

Alleged Rajiv's killer had 'private army'

MADRAS, July 21: Accused in the Rajiv case, landlord Shanmugam who committed suicide yesterday was reportedly controlling a 'private army' equipped with lethal weapons and a powerful communications network...

Riyadh offers to lift economic boycott if Israel stops settlements

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia), July 21: Saudi Arabia has offered to suspend its 43-year economic boycott of Israel in exchange for a freeze on Jewish settlement of Israeli-occupied Arab land...

Arab economic giant, which has scrupulously observed the boycott since it was implemented by the Arab world after the creation of Israel in 1948...

from occupied territory in exchange for peace. The statement said Saudi Arabia wanted an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict that was 'just, practical and acceptable'...

state. An Arab League office in Damascus administered the boycott, periodically publishing lists of blacklisted companies...

Israel rejects Saudi offer

JERUSALEM, July 21: Israeli officials rejected on Saturday a Saudi offer to suspend its economic boycott of Israel if Israel agreed to freeze settlement of Jews in the occupied territories...

Officially said the Arab boycott was illegal and had no connection with the settlements, which would be taken up in the negotiation process...

Opposition MPs stage walkout

Pak bill passed to suspend SC in terrorist-affected areas

ISLAMABAD, July 21: The Senate on Saturday passed a constitutional amendment allowing the government to suspend the Supreme Court and establish special courts in 'terrorist-affected areas' to curb the soaring crime rate...

Times newspaper. Sharif stemmed mounting opposition to his amendment when he dropped a contentious clause that would have given Pakistan's police sweeping power...

Mass murders, abductions and near anarchy in the thickly forested southern Sindh province prompted him to seek a change in the constitution...



Yeltsin issues his first decree

MOSCOW, July 21: The Russian press has published the first decree by the first Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, dealing with urgent measures aimed at the republic's development...

She has accused the government of trying to destroy her party through mass arrests. Her husband Asif Ali Zardari has been jailed since last Oct. 10 on several charges, including murder and kidnapping...

Ms. Bhutto was on a three-week tour of Europe and northern Africa. She is expected to return to Pakistan sometime next week...

Mubarak on Friday urged Arab states to suspend their boycott of firms doing business with Israel if the Israeli government freezes settlements in the occupied territories...

Discussions on ways to check murder, drug trafficking, smuggling of foods and cars and other crimes along the border areas of the two countries were held during the meeting...

India, Nepal agree to check smuggling

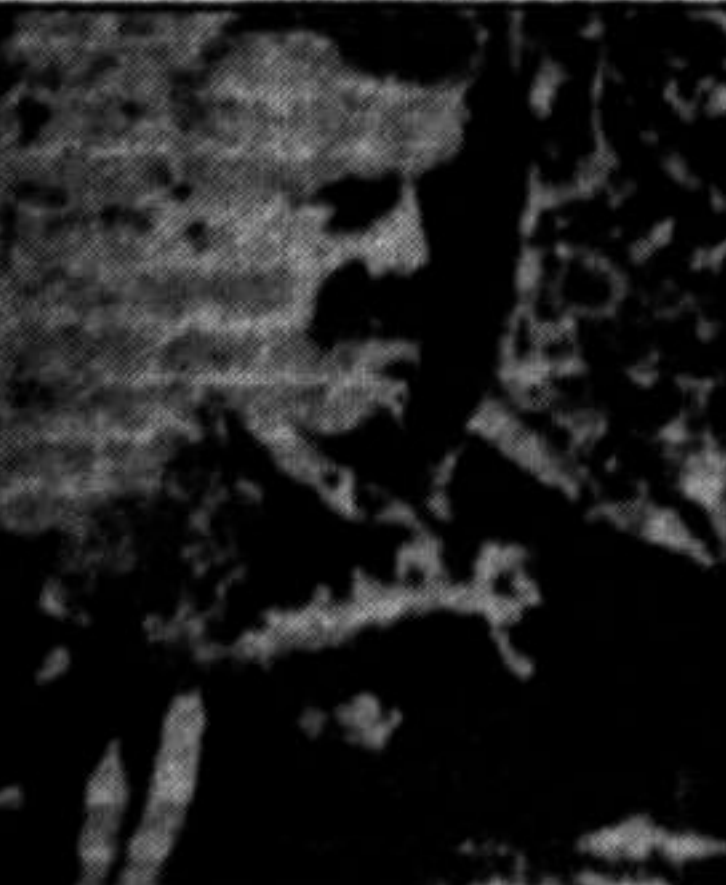
KATHMANDU, July 21: India and Nepal have agreed to undertake joint patrolling along the common border to check trans-border smuggling and other crimes...

2 Soviets wounded in clashes with Gypsies

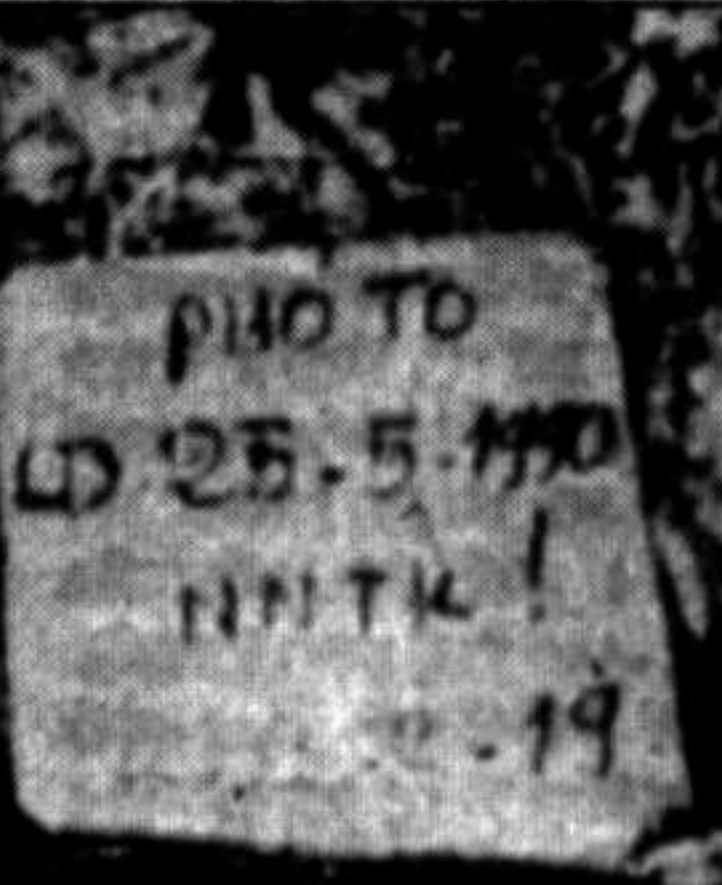
MOSCOW, July 21: Two Russians were shot and wounded in clashes with Gypsies accused of selling vodka at four times the state price...

Schwarzkopf ready to attack Iraq again on Bush's order

CAIRO, July 21: US General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the allied forces that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in the Gulf War, said Saturday he was ready to attack Iraq again...



WASHINGTON: According to a Pentagon statement made July 18, Hanoi officials claim the man identified as Col John Robertson (L) is dead and his remains were given to the US in April 1990...



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BRIEFLY

23 killed in Salvador fighting: Heavy fighting between El Salvador's leftist guerrillas and government troops in the northern and eastern countryside Friday and Saturday left at least 23 dead and 32 wounded...

4 killed in Yugoslavia: Four people were killed in fresh violence between Serbs and Croats, and a Croatian government official said bodies were being left to rot in fields in the eastern part of the Yugoslav Republic...

Plan for oil-drilling in Amazon slated: Politicians in Peru's Amazon on Saturday demanded the government reverse itself and reject a US oil company's plan to drill in a jungle nature reserve...

Hostage issue to be resolved: Lebanese FM: The Foreign Minister Rares Bouez said Saturday that the government is doing all it can to resolve the plight of western hostages held in Lebanon...

6 killed in Peru violence: At least six people were killed and two wounded when Peruvian security forces clashed with about 80 Maoist guerrillas who attacked a town in the southeastern region of Ayacucho...

ICRC visits prisoners in Iraq: The International Committee of the Red Cross has visited several hundred Iraqi soldiers taken prisoner by Kurdish rebels in recent fighting in northern Iraq...

38 killed in Punjab: At least 38 people were killed in the strife-torn Punjab province Saturday, Press Trust of India said, AP reports...

Two rockets fired at Japan's defence ministry: TOKYO, July 21: Two rockets were fired at Japan's Defence Ministry central Tokyo today morning but caused no damage...

Off the Record

Madonna's ideas on teenage pregnancies

LONDON: Madonna says parents who don't talk to their children about sex are partly to blame for teenage pregnancies and the spread of AIDS, reports AP...



Orphan jumps into Barbara's lap: ANKARA (Turkey): Barbara Bush mixed interest in ancient civilizations with a look toward Turkey's future in visits Saturday to a museum and an orphanage...

Jayalalitha to take Rs 1 salary

MADRAS: The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Miss Jayalalitha, has decided to take a token salary of Rs one in her capacity as the State Chief Minister...

Criticism of T-shirt culture under fire

BEIJING, July 21: Three weeks after China's leaders banned T-shirts bearing slogans of popular dissatisfaction, one provincial newspaper has rebuffed press criticisms...

Bush looms large over Ankara

ANKARA (Turkey), July 21: George Bush never looked bigger or better than upon his arrival in Ankara, reports AP...

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