

### Sonia to retain Rajiv's official residence

NEW DELHI, May 30: The Indian government Wednesday decided to allow the family of slain former Premier Rajiv Gandhi to retain their official residence here, and to give a special security cover for their safety, reports AFP.

### Ne Win's wife leaves for China, Singapore

BANGKOK, May 30: Wife of former Burma's military strongman Ne Win left Wednesday for an official visit to China and Singapore, Radio Rangoon said in a broadcast monitored here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Ni Ni Myint left Rangoon for Beijing on a 15-day official visit to the Chinese Capital and Singapore, the radio said.

Mrs Ne Win and four other Burmese academics were invited by authorities of the Beijing University and the Singapore-based Research Department for Southeast Asia, it said. The Burmese delegates will also study historical documents during their visit to both countries, it added.

tow children, Rahul and Priyanka, to continue to live at no. 10, Janpath, officials said.

The fortified house, guarded round the clock by elite security guards and located in a VIP residential district near Parliament House, was allotted to Gandhi as opposition leader after his Congress (I) party lost the last elections in 1989.

Before the assassination Gandhi's party had been tipped to again emerge as front runner in the current elections, to be completed June 15.

He was killed in a bomb attack by unknown assailants at a poll rally in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Home Subodh Kant Sahay announced that the government had decided to give a security cover of elite black commandos to the Gandhi family.

Sahay told reporters here the decision was prompted by the "special circumstances" prevailing after the assassination of Gandhi, which according to initial investigations may have involved the Sri Lankan Tamil Militant Organisation, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE has repeatedly denied involvement.

### Foreign terrorist group behind assassination

# Vest jacket belt-bomb imported from abroad to kill Rajiv

NEW DELHI, May 30: Rajiv Gandhi's murder by a "Human Bomb" was the result of a minutely-planned conspiracy, whose unravelling will depend on the success of efforts to identify the assassin, a minister said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Press reports, meanwhile, quoted investigators in southern India as saying a "foreign force" was definitely involved in the murder and that the woman assassin possibly had a male accomplice who too was wired up with explosives.

Subodh Kant Sahay, Minister of State for Home Affairs, told reporters here that investigators were making all efforts to identify the woman who set off the explosion that killed Gandhi in an obscure southern town on May 21.

He said the entire line of investigation would depend on the identity of the assassin, who also died when the sophisticated plastic explosives she had wired to her body exploded in the town of Sriperumpudur.

"It was a minutely-planned conspiracy", Sahay said of Gandhi's assassination, ruling out the possibility that it was an individual act.

"It is definitely a killing by a terrorist group but at this stage the Investigating Team does not rule out any options and is only concentrating on establishing the identity of the woman", the Minister said.

"The motive of the crime cannot be established till the identity of the woman who allegedly acted as the human bomb is known," he said.

Initial suspicion, with no substantive evidence, centered



NEW DELHI: Senior Congress (I) party figure PV Narasimha Rao (C) gestures to reporters on Wednesday in the Indian capital after being unanimously elected new President of the party, the post held by Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated 21 May by suspected Sri Lankan Tamil leader.

on Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas, who for 32 months fought Indian troops despatched to the island by Mr. Gandhi to end their separatist campaign.

#### A human bomb

The "Human bomb" who killed Gandhi was dark-skinned and wore spectacles, but investigator's efforts to identify her have so far failed.

Sahay said investigations had been hampered because it was the first time that a suicide bomber was involved in the assassination of an Indian

leader. He contrasted it with the 1984 slaying of Gandhi's mother Indira by Sikh gunmen and the 1948 murder of Indian independence hero Mahatma Gandhi (no relation to the slain former premier) by a Hindu fanatic.

The Minister refused comment on the possible involvement of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrilla group.

"I cannot say anything now since the investigation is in very crucial stage and any disclosures will hamper the probe", he said.

Investigators were looking into all possible angles, including the possibility of a domestic or international plot to kill Gandhi, Sahay said.

From Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted official sources as saying that a foreign force was definitely involved in the assassination.

The vest jacket belt-bomb used by the assassin was made

### New Lok Sabha to be convened June 20

NEW DELHI, May 30: India's next Parliament, which is to be elected early next month, will be convened June 20, an announcement from President Ramaswamy Venkataraman's office here said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The second and final rounds of balloting to the 10th Lok Sabha (people's Assembly), or Lower House, are to be conducted June 12 and 15, after being postponed following the assassination of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi.

The first round of voting in the world's largest democracy were held May 20, a day before Gandhi's slaying in a bomb attack by unidentified assailants at a poll rally in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

### BJP demands probe into Rajiv's killing

LUCKNOW, May 30: The Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Atal Behari Vajpayee, today demanded an enquiry into the involvement of foreign agencies in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, reports P.T.I.

Addressing a press conference here, Vajpayee said, detailed investigations had become necessary as a group appeared bent upon subverting democracy in the country by indulging in political assassinations.

In reply to a question, he said since allegations had been made against the Central Intelligence Agency's possible involvement in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, it warrants a thorough probe in this regard too.

## BRIEFLY

### Iraq denies jailing ex-Minister

Iraq on Wednesday denied reports that its ruling Revolutionary Command Council had sentenced to death a former Cabinet member and two ex-ambassadors living in exile, AP from Baghdad says.

An Information Minister statement quoted an unidentified government spokesman as saying the allegation was "entirely baseless."

He added that neither Jawad Hashim, a former planning minister, Jawad Hashim, nor ambassadors Mohammed al-Mashat and Issa al-Rawi have been tried or sentenced in absentia.

Hashim, now a Canadian citizen, said Monday that he and Mashat and Rawi were sentenced to death last week by the RCC, which is chaired by President Saddam Hussein.

Mashat, the former ambassador to the United States, was allowed into Canada earlier this year. He is believed to be in the Vancouver area.

### Klerk meets Winnie Mandela

President F.W. de Klerk met Winnie Mandela and other women from the African National Congress for over five hours Wednesday, but they failed to agree on the fate of jailed activists on a hunger strike, AP from Cape town reports.

The meeting marked Mrs. Mandela's first formal talks with a South African head of state. Ironically, it comes only two weeks after she was convicted on kidnapping charges.

Some observers felt her conviction would damage already strained relations between the government and the ANC, which is led by her husband Nelson Mandela.

### UN to probe N-arms in Iraq

A 35-man team of experts will investigate Iraq's major chemical weapons facility on June 9 in a programme to identify and destroy nuclear, chemical and some ballistic arms, UN officials said Wednesday, reports AP from United Nations.

UN Spokesman Fred Eckhard said in a briefing that the first visit by the team would cover chemical and biological arms and short-range ballistic missiles. He said it was an initial visit and gave no further details.

He also said the head of the UN Iraq Disarmament Commission, Rolf Ekeus of Sweden, would hold talks on Thursday and Friday with Hans Blix, head of the UN Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

He said that Ekeus would advise Blix on the recent, initial visit of a nuclear weapons disposal team to Iraq and their findings and recommendations. Further visits and destruction of weapons on site were expected.

### Saudi plan to boost Gulf security

The defense minister said Wednesday his country would develop a new tank, to be called the Peninsula Shield, to boost Gulf security, reports AP from Al-Kharg.

Prince Sultan told reporters that a decision to produce the tanks was made at a board meeting of the Military Industries Organization.

Saudi Arabia, Prince Sultan said, will "develop the tank known as Peninsula Shield and produce a limited number of it."

He gave no other information about new weapon.

Saudi Arabia has 550 tanks in its arsenal - 300 French-made AMX-30s, 50 American-made M-60As and 200 M-60A3s.

The kingdom has been a major purchaser of Western weapons systems but, like other developing nations, has aspired to develop its own military industry to decrease dependence on the West.

### Hrawi to integrate militia

President Elias Hrawi's government on Wednesday approved a plan to integrate 20,000 militiamen into the army and police in line with an Arab League-brokered plan to end the civil war, reports AP from Beirut.

A government statement said the first stage of the integration process would involve 6,000 irregulars from Christian and Muslim militias that fought in the 16-year-old conflict.

The statement, which came after a six-hour Cabinet session held under Hrawi, said rehabilitation camps would be opened to receive the first batch of militiamen on June 15. It did not say where these camps will be or how long the programme would last.

The militias had agreed to disband and surrender their heavy arms on condition their fighters be rehabilitated to serve in the army, police and other government bodies.

Government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the second stage of the integration would be enforced only after all militias complete disarming.

### Bush notifies lawmakers on MFN

President George Bush on Wednesday formally notified Congress of his intention to extend most-favoured-nation trading status to China for an additional year, AP from Colorado Spring says.

Bush, who had announced his decision on Monday at a speech at Yale University, notified congressional leaders that he was making good on his word.

Congress has 90 days from Wednesday to block the move, an action that would require votes by both chambers of Congress and which Bush could veto.

Most-favoured-nation status bestows on a trading partner the lowest-possible tariffs. The United States grants it to nearly all of its major trading allies.

### New Delhi now disoriented

# India's integrity depends on poll results, says ISS

LONDON, May 30: The integrity of India following the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi will depend on the outcome of elections next month, and particularly on the performance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies said here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

"If the BJP wins an important share of the seats, the very nature of the Indian union will be in question," Francois Heitsbourg warned.

He was speaking on publication of the Institute's Annual Report which said that India, facing economic crisis and religious violence, was "disorientated".

China was "holding its political breath" while awaiting the departure of "The decrepit revolutionaries who still guide its destiny", the institute said.

Pakistan was still seeking stability following the fall of former Prime Minister Benazir

Bhutto. Her successor Nawaz Sharif had to cope with a "limping economy, bad relations with the United States, and the consequences of the Gulf war."

Miss Bhutto was defeated at the ballot box because of "misgovernment and corruption."

East Asia was relatively stable. China was still recovering from the trauma of the Tiananmen Massacre in 1989, and democracy in South Korea was fragile. Peace negotiations in Cambodia were bogged down.

But economic growth was firm in most of the countries in the region, and none was seriously threatened by rebellion.

Japan had experienced a difficult year. The Gulf war had "Resurrected all the old dilemmas about Japan's contribution to the maintenance of international order" and this had repercussions on rela-

tions with the United States.

"The prospect of Japan being seen as a serious participant in the international security arena, with a possible role as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has been dealt a blow."

In Korea "Winds of Change" had begun to blow with the first meeting between the Prime Ministers of North Korea and South Korea since partition" diplomatic success, however, did not compensate for a sense of drift, at times verging on crisis, in South Korea.

"By comparison with the high-flying record of the late 1980s, the economy suffered a marked setback."

Diplomatic efforts to reach a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Cambodia had still not succeeded.

# 'Hundreds of PPP members being tried, tortured'

PARIS, May 30: Several hundred members of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party are still being detained and tried in emergency courts, a Paris-based human rights organization said on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), in a statement released here after a seven-day mission by two French legal experts to Pakistan, said that according to numerous eye-witness accounts most detainees, primarily from the province of Sindh, had been tortured.

The FIDH said it was protesting "once again" against the beating of prisoners.

The organization said it also wished to voice concern over the recent adoption by Pakistan of Islamic Law or

Sharia as the Supreme Law of the land.

Pakistan had made "undeniable progress" in human rights since the end of Martial Law, the statement said, but the FIDH called on the Islamabad government to make efforts to ensure that the trial of Bhutto supporters now

underway were conducted "more in accordance with international standards."

The FIDH said it sent lawyer Etienne Jaudel and Magistrate Alain Girardet to Pakistan to conduct a week-long investigation into human rights from May 20 to 27 they visited.

### 'Soviet Union may return to dictatorship'

LONDON, May 30: The Soviet Union appears to be heading for a return to repression and even "dictatorship" since the reform drive "lost steam" and a "conservative backlash gained momentum", the International Institute for Strategic Studies warned in a report, published on Wednesday, reports AFP.

In its report on 1990, the ISS said President Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of perestroika and glasnost seem to be stagnating. As a result, the Soviet Union risks losing its capacity to solve its inter-linked and complex problems and instead may sink back into an ever more futile and dangerous attempt to work around them.

The report said two factors had "brought the Soviet Union to the brink of chaos. The exploding nationalities problem and the collapsing economy."

The nationalities problem "had increasingly affected Soviet politics since 1986. It erupted fully at the turn of 1989-1990", the London-based ISS said.

### Conservatives down in opinion polls in UK

LONDON, May 30: Support for the ruling Conservative Party was seen to be falling, with the main Opposition Labour Party taking a four point lead in the latest poll, published Thursday, reports AFP.

The left-wing Labour Party stayed level on an equivalent poll taken last month with 41 per cent support, the poll, published in the right-wing 'Daily Mail' newspaper found.

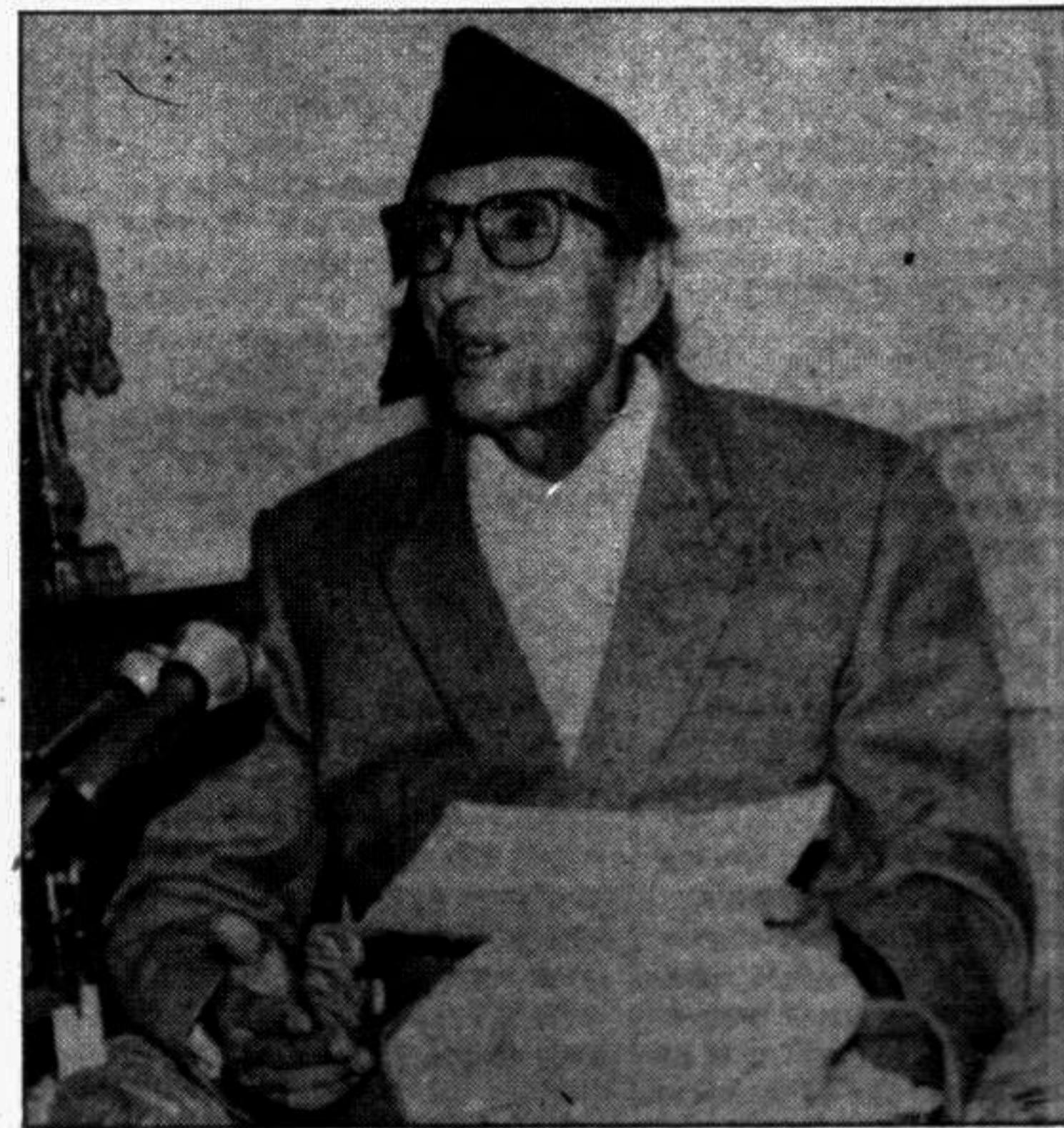
The Conservatives were down two points to 37 per cent. The centrist Liberal Democrats gained two per cent to 16.

Personal support for Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister John Major has also fallen. It was down six points to 35 per cent.

### Police clash with students in Seoul, 20 hurt

SEOUL, May 30: Riot police backed by cannons fought students occupying a busy Seoul street early Thursday near a hospital morgue holding the body of a dead student, witnesses said, reports AP.

About 300 students throwing rocks and firebombs were erected by some 1,500 police who briefly opened the six-lane street to traffic, witnesses said. They said students immediately reoccupied the boulevard after police withdrew.



KATHMANDU: Newly sworn-in Prime Minister Girza Prasad Koirla addresses the press on Wednesday.

## Off the Record

### Khashoggi fined

NEW YORK: Adnan Khashoggi, the rich Saudi businessman known for his fet-set lifestyle, hasn't always kept up on his federal expenses, reports AP.

A travel judge in Manhattan on Wednesday ordered Khashoggi to pay 750,000 dollars to a tour group for airline tickets and other costs that have gone unpaid for years.

US District Judge Kevin T. Duffy imposed the penalty by default after Khashoggi and his lawyers failed to respond to a lawsuit by Mill-Run Tours Inc.

The lawsuit said Khashoggi had violated an agreement to pay Mill-Run Tours 532,000 dollars for travel expenses for himself, family members and friends. The order also awarded Mill-Run Tours interest dating back to 1986.

A woman who answered the telephone at Khashoggi's Manhattan apartment said he was traveling and unavailable for comment.

### Thatcher won't retire

LONDON: Margaret Thatcher says that although she's no longer Britain's prime minister she has no intention of quietly retiring, reports AP.

"I shall not stop making speeches. I shall not stop saying what I think. I shall not stop trying to influence things, because I believe in what I am doing," she said in an interview broadcast on Independent Television News on Tuesday.

Mrs. Thatcher said her departure in the face of a party revolt left the Conservative Party united and going into the general election with a fresh face.

"When you have been in power as I have for nearly 12 years you make a lot of enemies and a lot of people thought there should be a change," she said.

### It was too easy for Bush's son

DENVER: President George Bush's son Neil was disqualified from a tennis tournament last weekend for playing in a bracket that was too easy for him, reports AP.

Bush and partner Bol Shopneck trounced opponents in a doubles match at the Colorado Tennis Association's Clyde Rogers Memorial Day Open.

"Someone officially protested and after a review, he was disqualified," coordinator Harold Aarons said.

Aarons said he believes Bush did not realize he was registered to play a team rated a full point below his US Tennis Association rating of 5.5 on a 10-point scale.

"The bottom line is that it's the player's responsibility. He blew it, as far as that goes," Aarons said.

Bush, involved in a court battle with federal regulators over his role as a director of the failed Silverado Savings and Loan, has an unlisted phone number and could not be reached for comment.

### Sally Field's day

LOS ANGELES: For decades, actress Sally Field has concealed an addiction. Now, the Oscar-winner comes clean: she's obsessed with afternoon soap operas, reports AP.

"I left these people on for one minute and stayed 21 years. They just sucked me in, and I became theirs for life," Miss Field said in a recent interview to publicize her new movie, "Soapdish," opening Friday.

"One Life to Live," "General Hospital" and "All My Children" have been her favourite daytime dramas over the years. The actress now stars as a soap queen spoofing the afternoon TV fixtures.

"When I turned on that soap, it was immediately compelling. I don't know what it was, but there was something different going on and I couldn't stop watching," Miss Field said.

"It's like an illicit love affair or ditching school. You know you should be somewhere else, like at work or out in the sunshine doing something healthy, but you're doing this little secret thing in your bedroom."

In "Soapdish," the actress plays Celeste Talbert on the fictional hit soap "The Sun Also Sets".

Miss Field, television's "Gidget" and "The Flying Nun," won an Oscar for "Norma Rae."

