

In Brief

Pentagon to rerun flawed tender
WASHINGTON – US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates plans an “expedited recompetition” for US\$35 billion worth of new aerial-refuelling tankers under the oversight of the Pentagon’s chief weapons buyer. The air force in February awarded the contract to Northrop Grumman and EADS (which owns Airbus), but the Government Accountability Office, ruling on a protest filed by Boeing, last month found “significant errors” in the way the air force handled the competition. Reuters

Charge laid in students’ murder
LONDON – A 33-year-old man was charged yesterday with the murders of two French students found stabbed to death in a burning flat in New Cross, southeast London, on June 29. Nigel Farmer, of no fixed address, was accused of killing Gabriel Perez and Laurent Bonomo, the Metropolitan Police said. AFP

Missing investigator found
KUALA LUMPUR – A private investigator who went missing after linking Malaysia’s deputy prime minister, Najib Razak, to a murdered Mongolian woman has been traced to an unnamed location in Southeast Asia, police said. Top criminal investigator Bakri Zinin said Balasubramaniam Perumal and his family had left Malaysia on their own accord after the detective last week made the claims and then swiftly retracted them. Mr Bakri declined to name their precise location. AFP

No bail for Khmer Rouge first lady
PHNOM PENH – Ieng Thirith, the former Khmer Rouge “first lady” facing trial for crimes against humanity, has lost her appeal to Cambodia’s UN-backed genocide court to be released from detention before her trial. Ieng Thirith, the regime’s former social affairs minister, is one of five top cadres in the sights of the UN war crimes tribunal. AFP

Suicide bomber hits Iraqi convoy
BAGHDAD – A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-filled car into the convoy of an Iraqi general in the northern city of Mosul yesterday, killing seven people, said the general, who was unharmed. “The bomber drove his car into my convoy,” said General Riyadh Jalal Tawfiq, head of security operations in the city. AFP

Australians held for drug-running
HANOI – Police arrested three Vietnamese-Australians for allegedly trafficking about 2kg of heroin, reports said. They were arrested at Ho Chi Minh City airport, reported the *Cong An Nhan Dan* (People’s Police) newspaper. Police confiscated A\$10,000 (HK\$74,435). AFP

Beijing had key role in shaping collective of developing nations

China’s voice loud and clear in new ‘G5’ bloc

G8 SUMMIT

Ng Tze-wei in Rusutsu, Japan

This year’s Group of Eight summit saw the birth of a new collective identity – the “Group of Five” – and China has played a key role in shaping it. Leaders of China, Brazil, India, Mexico and South Africa applied that label to themselves for the first time formally in their joint statement issued on Tuesday night. The G8 leaders also used the new name to describe the five developing nations when the two groups met yesterday, the last day of the summit.

The associate director of the Centre for International Governance Innovation, (CIGI) Andrew Cooper, noted that despite different development concerns, the five nations had “taken on a personality that stresses their commonalities”, and were sending out a message that they had become as important as the G8 in international decision-making.

The host of next year’s G8 summit, Italy, has already invited the G5 leaders to attend, with a 1½-day meeting that will guarantee substantial discussions between the two blocs. That has proved difficult in the past, with only a half-day meeting this year and mere breakfast meetings previously.

But it is too early to tell whether this is a sign of growing confrontation between the developed and the developing nations or a sign of the latter demonstrating their eligibility to join the G8 as equals.

“For the first time these two options are available,” Mr Cooper said. “The next question for the developing nations is whether they wish to become a member of the apex of international order and be subject to more onerous responsibilities and severe criticisms or to strengthen themselves as a bloc in opposition.”

Many factors are being contemplated – the efficiency of the G8 mechanism itself, and whether the G5 nations can advance their interests better as a separate group or as part of a group of 13.

Either way, analysts said, the five

developing nations – known as the “outreach five” since first participating in the G8 summit in 2005 – were much more vocal this year.

The group advocated positions different from the G8’s on a range of issues, and made specific demands and suggestions on how to tackle these problems.

Most notable was climate change. The developing five said in their first G8 summit statement that “it is essential that developed countries take the lead” in reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25 to 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and between 80 and 95 per cent by 2050.

However, the G8 leaders, in their

China’s position is that the developed countries have grown without inhibition in the past 200 years, therefore they bear a historical responsibility

Shen Jiru, retired professor of economics and politics

statement, said only that they would work with all countries under the UN climate-change framework towards halving emissions by 2050, bending to the US president’s repeated stress that no deals could be reached without China and India on board.

A retired Chinese Academy of Social Sciences professor of world economics and politics, Shen Jiru (沈驥如), told China Central Television that while developing and developed nations both accepted they had to tackle problems such as climate change and runaway prices, they differed on “who should bear the bigger responsibility”.

“China’s position is that the developed countries have grown without inhibition in the past 200 years, therefore they bear a historical res-

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possibility,” he said. “The developed nations should provide technological transfer or financial aid in energy conservation or food production, while the developing nations should pursue scientific and sustainable development on the condition that their own growth won’t be hurt.”

CIGI senior fellow Gregory Chin said China’s philosophy could be seen throughout the G5 statement. From its emphasis on aid and technological co-operation to developing nations, to an emphasis on “common but differentiated responsibility” in climate change, and calls for reform of international financial institutions to address economic instability – all of China’s signature positions had been endorsed.

But China had also made new and specific suggestions this time on food security, and making food security a priority in resolving other global problems, Mr Chin said.

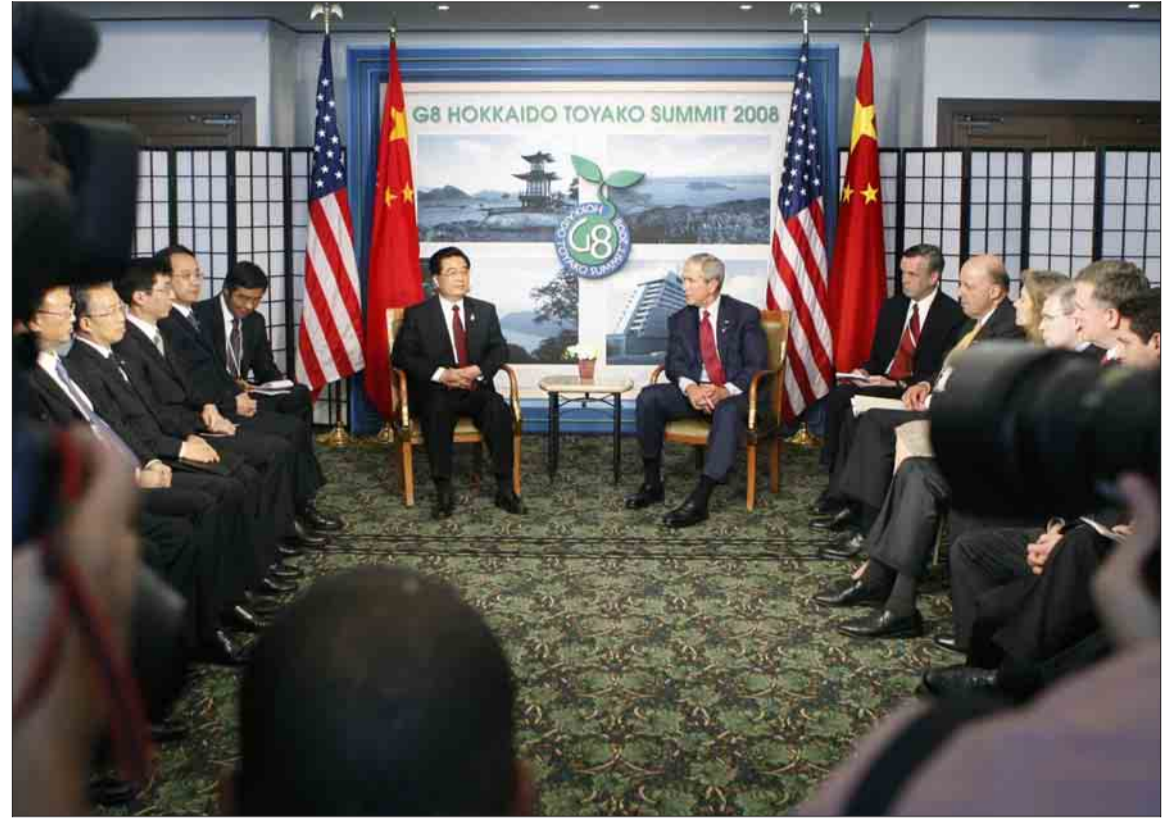
In his speech to the G5 leaders on Tuesday, President Hu Jintao (胡锦涛) said “it is necessary to take into full account the issue of food security in tackling the challenges in energy, climate change and other fields”.

Apart from calling for the setting up of a UN-led international co-operation mechanism and a global food-security safeguard system, Mr Hu said all countries should strengthen co-operation in grain reserves, a proven process in China but not recommended by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

“Mr Hu is also promoting a China model here, but it is a key voice,” Mr Chin said.

Renmin University professor of international relations Jin Canrong (金燦榮) said the difference in views between developing and developed nations had always existed, but they became more acute this year because of the sharp rise in food and oil prices, and untameable inflation.

He disagreed that China played an unnaturally large role in the G5. “China’s voice is naturally bigger because of the size of its economy.”



Presidents Hu Jintao and George W. Bush hold talks yesterday at the G8 summit in Toyako, Japan. Photo: AP

Hu thanks Bush for his vow to attend Olympics

Agencies and Ng Tze-wei

President Hu Jintao (胡锦涛) yesterday thanked US President George W. Bush, who has said he will attend the Beijing Olympics opening ceremonies, for not “politicising” the Games.

Mr Hu said after talks with Mr Bush on the sidelines of the Group of Eight summit that he “highly appreciated that President Bush has on various occasions expressed his opposition to politicising the Olympic Games”.

Mr Bush said: “I told the president I was looking forward to coming to the Olympics. I reminded him that not only am I coming, but my wife, my mother and dad will be there, and we’re looking forward to your hospitality.”

“In this context, the president and I have constantly had discussions about human rights and political freedom. He knows my position and

as I told our people, Mr President, I don’t need the Olympics to talk candidly with somebody who I’ve got good relations with.”

Mr Bush said on Sunday that skipping the August 8 opening gala, as human rights activists had urged him to do, would have been “an affront” to China’s people, making it harder to engage China’s leaders.

“So I’m looking forward to your hospitality,” he said. “I’m hoping to get tickets for the US-Chinese basketball game. If you can help me get a ticket, I’d appreciate it.”

“I’m really looking forward to watching the American Olympic team compete, particularly with the mighty Chinese team.”

He said he and Mr Hu had “candid discussions” on issues such as Taiwan, Sudan and trade in their talks on the sidelines of the summit.

Mr Hu said their “sincere and friendly” talks also covered diplo-

matic efforts to persuade North Korea to abandon its atomic ambitions and Iran to curb its suspect nuclear programme.

“I also briefed President Bush on the Chinese position on the Taiwan issue and informed President Bush about the current situation in the Taiwan Strait,” Mr Hu said. “We hope that the US side will continue to follow the ‘one China’ policy.”

Between commitments on the last day of the G8 summit’s official schedule, Mr Hu squeezed in bilateral meetings with the leaders of France, Russia, Canada and Japan.

In meetings with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, Mr Hu and his counterparts pledged commitment to promoting long-term strategic relationships.

Additional reporting by Reuters, Agence France-Presse

Green groups unimpressed by weakly worded climate deal

Reuters in Toyako

Group of Eight leaders and their counterparts from developing nations patched together a deal to fight climate change yesterday, but the weakly worded deal served only to underscore the divisions between the two blocs.

There were other signs of the gap in a speech by President Hu Jintao (胡锦涛), who said rich countries had to do more to remove barriers to farm trade, blaming such restrictions for the global food crisis.

“All countries, the developed countries in particular, should display greater sincerity in the Doha agricultural negotiations, remove trade barriers, demonstrate flexibility

over such issues as the reduction of agricultural subsidies, give full consideration to the special concerns of developing members, and deliver duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries,” Mr Hu said.

Farm trade is one of the most controversial issues in the World Trade Organisation’s Doha round of market-opening talks. But climate change was the most contentious topic at the G8 summit, which also tackled the crisis in Zimbabwe, worsening security in Afghanistan, and soaring food and oil prices and poverty in Africa.

“There’s been no huge breakthrough at this particular meeting, it is one step along the road,” said

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who attended a climate change meeting yesterday at which the G8 leaders were joined by eight more big polluters.

The 16-member Major Economies Meeting group agreed that “deep cuts” in greenhouse gas emissions were needed to combat the global warming that is closely linked to rising food and fuel prices.

But bickering between rich and poorer countries kept most emerging economies from signing on to a goal of at least halving global emissions by 2050. Nor did the group come up with specific numbers for the interim targets they agreed advanced countries should set.

The leaders of Japan, Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Russia and the United States had embraced the 2050 goal a day earlier, but stressed their countries could not do it alone.

The rich countries had to paper over deep gaps just to get their own climate change deal, with Europe and Japan urging bolder action while the US opposed promising firm targets without assurances big emerging economies will act too.

Environmentalists saw nothing to cheer in the agreement.

“It’s the stalemate we’ve had for a while,” said Kim Carstensen of the WWF conservation group. “Given the lack of willingness to move forward, particularly by the US, it hasn’t been possible to break that.”

Pledges buried in time capsule at hotel

Group of Eight leaders wrangled over the time frame to fight global warming, but they have a set deadline when their pledges will be reviewed – in 100 years.

Their summit documents, along with current newspapers, will be buried in a time capsule at the hotel where they met for three days in the mountain resort of Toyako in northern Japan. The Windsor Hotel will dig up and open the time capsule on July 7, 2108.

“We hope to confirm that the summit will have been remembered for 100 years as a key conference on climate change and that by then global

warming will be halted as promised by the leaders,” a hotel spokesman said.

The time capsule will be put in a new park along with a monument with the engraved autographs of the G8 leaders and a sculpture representing a chunk of ice that is melting because of global warming.

The leaders agreed that the world should at least halve emissions blamed for climate change by 2050 as they pressed for developing countries to make their own commitments.

Agence France-Presse

Six die in attack on US consulate

TURKEY

Associated Press in Istanbul

Armed men attacked a police guard post outside the US consulate in Istanbul yesterday. Turkish officials called it a terrorist attack and said three attackers and three policemen were killed.

A US embassy spokeswoman said there were no reports of casualties among consulate employees.

“At about 11am, at least one assailant opened fire on the Turkish police guard-post area near the main entrance to the consulate,” the spokeswoman said. “We’re co-operating with the police and taking the appropriate measures.”

Istanbul Governor Muammer Guler said: “There is no doubt that this is a terrorist attack.”

A policeman and the driver of a

towing vehicle were also injured, he said. A police official later said authorities believed al-Qaeda was behind the attack.

Istanbul prosecutor Aykut Cengiz Engin said the attackers were armed with pistols and shotguns. Forensic teams were seen examining a shotgun on the ground.

The attack occurred right outside the high-walled consulate compound in Istinye district. Television footage showed four people lying on the ground by the consulate’s wall before officials removed the bodies.

Security camera footage at the site showed four armed and bearded men emerging from a grey car to kill a traffic policeman, then running towards the guard post 50 metres away as other officers fired back, the Dogan news agency said.

The shootout scattered people queuing for visas, Dogan said. US se-

curity personnel then ducked inside the compound since they are not authorised to engage in armed action on Turkish soil.

“We saw four people in a car, they were wearing coats and that seemed pretty weird in this weather. Then we saw they had guns,” witness Muhammet Nur said. “At first we thought they might be civil police but at that moment they drew their guns and a gun battle began. I could not get the plate number but my friend did.”

Mr Guler said two of the attackers were Turkish nationals, denying speculation they had Syrian passports. Police were pursuing a fourth attacker. NTV television, citing police sources, said police feared the car might be loaded with explosives, but police would not confirm that report.

Additional reporting by Associated Press

Show them the money **BW 21X4**

SCMP has more... making active lives... than any other Hong Kong newspaper

Source: Synovate PAK Q1 to Q4 '08 report

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