

Cheney starts foreign tour

WASHINGTON, May 25: US Defense Secretary Dick Cheney will depart Washington Saturday for a 10-day foreign tour...

Defense Department spokesman Pete Williams said Cheney would be received by French President Francois Mitterrand...

The US Defense Secretary also is scheduled to meet with his French counterpart Pierre Joxe...

Cheney then will go on to Tel Aviv. The last stop on the US Defense Secretary's swing will be Cairo.

Alleged Tamil killer arrested

Rajiv had a secret meeting with LTTE representative

NEW DELHI, May 25: The slain former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi recently had a secret meeting with a Tamil guerrilla organisation...

The Hindu, known to have good sources with the Tiger's supporters in India, said Gandhi met the guerrilla representative on March 5...

The paper gave few details of the meeting, but said both sides appeared satisfied with the renewed contact...

The Congress Party spokesman was not immediately available to comment on the report...

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About 200,000 Tamils have fled Sri Lanka to southern India, home to India's own 60 million Tamils...

The suspect was identified as a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)...

The Times of India and other newspapers said police were interrogating the militant...

LTTE guerrillas campaigning for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's northeastern province are known to carry cyanide...

anti-militant was caught near Vedaranyam, coastal town in Tamil Nadu...

No further details were available. Gandhi, 47, died instantly at Sripermpudur...

At least one Indian Federal Minister has blamed the LTTE for the murder...

Gandhi ordered thousands of Indian troops in Sri Lanka in 1987 to crush Tamil separatism...

Film stars pay homage to Rajiv

NEW DELHI, May 25: Large number of film stars were among those who came to pay their homage to the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi...

Amitabh Bachchan a friend of Gandhi was seen helping in making various arrangements for smooth flow of visitors...

The Congress(I) candidate from New Delhi constituency, Rajesh Khanna, and Sanjay Khan...

US watching developments in India

WASHINGTON, May 25: The United States is watching with great interest political developments in India in the wake of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi...

We are watching with great interest as the time-tested process of Indian democracy rights itself from this senseless blow...

We anticipate US Indian relations based on shared democratic values, trade ties nearly 300 years old...

4 mourners burn themselves to death

NEW DELHI, May 25: Four mourners burned themselves to death Friday in the state where former Premier Rajiv Gandhi was killed...

They took the suicide deaths by mourners in Tamil Nadu to six, with two similar incidents reported in the last two days.

PTI said five people were killed in incidents of violence by mourners elsewhere in Tamil Nadu...

In the northeastern state of Tripura, Gandhi's Congress (I) party activists Friday fought with supporters of the Communist Party of India Marxist (CPI-M)...

Two people were killed and four more suffered stab wounds, police were quoted, as saying.



NEW DELHI: Son Rahul (R), widow Sonia (C) and daughter Priyanka (R) turn to chanting mourners during the funeral of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi May 24 at Shakti Sthal on the banks of the holy Yamuna River in the Indian capital.

BRIEFLY

Perez visiting Africa, Europe: UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar left Friday on a three-week tour of Africa and Europe...

His spokesmen, Francois Giuliani, said the UN Chief would meet Saturday in Marrakech with King Hassan of Morocco...

After stopping off in Algiers Sunday, Perez de Cuellar will head to Portugal for the signing on May 31 of agreements between the Angolan Government and US-backed rebels...

Collaborator stabbed to death: A 48-year-old Palestinian man who had been accused by his fellow-Arabs of collaborating with the Israeli occupation forces was found stabbed to death in a Gaza Strip camp...

20 Iraqi hospitals damaged: More than 20 Iraqi hospitals suffered serious damage during the Gulf War, with losses to all health facilities amounting to more than 425 million dollars...

US asks Burma to implement poll results: The US State Department Friday urged Burma to implement last year's election results and release all political prisoners...

US reserves judgement on Lebanon-Syria accord: The US State Department reserved judgment Friday on a treaty that establishes a special relationship between Syria and Lebanon...

Rebels capture Eritrea's capital: A rebel spokesman Friday said fighters of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front have captured long-embattled Asmara, capital of the Ethiopian province of Eritrea...

Arafat warns of renewed stir: Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat Saturday warned of an escalation of violence in the occupied territories...

Pakistan won't cut defence budget

ISLAMABAD, May 25: Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz was on Friday quoted as saying Pakistan would not cut its defence budget despite financial constraints...

Plot to kill Thai Queen: Two charged

BANGKOK, May 25: Authorities have charged two men with conspiring to kill Thailand's queen, a former prime minister and a former army chief of staff...

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Congress now tasting fallout of Indira's dictatorship

NEW DELHI, May 25: With the slain Indian leader Rajiv Gandhi cremated in an atmosphere of national gloom and despair, his fractious Congress Party turned attention to an uncertain future today...

A memorial will be built to Rajiv Gandhi where he was cremated on the banks of the Jamuna, a tributary of the Ganges river sacred to Hindus.

Monday, Congress, challenged from both left and right, had been expected to be the biggest party but without a majority.

Congress promptly elected Sonia Gandhi its leader in an overt attempt to use her as a magnet for sympathy votes in the remaining 60 per cent of voting, postponed to June 12 and 15.

Without a member of the Nehru dynasty at its head, Congress has no nationally-known figure to lead it at a moment of serious crisis for India...

ISLAMABAD, May 25: Spending, and Aziz said "angers to Pakistan's security have increased because of the situation across the border becoming uncertain and instable."

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WASHINGTON: US President George Bush (R) signs a condolence book at the Indian Embassy May 24 as Indian Ambassador, Abid Hussain looks on. Bush paid his respects at the embassy in memory of assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and called for calm in the troubled country.



MOSCOW: Picture released May 24 by Tass showing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's bodyguards. It is the first time in Soviet history that photographers are allowed to take pictures of the KGB secret service bodyguards taking care of the Soviet leaders, Tass said.

Who's Gorbys?

MOSCOW: Did you know that Mikhail Gorbachev was born into a peasant family and started working at the age of 15 as a machine-operator at a tractor station?

You can find this and other information about Mikhail Gorbachev and his close relatives along with other facts in the reference book "Who is Who in World Politics," reports IAN.

Another kind of Operation Desert Storm

BUBAI: The Gulf emirate of Dubai has begun storming buildings in search of rats, which they say have increased to a level that threatens public health...

Poor Japanese bachelors

TOKYO: Japanese bachelors are choosing the single life because the few women they meet want rich and successful men, a recent survey said, reports Reuters.

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