUSINESS | II

INSIDE

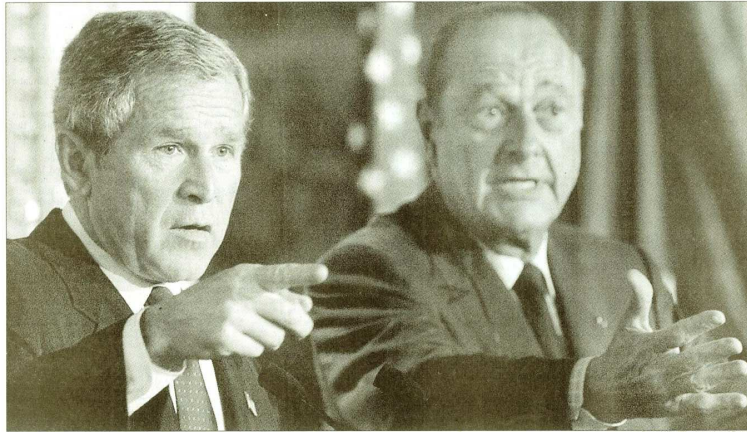
Italy Daily

Published with CORRIERE DELLA SERA | Italian News in English



Set to suffer and slide on Roland Garros clay

SPORTS | 20



President George W. Bush, left, and President Jacques Chirac as they answered questions during a joint news conference at the Elysee Palace on Sunday.

Bush, in Paris, tells Pakistan to block raids in Kashmir

By Dana Milbank The Washington Post

PARIS: President George W. Bush on Sunday urged Pakistan's president to "show results" in stopping incursions into Indian-controlled Kashmir...



Pakistan tested this medium-range Ghauri missile Saturday and a shorter-range missile Sunday, Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, said the infiltration of Islamic militants into Kashmir had stopped. Page 6

Israel and U.S. at odds on Palestinian reform

By James Bennet The New York Times

JERUSALEM: Since sending ground forces into Palestinian-controlled territory in late March after a Passover suicide bombing, the Israeli government has taken back full responsibility for its own security along its eastern boundary with the West Bank...

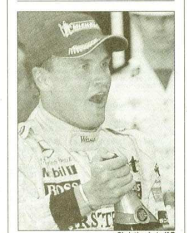
the security relationship between Israel and the governing Palestinian Authority, has complicated the Bush administration's plan to press reform of the multiple Palestinian security forces.

President George W. Bush on Sunday called again for Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to implement reforms and fight terrorism. The U.S. secretary of state, Colin Powell, said on CNN that he expected George Tenet, the director of U.S. central intelligence, to arrive here before the end of the week.

But some Israeli officials, arguing that no reform is possible until Arafat is replaced, have resisted the plan to send him here. A visit by Tenet would signal the Bush administration's hopes of restoring some responsibility for security to the Palestinians, a move that could interfere with the Israeli Army's freedom to move in the West Bank.

behavior by ceding more and more land to Palestinian control. For now, the deal is off. "By penetrating inside the Palestinian cities, we were able to say, 'No more,'" the senior Israeli military official said.

UPDATE



Christian Lutz/AP

Vatican suggests fewer papal trips

From news reports

ROME: With Pope John Paul II increasingly frail, the Vatican suggested Sunday for the first time that it might have to cut back on the 82-year-old pontiff's future trips. They indicated that planned visits to Mexico and Guatemala in July could be dropped.

suggested that the Vatican was carefully evaluating whether the ailing pope could handle the other stops on the proposed 11-day trip. "Toronto is clear," Navarro said. "For the others, we shall see. No decision has been made yet, everything that has been confirmed is confirmed."

the pope's ailing health and flagging strength, the Vatican had insisted as recently as Saturday that no changes would be made to his travel schedule. Underscoring how sensitive the issue is, Navarro issued a statement later Sunday stressing that no decision on the Mexico and Guatemala legs had been made.

Coulthard wins Monaco Prix

After David Coulthard flew past the pole sitter on the first corner Sunday, he took a lead in the Monaco Grand Prix that he never relinquished. The 31-year-old Scot became the first Formula One winner this season whose last name is not Schumacher. The Schumacher brothers won all six previous races on the circuit. Page 20

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Doomed jet broke in 4, Taipei investigator says

By Peter S. Goodman The Washington Post

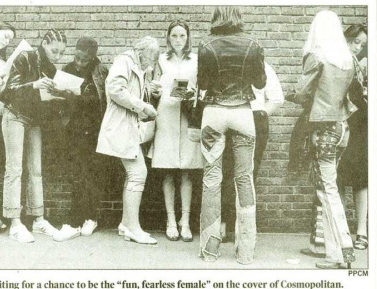
TAIPEI: The China Airlines jet that crashed into the Taiwan Strait on Saturday carrying 225 people broke into four pieces while still high in the sky, a sudden and calamitous event of still unknown cause, the lead Taiwan investigator said Sunday.

noon, taking off into clear skies free of turbulence. Officials were struck by the extent of distress signals from the cockpit before the plane went down, suggesting that, whatever caused the crash, it happened in a flash. That impression was reinforced Sunday by the release of a transcript of the pilots' conversation with the air traffic control tower: "There was no mention of any difficulties," James Chang, a China Airlines vice president, said. "At such a high altitude, 35,000 feet, to have something go wrong and the pilot didn't even have time to send a distress signal, now that's a big question mark."

For Cosmo, it's sex and the world

By David Carr The New York Times

NEW YORK: Forty magazine editors came from all over the world to a conference room in New York last week searching for thoroughly American alchemy. Before them stood a white, the editor in chief of the American version of Cosmopolitan. In their world, she is a demigoddess, the editor of a mothership with a circulation of 2.8 million.



Women waiting for a chance to be the "fun, fearless female" on the cover of Cosmopolitan.

White passed so that the women, all of whom edit international versions of Cosmo, could absorb the deep implications of the trend, along with the impressive nearly naked male on the screen.

circulation to 8.2 million worldwide, even extending its brand to places where readers have to hide the magazine from their husbands. After adding nine editions in the past two years, Cosmo will soon publish in 50 countries, including the recently opened Latvian edition and a Kazakhstan edition that makes its debut in September. The magazine now See COSMOPOLITAN, Page 9

For a second day, rescue crews battled choppy seas northeast of the Penghu Islands, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Taiwan, breathing in jet-oil fumes and navigating swells reaching nearly 3 meters in height. They had pulled in 83 bodies by nightfall, according to local television reports. There were no survivors.

Suspicious of an explosion surfaced shortly after the crash when farmers on the west coast of Taiwan, 80 kilometers from the crash site, found debris from the plane scattered in their rice fields. Among the items were immigration forms and luggage claim stickers bearing the letters "C161," the number of the doomed flight, and an apparently blood-stained chain Airlines seat cover. A fisherman told a Taiwan television news station that he had heard what had sounded like an explosion.

Despite abundant resentment abroad about American cultural hegemony, Hearst is charging ahead

NEWS

A magical mind may unlock the mystery of memory

By Stephanie Holmes
Reuters

LUGO DI RAVENNA: Gianni Golfera can remember his first flight as though it were yesterday, the color of the plane, the radio messages, sitting on his mother's knee. He was only six months old.

Gifted with a startlingly accurate memory, 24-year-old Golfera spent his adolescence training his mind and, despite never seeking the limelight, his skill has seen him perform under television spotlights and grace countless magazine covers.

"I can remember the names of 100 people just introduced to me, a string of 15,000 numbers and recite a speech that I've just heard," he told Reuters, wearing one of his seven identical trademark black suits.

Scientists have latched onto his filmic mind, hoping it will reveal the secrets of the memory gene, and thereby get one step closer to managing memory-loss diseases like Alzheimer's. Yet for researchers, the really remarkable thing about this dark-haired man from a sleepy town in northern Italy, is that his ability to access huge tomes of recorded information is also shared by his father and grandfather.

All three are pilots who leave inflight maps and manuals at home and remain slightly bemused by everyone else's surprise at their talents.

"Our family philosophy is not to consider ourselves a phenomenon," said Gianni's father, 45-year-old Andrea Golfera. "We might be pilots, but we keep our feet firmly on the ground."

Researchers however are already flying high at the prospect of being able to study the brains of three generations with the rare gift of photographic memory.

"I am convinced there is a genetic component. By studying these more evolved memories we will be able to identify the genes that are involved in memory," said neuroscientist Antonio Malgaroli of Milan's San Raffaele institute.

Golfera is excited by the research, hoping that perhaps it will allow him to be remembered into the future.

"I'll be delighted for them to do all the tests they like on me. I hope that by studying my DNA they will discover a key that I cannot find myself," he said.

The DNA in genes transcribes the recipe for proteins which make everything from muscle tissue to brain synapses.

A deeper understanding of the genes that govern memory — its acquisition, development and loss — could open the door to understanding how we recall and forget, why we remember and where memories are stored.

"Our goal is to map the changes that occur when the brain remembers, once we have identified the molecule involved, the mechanism at the level of proteins coded by DNA, we can search for it in the Golfera family," Malgaroli said.

The Golferas always took their recall ability for granted. "When you remember, it's something 100 percent natural. It is only when you realize that other people don't do the same that you realize it is something special," explained Andrea.

Grandfather Bartolomeo, 82, was a star pilot during World War Two whose lightning memory put him ahead of the enemy.

The youngest Golfera grew up fascinated by how quickly everyone around him forgot, whilst he continued to remember.

Vestiges of his childhood still linger in his adult life — such as his continued belief in mythical figures like Santa Claus. "It is like I was told yesterday and I have no reason to disbelieve," he said.

Golfera was never top of the class, infuriating teachers at school by refusing to take notes. Instead, he set about translating from Latin a Renaissance Italian text by Giordano Bruno on the art of memory, memorizing all the books that Bruno would have read in the process and developing his own technique.

"Every idea has a cognitive weight, to remember you have to make things weightless by translating them into a picture," Golfera said. "Then you associate images and chain all the ideas together so they interact."

When the mind remembers, electrical impulses pass through the brain, like switching on light bulbs. The more emotion and sensory stimulation is involved in the experience, the more light bulbs are illuminated and the more vivid the memory.

Golfera developed his own method which enhances the way the brain naturally processes information — linking sounds, colors, emotions and tastes to ideas, numbers and objects. To help him, Golfera has memorized thousands of familiar places and it is in these virtual rooms that he stores memories.

"Memory is a problem of order, not space. You have to know where to look for what you have remembered."

Malgaroli agrees. "The memory system is an infinite container," he said. "What you remember is not stored in a very precise way, it is continually being re-organized."

Yet there is a darker side to having a limitless memory.

"I have problems conceiving of time and space because all my memories are instantly available to me," Gianni said. "Death is a strange concept to me because my memories don't fade, when people die for me it is as if they just changed address."

And forget about indulging in rosy-hued remembrances of nostalgia. Golfera remembers the good, the bad and the ugly with equal force.

"I'd like to be able to manage my memories and control my dreams," he said. "I think of the mind as a parallel universe and mine just keeps on expanding. I doubt I'll ever fill it."