

International

Japan cautious over plan to create enclave

Allies threaten to use force if Iraq blocks relief for Kurds

LONDON, Apr 13: British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Friday said Britain and its Gulf Allies were prepared to use force if Iraq interfered with relief efforts to Kurdish refugees fleeing the country, reports Reuter.

US to scrap 43 domestic bases

WASHINGTON, Apr 13: Defence Secretary Dick Cheney braved the wrath of the US Congress yesterday by proposing to shut down 43 domestic military bases and end thousands of jobs, reports Reuter.

BRIEFLY

Baker arrives in Geneva
U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Geneva from Damascus on Friday for a series of meetings, including talks with Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al-Masri, reports Reuter.

Gorbachev's move to stop chaos

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev issued a decree to try to prevent economic chaos caused by republics withholding deliveries to other parts of the country, Tass news agency reported.

Carter visits China's deaf school

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter visited a Chinese school for the deaf Saturday, where teachers reported on a programme he launched to train special education instructors in China, reports AP.

Israel to send aid for Kurds

Israel will send an air force transport plane packed with medicine, tents and clothing to Kurdish refugees on the Turkish frontier, the Foreign Ministry said on Friday, Reuter reports from Jerusalem.

news conference the proposal to create "Security shelters" for Kurds in northern Iraq would mean taking away part of Iraq's sovereignty without the agreement of the Iraqi government, which would contradict United Nations charter.

Genscher's plea to put Saddam on trial

BONN, Apr 13: German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said today that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should be put on trial by an international court for war crimes, reports Reuter.



SOLEIMANIYEH, Iraq: Two young Kurdish children wait in the back of a truck to re-enter the town of Soleimaniyeh 11 April, where government forces are in control. Kurds are lining up in this town to receive rationed food distributed by Iraqi authorities. — AFP photo

148 planes still in Iran: Iraqi Minister

NICOSIA, Apr 13: Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein Khudayer said on Friday that 148 military or civilian planes were moved to Iran during the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

Going gets tough for M. J. Akbar, Maneka

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: The All India Congress Committee spokesman, Mr. M. J. Akbar, is facing considerable difficulty in his Bihar constituency of Kishanganj. Mr Akbar denies it vehemently, but there are persistent reports that he is looking for safer pastures. Sewan is mentioned as a possibility, reports PTI.

to protect the Kurds as a violation of its sovereignty. Food aid In Rome, the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Friday it had won enough pledges of emergency food aid to feed all Kurdish refugees in Turkey and Iran for up to a month.

Imelda to sue Manila for blocking her return

MANILA, Apr 13: Former First Lady Imelda Marcos will file human rights charges against the Philippine government at the United Nations for blocking her right to return home, her lawyer said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Dadzie tipped to become UN chief

ACCRA, Apr 13: Ghana is proposing Kenneth Dadzie, Head of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the post of UN Secretary General, Ghana's Head of State, Jerry Rawlings said here Thursday, reports AP.

UN Force commander in Kuwait

KUWAIT, Apr 13: Austrian Major General Gunther Greindl, wearing his new blue beret, arrived today to start creating a United Nations force to keep the peace between Iraq and Kuwait, reports Reuter.

Stripper wants to offer services

SYDNEY: A man purporting to be a paid stripper was arrested after several suburban housewives reported him, saying he didn't look the part, police said Friday, reports AP.

Husband violates ex-wife's privacy

ATLANTA, An American has been ordered to pay his ex-wife 225,000 dollars after he sent a nude photograph of her to a men's magazine without her permission or knowledge, reports Reuter.

Arjun Nehru, Arif desert V. P. Singh

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: Three top leaders from Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Janata Dal (Peoples Party) quit their party posts Saturday, upsetting the former premier's game-plan for next month's parliamentary elections, reports AP.

Off the Record

Schwarzkopf likes to enjoy being a father

KUWAIT CITY: US Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, visiting Kuwait as a formal cease-fire took effect Thursday, said the allied forces "accomplished every single mission" assigned to them in the Gulf War, reports AP.

"I have a great feeling of a great victory," said Schwarzkopf. "Anyone who dares even imply that we did not achieve a great victory obviously doesn't know what 'he hell he's talking about.'"

The general, dressed in camouflage fatigues, said the nearly 100,000 US troops in southern Iraq were leaving but would not withdraw completely until US President George Bush gave the word. He declined to mention any dates.

United Nations officials are to arrive in Kuwait Friday and a monitoring force is to be deployed along the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Schwarzkopf made the one-day trip to Kuwait to present the Legion of Merit to the acting commander of the Kuwaiti armed forces, Maj. Gen. Jaber al-Khaled al-Sabah.

The Legion of Merit, authorized by Bush, is the highest military award the United States bestows on foreigners. Other military commanders of the allied coalition also are expected to receive the award, US military officials said.

Schwarzkopf pinned the medal and red ribbon on Gen. Jaber's chest and presented a plaque commending his "outstanding service during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm."

"I promised Gen. Jaber a long time ago that the first forces going into Kuwait City would be Kuwaiti armed forces, and I'm very proud to say that they were," the general said of the final ouster of Iraqi forces on Feb. 27.

It was the general's second official visit since the liberation. Schwarzkopf is expected to retire soon. Asked what he planned to do, he said: "I'm looking for another cause."

He also said he would go fishing, play with his dog, and "enjoy being a father. It's something I haven't done for about eight months."

Stripper wants to offer services

SYDNEY: A man purporting to be a paid stripper was arrested after several suburban housewives reported him, saying he didn't look the part, police said Friday, reports AP.

The five women he visited to offer his services described the 19-year-old man as short, ugly and "weedy," police said. "We are talking wimp," said one police officer. "This guy's got shoulders like a milk arrowroot biscuit."

The man, who was arrested but not charged because police said he was doing nothing illegal, arrived in mid-afternoon at each home, saying he was from Strip-A-Gram and that he had been paid to strip.

Jacqueline Kalou, the manager for Strip-A-Gram, was quick to distance herself from the bogus removalist. "When the women rang and described him to me, I knew absolutely he was not one of our men," said Kalou. "Our men have fabulous physiques. . . They said this guy was short and ugly. He is definitely not one of ours."

Police said there appears to be nothing illegal about posing as a stripper and trying to find a willing audience. "There weren't any immediate charges to be laid," said Constable Tracey Lingard. "We're still conducting inquiries."

Husband violates ex-wife's privacy

ATLANTA, An American has been ordered to pay his ex-wife 225,000 dollars after he sent a nude photograph of her to a men's magazine without her permission or knowledge, reports Reuter.

A jury in Atlanta, Georgia ordered Jennings Gordon, 50, to pay the money on Thursday saying he violated her privacy when he not only sent in the nude photos to the magazine but sent copies of the magazine to her employer and her mother.

Susan Hudson, now 40 and remarried, had sued for five million dollars after her husband sent her photo to Gallery Magazine, which published the photo in its October 1985 "Girl Next Door Amateur Erotic Photo Contest".

Gordon admitted forging his ex-wife's signature on a model release. The magazine also published a caption Gordon had suggested: "Susan's main goal in life is to please as many men as possible. She has no fantasies because she lives them all."

In addition to awarding the woman 225,000 dollars the jury ordered Gordon to pay her present husband, Gary Hudson, 5,000 dollars damages for trauma he has suffered.

Arjun Nehru, Arif desert V. P. Singh

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: Three top leaders from Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Janata Dal (Peoples Party) quit their party posts Saturday, upsetting the former premier's game-plan for next month's parliamentary elections, reports AP.

Satpal Malik, Arun Nehru and Arif Mohammad Khan, all previous federal ministers of Mr VP Singh's 11-month government which collapsed last year, quit citing "queer policies" of the former premier as one of the reasons.

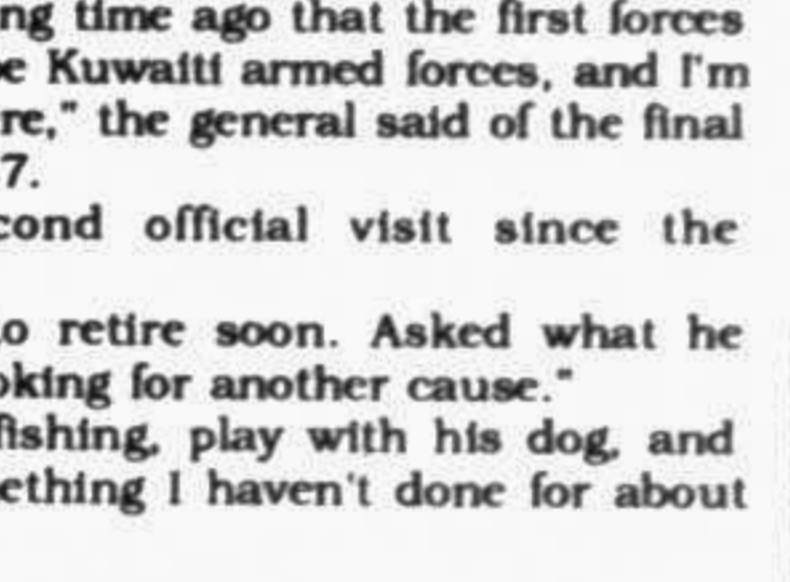
Several other junior functionaries of Janata Dal also resigned their party posts Saturday in a move seen here as the beginning of political horse-trading in the run-up to the polls next month for India's 10th Parliament, observers said.

In a joint letter to Dal President SR Bomai, the three senior leaders said the "extreme stop of resigning from their posts were necessitated in the larger interest of the Janata Dal," party officials said.

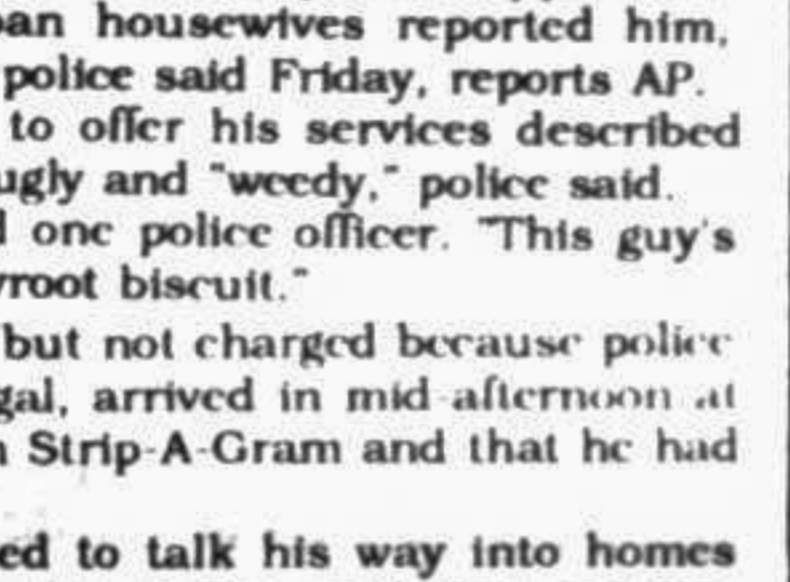
They have, however, not resigned their primary membership of the Janata Dal, party officials clarified.



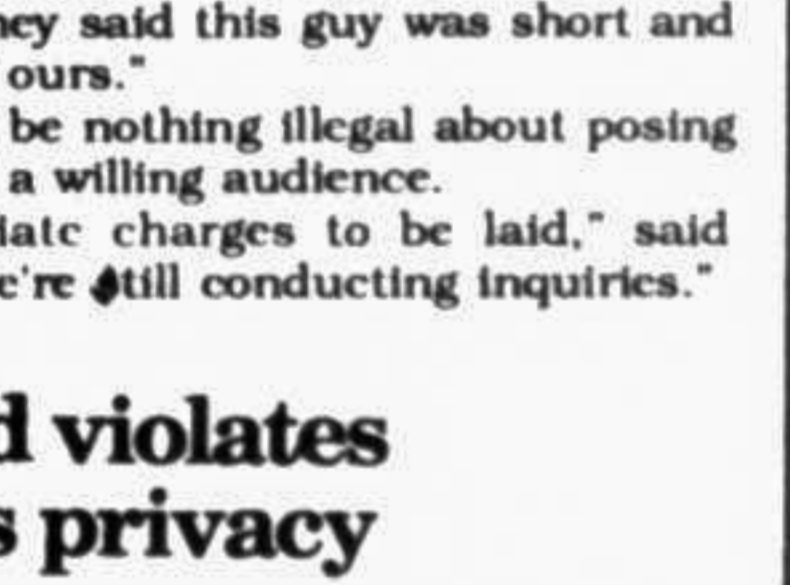
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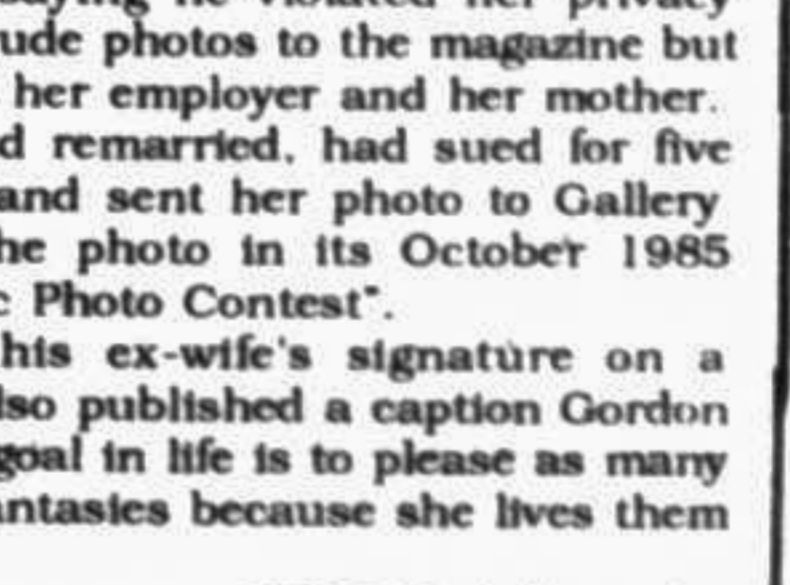
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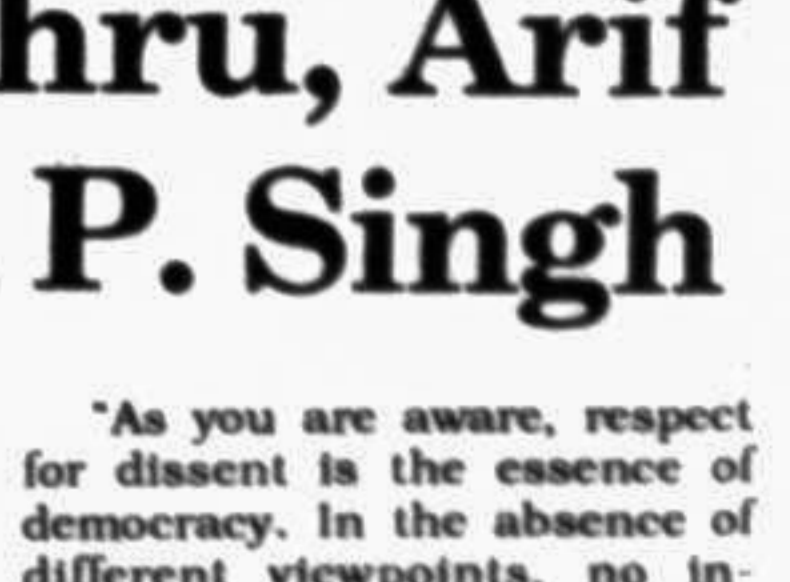
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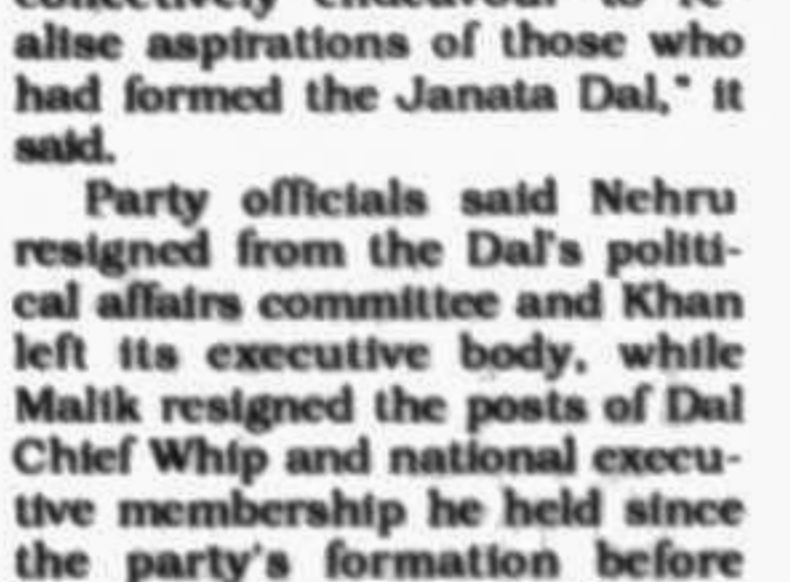
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Maneka Gandhi is looking for an confident that his one time friend and colleague will fare badly. And will find it difficult to win the election from "any constituency" in Uttar Pradesh.