

# U.S.-based Chinese sociologist convicted of spying

By the Associated Press  
INTERNATIONAL

BEIJING — In a case closely watched by Washington, a U.S.-based Chinese sociologist was convicted today of spying and sentenced to 10 years in prison, her defense lawyer said.

Gao Zhan's conviction cast a pall over a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell due to begin Saturday.

Gao, 39, was convicted of helping a Chinese-born American business professor, Li Shaomin, who was convicted July 14 of spying for Taiwan. Her lawyers said she denied spying and described their contacts as normal scholarly exchanges.

Gao immediately applied for medical parole, said her lawyer, Bai Xue-biao. He previously said she suffers from heart ailments.

Gao's lawyers have said she gave Li photocopied book and magazine articles about Taiwan and its relations with China. They said Gao knew some were not meant for widespread distribution, but said she had no reason to know they were secret.

Bai said the sentence imposed by the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court was more severe than expected. Asked about Gao's reaction, he said she was "depressed."

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Separatist rebels firing guns and mortars attacked the airport and air force base today, closing Sri Lanka's only international air link on the anniversary of 1983 riots seen as the start of the civil war.

After six hours of explosions, automatic weapons fire and pistol shots, police said all the guerrillas were dead, and three had blown themselves up. Thirteen military and passenger aircraft were destroyed or damaged. Black smoke from a fuel tanker explosion enveloped the terminal.

Most passengers and workers were evacuated to nearby hotels, said officials at the airport's office in the capital, Colombo, 18 miles to the south.

Nine guerrillas and five military men were killed, while 12 troops, a Russian flight engineer for Sri Lankan Airlines and a Sri Lankan journalist were wounded, said military spokesman Sanath Karunaratne.

## ap news capsules

Today's pre-dawn attack was the latest assault in the 18-year war between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils in the northeast of the island off India's southern tip.

### NATIONAL

SPACE CENTER, Houston — A storm system with rain and thick clouds moved in on space shuttle Atlantis' preferred landing site in Florida early today, forcing NASA to postpone its return to Earth.

Flight controllers said they would try again tonight to bring the five astronauts back home from their mission to install a new portal for spacewalkers at the international space station.

The shuttle, which lifted off July 12, has enough fuel to remain in orbit until early Friday.

Weather forecasts were more favorable for landing late today at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., so flight director Wayne Hale did not alert NASA's backup landing sites in California and New Mexico to be ready.

Atlantis' astronauts spent eight days at space station Alpha, working inside and out to set up the \$164 million air lock they delivered.

JACKSON, Miss. — It was Eudora Welty's eyes that writer Toni Morrison most vividly recalled when the two authors met decades ago.

"She had these little round, piercing eyes that kept moving in her head. She saw everything," Morrison said Monday. "What amazed me was how comfortable everybody was under her gaze."

Through Welty's eyes, the South came to life in such books as "The Ponder Heart," "Losing Battles" and "The Optimist's Daughter," for which she won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973.

Morrison joined a chorus of admirers in paying tribute to Welty, who died Monday at Baptist Medical Center after battling pneumonia. She was 92.

Welty's works include "Delta Wedding" in 1946 and "Losing Battles" in 1971. "The Ponder Heart" and "The

Robber Bridegroom" were made into Broadway plays.

Welty was born on April 13, 1909, in Jackson, where she lived most her life. She attended Mississippi University for Women, later graduating from the University of Wisconsin and doing postgraduate work at Columbia University in New York.

Early in her career, Welty worked for newspapers and radio stations and served as publicity agent for President Franklin Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration. Welty never married.

BALTIMORE — Nearly a week after a train derailment and fire in a downtown tunnel paralyzed the city, inspectors cleared the way for the reopening of the damaged passageway.

"This city's back in business," Mayor Martin O'Malley declared Monday night following a four-hour examination of the tunnel by federal, state and city inspectors, along with engineers from CSX, the rail company

## Scorching temperatures take toll on fall crops

WICHITA (AP) — Scorching July temperatures have taken a heavy toll on Kansas field crops, hay production and pastures. Rains in the forecast for this week may bring some relief to some of the state's biggest crops.

Scott Staggenborg, an extension crop specialist at Kansas State University, said rain now will not help the Kansas corn crop.

"Most of it has either survived or not survived it," he said. "When it gets this late there is not a big chance for recovery."

On Monday, Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said 15 percent of the state's corn crop was in very poor or poor condition. Another 31 percent was rated slightly better and given a fair ranking. About 45 percent was in good condition, and 9 percent in excellent shape.

Farmers continue to harvest dryland corn for forage or silage because of dry conditions in some areas, the agency said.

Farmer Sandy Rau said the corn at

that owns the tunnel.

A 60-car freight train derailed in the tunnel last Wednesday. A subsequent fire and acid spill halted traffic into the city, ruptured a water main and forced the postponement of three Baltimore Orioles games.

The last charred, smoking boxcar was removed Monday morning. The National Transportation Safety Board is continuing to investigate the derailment. CSX planned to run a test train through the tunnel today.

After the inspection, O'Malley ordered several roads running above the tunnel reopened, except for an intersection that collapsed because of the water-main break. The road closings have created downtown traffic jams.

### WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — Washington police are frustrated by the silence of some of Chandra Levy's neighbors, who investigators believe could provide clues to the missing woman's whereabouts.

A half-dozen visits to Levy's apartment building still leave police with

"far too many people, more than a handful," who have yet to be interviewed about her disappearance, Executive Assistant Police Chief Terrence Gainer said.

Levy, 24, of Modesto, Calif., has not been seen since April 30, when she canceled her membership at a Washington gym.

Rep. Gary Condit, meanwhile, has talked to police three times, most recently on July 6. And on Monday, the spokeswoman for the California Democrat indicated Condit would be willing to meet with investigators again.

In a July 6 interview with police, Condit, 53 and married, admitted to an affair with Levy, a police source has said.

Police have said they do not consider Condit a suspect in Levy's disappearance, which they are treating as a missing person case, not a crime.

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers are seeking to cut outlays for the fight against illegal narcotics in South America and spend more on health and

disaster relief programs as the House moves to a vote on the foreign aid bill.

Supporters of the Andean Counterdrug Initiative warn a reduction in money could jeopardize seriously efforts to fight drugs and bring economic and political stability to Colombia and its neighbors.

The \$15.2 billion foreign aid bill for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, up for a vote today, contains \$676 million for the counterdrug initiative, already \$55 million under what President Bush requested.

Among several amendments expected to be offered on the Andean initiative today, Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., is seeking to cut \$100 million from the military aspect of the initiative, shifting the money to child survival, maternal health and tuberculosis and malaria programs.

The foreign aid bill also includes \$474 million for international AIDS efforts, \$768 million for Russia and former states of the Soviet Union, \$2.7 billion in military and economic aid for Israel and \$2 billion in aid for Egypt.

it was the 14th day this month that the temperature reached 100 or higher, and for Wichita it was the 12th.

The heat wave was expected to ease a bit by Tuesday, with thunderstorms possible through Friday, forecasters said.

Rains now will make a big difference for the state's milo crop, Staggenborg said.

"Even cool temperatures in the next week to 10 days is going to have a big impact on the milo crop," he said. "We are hitting that stage when it is heading. It is going to start to flower, that is a sensitive stage when we determine the final kernel number on the head."

KASS rated condition of the state's milo crop this week as 5 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 39 percent good and 3 percent excellent.

Rain will help keep the state's soybean crop alive, but is not as critical now as it will be in another two or three weeks when the soybeans begin flowering in earnest and setting pods,

Staggenborg said.

Soybeans were ranked as 2 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 42 percent good and 6 percent excellent, KASS said.

Sunflowers began to flower two weeks ago — the only time when hot, dry weather bothers this crop. "Being native to the area, (sunflowers) are a pretty hardy crop," he said.

Their condition was rated Monday as 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 59 percent good and 8 percent excellent.

Dry weather has also cut hay production, with about one-third to half of the growing season left in Kansas, said Steve Hessman, hay market reporter for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's office in Dodge City.

"It hasn't had a major effect on prices yet, but it sure has on attitudes. Everyone remembers last year how hot and dry it was," he said. "... They are hanging on this hay pretty tight."

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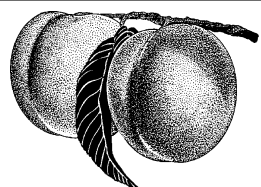
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