

Khmers are arrogant, says Hun Sen

BANGKOK, May 21: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen today lambasted the Khmer Rouge, the strongest guerrilla faction opposed to his government, for saying it will break the current cease-fire from June 5 if no settlement ending the civil war is reached by then, reports AFP.

"This ultimatum is a proof that the Khmer Rouge has no intention at all to solve the problem through negotiations," the leader of the Vietnam-installed government said in an official SPK news agency dispatch monitored here.

Another politician jailed in Burma

BANGKOK, May 21: Burma's military rulers have sentenced another opposition politician to a long jail term, a diplomat said Monday, reports Reuter.

ROK frees 903 criminals

SEOUL, May 21: South Korea freed 903 criminal prisoners and juvenile delinquents in a traditional amnesty to mark Buddha's birthday today, Justice Ministry said, reports BSS.

BRIEFLY

Castro asked to hold free polls

President George Bush called on Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Monday to free political prisoners and let a UN commission investigate alleged human rights violations on the communist ruled island, Ruter reports from Washington.

UN observers for El Salvador

The Security Council, in anticipation of an eventual ceasefire in El Salvador, authorised a peacekeeping mission on Monday that includes a commission to investigate and monitor any human rights abuses in the country, Reuter reports from United Nations.

Bush for summit with Gorbachev

President Bush said he would like a summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev after the two superpowers resolve talks on their nuclear and conventional forces, reports Reuter from Washington.

Installation of SS-20s in Cuba denied

The Soviet Defense Ministry on Monday denied a report that intermediate-range SS-20 missiles had been installed in Cuba, AFP reports from Moscow.

20 pilgrims killed in bus mishap

At least 20 Indian pilgrims have been killed and 35 injured after their bus plunged 100 metres (320 feet) into the Trisul river, police said Monday, reports AFP from Kathmandu.

Bush feels good

WASHINGTON, May 21: President George Bush "feels good" and his doctors report he is progressing "just the way they expected" in his treatment for a thyroid disorder, the White House press secretary said Monday, reports AP.

Bush, who complained of being "dead tired" during last Tuesday's festivities for Queen Elizabeth II, "hasn't had the tiredness problem now in several days," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

Authorities have jailed most of the country's opposition leaders since ignoring the result of the May, 1990, general election. The National League for Democracy won the poll by a landslide but has not been allowed to take office.

We are proud of Nathuram Godse: Shiv Sena

Polls revive controversy over Mahatma's slaying

NEW DELHI, May 21: India's election has revived a fierce and painful controversy here over the slaying 43 years ago of independence hero and pacifist Mahatma Gandhi by a revivalist Hindu fanatic, reports AFP.

Most embarrassed over the controversy has been the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP-Indian People's Party), which is making its first determined bid to wrest power in New Delhi in the polls which started Monday.



"We are not ashamed but proud of Godse (the assassin), because he prevented another partition of the country, Bal Thackeray whose regional Shiv Sena (arm of Lord Shiva) is a poll ally of the BJP reportedly said Thursday.

MEERUT, India: Activists of the Hindu fundamentalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) kick ballot box following Hindu-Muslim clashes in this northern Indian city during parliamentary polling.

rivals including the Congress (I) with which the Mahatma had worked of pampering India's minority Muslims.

Nothing can be so tragic or more reprehensible than Thackeray's remark as it has hurt the national honour and dignity," he said.

But another Shiv Sena leader, the Mayor of Bombay, defended his party chief's statement in public.

'Why can't a prostitute go to parliament if crooks can become politicians?'

NEW DELHI, May 21: Brothel madame Nimmi Bai finished soliciting votes as a candidate in the Indian general election on Monday and went back to promoting her weary prostitutes.

quarter of the Indian capital. "I have been concentrating on the elections since the 10th of this month. Business has gone bush," said the buxom, 51-year-old who describes herself as a madame cum social worker.

to have their children admitted to schools without their fathers being identified.

Gandhi's Congress party. Bai, who spent 20 years as a prostitute before becoming a madame, said she saw nothing wrong in her candidature.



A FLASHBACK: Ms Nimmi Bai, a prostitute, filing her nomination paper to an electoral official fighting for the common people.

Oil still spilling into the Gulf Iraq abolishes Revolutionary Court

BAGHDAD, May 21: Iraq announced on Monday it had abolished the Revolutionary Court a pillar of the Baath Party's iron rule for more than 20 years, reports Reuter.

Hassan Al-Baker, to power. It became a keystone of the Baath apparatus. Judges were party members chosen from outside the regular judiciary, defence lawyers were appointed by the court not

named by the accused. Recent cases which attracted attention abroad were the trial of British engineer Douglas Grand, sentenced last Thursday to 20 years for spying and Farzad Bazof, an Iranian born journalist working for a British newspaper who was hanged for espionage in March 1990.

continuing from all these sources diminishing visibility has prevented investigation into whether there are other sources, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted MEPA as saying in a report.

The Revolutionary Court had sweeping powers to try political cases involving state security and official corruption. Its verdicts, reached in camera were final.

Iraqis warned not to touch bombs. The warplanes of the American-Atlantic aggression dropped cluster bombs on all parts of Iraq, Information Minister Hamid Youssef Hummadi said in a statement reported by the official Iraqi news agency.

The survey team has noticed that the spilling is still

Bush opposes ending sanctions. Meanwhile, President Bush said he opposes ending economic sanctions against Iraq as long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Off the Record

John F Kennedy's affair with Nazi spy!

WASHINGTON: As a 24-year-old Naval intelligence officer thought by the FBI to be spies, says a new book, reports AP.



MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Florida: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II shows US Gen Norman Schwarzkopf and his wife Brenda the medal he received May 20. Schwarzkopf was awarded an honorary knighthood by the Queen making him the 58th US citizen to receive the medal since World War II.

Queen Elizabeth is a lovely lady: Schwarzkopf

FLORIDA: Queen Elizabeth II conferred an honorary knighthood Monday on Gen H Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of US forces in the Gulf War, in a private ceremony shorn of the traditional English pageantry, reports AP.



MOSCOW: Helen Sharman, a 27-year-old process engineer at the Mars Company because the first British astronaut to take part in the joint Soviet British space project launched early this week.

Lankan Tigers kill 9 Muslims

COLOMBO, May 21: Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka shot dead nine Muslim civilians travelling in a trailer in the eastern Ampara district, military sources said Tuesday, report Reuter.

Blast kills 8 cops in Madhya Pradesh

NEW DELHI, May 21: Eight policemen were killed in central India when a pick-up van they were travelling in was destroyed by a land mine laid by Maoist guerrillas, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today, reports AFP.