

## WORLD

# Moguls fund health effort

MEXICO CITY: Two of the world's richest men and the Spanish government have pledged US\$150 million to battle disease and improve health in Central America and Mexico.

Carlos Slim and Bill Gates are to fund a project with Spain aimed at improving nutrition and maternal health and fighting dengue and malaria.

The two men and Spain's Princess Cristina announced the project in the Mexican capital.

The project also aims to reduce infant mortality and boost vaccination rates.

The "2015 Meso-American Health Initiative" will benefit Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

The three parties will each donate US\$50 million.

Worth an estimated US\$53.5 billion Slim, a Mexican telecom mogul, is the world's richest man, according to *Forbes* magazine "rich list".

Gates, founder of Microsoft, is said to be worth US\$53 billion. - BBC



Gates ... to donate US\$50 million



Slim ... The richest man in the world

# Quake rocks California

LOS ANGELES: A 5.7 magnitude earthquake struck near southern California's border with Mexico on Monday, rattling buildings across a wide area, the US geological survey said.

The quake hit 8km southeast of Ocotillo, a desert town some 320km southeast of Los Angeles, and was followed by a cluster of more than 10 aftershocks.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage but the tremor was felt throughout the region, rattling buildings in Los Angeles and even shaking a stadium hosting a major league baseball

game in San Diego, reports said.

An seismologist from the California Institute of Technology said the quake was an aftershock of the 7.2 magnitude temblor which rattled northwestern Mexico in April, leaving two people dead.

Geologists say an earthquake capable of causing widespread destruction is 99% certain to hit California within the next 30 years.

Studies have said that a 7.8 magnitude quake in the densely-populated region could kill 1,800 people, injure 50,000 more and damage 300,000 buildings. - AFP

## Office of the Member for Sumkar

### PRESS RELEASE

#### REPEAL THE ENVIRONMENT ACT!

- I did not vote for the change to the environment act.
- The change bulldozed through parliament takes away the right of the people to see justice in court. This is Dictatorial, and against every principle a democracy stands for.
- Sumkar is a maritime district. We are under threat of environmental destruction.
  - From Tailings
  - From pollution from the Pacific Marine Industrial Zone (PMIZ)
  - Any residue pollution from the Ramu River

The life of Karkar and Bagabag is centered around the sea. We see less fish and marine life every year. We are pristine islands - leave our environment alone

#### My position is clear

- PMIZ - stop it - perhaps we can have one more factory or double RD size. But not 7 factories. Give the rest to other districts who have nothing. Pomio is a good example.
- Tailing - No to the Deep Sea System. Compromise and find an alternative even if the Government pays over time from royalties. Surely we can learn by the mistakes of others.

I am a member of People National Congress (PNG), we are having a special meeting to form our policy on the environment. Our Party Leader will announce our decision this week.

I realize that my stand is against the position of National Alliance, PAP and others so be it!

To keep the record straight I have not contributed to NGO court action against the tailings disposal; but I have privately paid funds to battle the PMIZ environment situation NOT government funds and I admire the work the NGOs are doing.

Ken Fairweather  
Member for Sumkar

### BRIEFS

#### NASA to predict tsunami size

LOS ANGELES: NASA says a research team has demonstrated a prototype for an improved tsunami prediction system. The agency said on Monday that the team, led by a researcher at NASA's jet propulsion laboratory, successfully predicted the size of the tsunami triggered by the Feb 27 magnitude 8.8 Chilean earthquake. The system, using NASA's global differential GPS network, predicted a moderate tsunami unlikely to cause significant destruction in the Pacific. Team leader Y. Tony Song says the system could allow emergency agencies to issue better warnings and reduce false alarms. The GPS network used in the system combines global and regional real-time data from hundreds of GPS sites to estimate their positions every second, detecting ground motions as small as a few centimetres.

#### Two caught at army base

TALLAHASSEE: The US military says two heavily armed people are in custody after trying to enter MacDill Air Force Base outside of Tampa. The base is home to US Central Command, which runs the US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Base public affairs officer Senior Airman Katherine Holt said a man and woman were unable to show proper identification on Monday evening, and their vehicle was searched. Security found military-style gear and weapons in the sport utility vehicle but no explosives. Holt said she did not know how many weapons were removed but they were rifle-type. The suspects' names were not released. The military is investigating and says the base is operating normally.

#### Elton John hater goes free

ATLANTA: Charges against a Georgia man charged with threatening singer Elton John were dismissed on the day a trial was scheduled to begin. Fulton county superior court judge Kimberly Esmond Adams dismissed the charges against Neal Horsley on Monday. The 65-year-old Horsley was charged with making terrorist threats, criminal defamation and using the internet to disseminate threats. Prosecutors said Horsley posted threats against John online and that he picketed outside John's Atlanta condominium with a sign that said "Why Elton John must die". John apparently raised Horsley's ire when he told an interviewer that he believed Jesus was gay. The judge said Horsley's actions did not warrant criminal charges.

#### No reality show for teen sailor

LOS ANGELES: A spokesman for the family of the California girl who was rescued from the Indian Ocean while trying to sail around the world says the family has no current plans for a reality TV show. Jeff Casber says he spoke with Abby Sunderland's father on Monday and Laurence Sunderland says such a show was discussed last year when her brother Zac sailed around the world, but it never came about. Magnetic Entertainment lists plans for the show on its website. Officials from the company did not return calls on Monday. *The New York Post* reported on Monday that Laurence Sunderland signed a contract for a show weeks after his daughter set sail. - AP