## 'Gaping holes in security cordon sealed Rajiv's fate'

MADRAS (India), June 6: Gaping holes in his security cordon sealed former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's fate, Indian police and politicians from his Congress party said today, reports Reuter.

They blamed each other for alleged security breaches that enabled a woman suicide bomber to blow him up at an election meeting near the southern city of Madras on May

There was utter failure of security, " said Maragatham Chandra Shekhar, the Congress candidate for the Sriperumpudur Parliamentary constituency where Gandhi died on his arrival to make an election speech.

Police abandoned their positions to eat just before Gandhi was due to arrive for the late night meeting, Chandra Shekhar said, joining the debate between Congress and the government over who was to

"They all fled after the blast, with not even any policeman at the venue to lift the bodies," she said in anger. She was in the intensive care ward of a hospital, being treated for injuries from the bomb that killed 17 other people.

Senior policeman R K Raghavan, who was in-charge of security at Sriperumpudur, implicitly admitted his men

didn't run away after the explosion. I stayed back without any other police and protected the evidence from being disturbed," he said breaking down in sobs.

The assassin with a bomb made from plastic explosive strapped to her waist, managed to elbow her way into the line of people waiting to garland Gandhi, police said. He died moments after being garlanded by the woman whose identity is still unknown.

London says.

Council (SNC).



Police have been criticised for failing to spot the suspected assassin even though she was dressed in brightly coloured clothes of a style uncommon in the south.

The investigation has foeastern Sri Lanka.

#### Border security intensified in Nepal

KATHMANDU, June 6: Border security was intensified in southwestern Nepal following an attack by 13 suspected Sikh terrorists who killed two villagers, a highly placed Nepalese Home Ministry source said today, reports AFP.

The suspected terrorists shot dead two unarmed civilians and plundered shops in the Babathan Bazaar market place in Kanchanpur district, 390 kilometers (244 miles) southwest of Kathmandu yesterday. They then fled to the nearby border with the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh in four jeeps, the source said.

The local administration is investigating the motive for the killings, he said.

There is no reason why "Sikh terrorists should murder Nepalese," he said. "We are trying to identify these attackers and the motives behind the

The official said the local administration had requested the cooperation of Indian border guards in checking on terrorist suspects in the future.

#### India's new Air Chief named

NEW DELHI, June 6: Air Marshal NC Suri, one of the country's most highly decorated officers, has been named Chief of Air Staff and will take office July 31, a defence ministry spokesman said Thursday, reports AFP.

Air Marshal Suri, who until now was Deputy Chief of Air Staff, will replace Air Chief Marshal SK Mehra, the announcement said.

#### Bomb threat for Nawaz Sharif

KARACHI, June 6: A telephoned bomb threat forced hundreds of guests to flee a college meeting due to be addressed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Thursday, police said, reports Reuter.

Nawaz had not yet arrived at the Sindh Medical College convocation which was postponed until the afternoon.

Police bomb disposal squads immediately launched a thorough search as hundreds o guests fled, causing a big traffic jam, witnesses said.

"It was a hoax call," a police said. "But we are not taking any chance."

It was not immediately known who had made the call or the motive behind it.

Police' said the venue for the meeting had been shifted from a public park to a hotel.

#### Heatwave claims 25 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, June 6: At least 25 people died and scores collapsed in a heatwave that has affected southern Pakistan's Sindh province since Sunday, hospital sources said Thursday, reports AFP.

The mercury soared to over 50 degrees Celsius (112 degree Fahrenheit) at several places in upper Sindh from where most of the casualties were reported.

The worst-hit was Khairpur which experienced the hottest temperatures in 40 year, reaching 53 Celsius (127 Fahrenheit) Wednesday, sources in the meteorological office said.

The heatwave killed 22 people in different cities and towns on Sunday and Monday.

Shekhar denies lapses treatment.

holds a mirror to the present and where politics is a game played out in symbols, the timing of the announcement appeared ironic.

It came on the most emo-

### Mauritius asks US to return Chagos islet

The Prime Minister o Mauritius Wednesday called on President George Bush to pursue his disarmament initiative to its "Logical conclusion" and return the Chagos Islands to his country, reports AFP.

tains the Diego Garcia military base in the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, which served as a base for US B-52 bombers during the Gulf war.

Sir Arnerood Jugnauth, the first Mauritian head of state to visit Washington since its independence in 1968, also said the creation of a denuclearised zone in the Indian Ocean should be one of the objectives of the "New World Order."

"I share, Mr President, you vision of this New World Order. I trust this can serve as a guide for the Indian Ocean also," said Sir Arnerood. "That is why we support the move for the Indian Ocean to be a zone of peace and also the establishment of a nuclear free zone in the region."

Bush, who met with the Prime Minister for two hours, said he had emphasised the "Tremendous value" of the US military base to Mauritius and its neighbours as demonstrated by the Island's role in the Gulf war.

posed the plan for a nuclear free zone in the region and said any dispute over the territory should be worked out with Britain, which bought the Island from Mauritius in 1965 and then leased it to the United States.

a 16-year jail term when an official inquiry cast doubt on evi-

Around the time of the property in Australia.

MOSCOW, June 6: Some

The demonstration took Makhachkala in the northern

1,500 Muslims who visited Mecca paid around 5,000 roubles (about 185 dollars at the new tourist exchange rate).

# Benazir's trial vindictive. says Canadian observer

by Brendan P McGivern, a

Canadian legal expert, in

March after witnessing the

proceedings of the tribunals

officials, advocates, politicians

had been sent to the Pakistan

Ms Bhutto said the report

and meeting retired judges,

and newspaper editors.

ISLAMABAD, June 6: Former for seven years if found guilty. Premier Benazir Bhutto said Her jailed husband Asif Ali here Wednesday a Canadian Zardari faces charges under an observer from the Department anti-Terrorism Act. of External Affairs has sup-She told a press conference ported her stand that her trial that the report was prepared

and vindictive, reports AFP. The Special Tribunals were set up after her dismissal by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August 1990 on charges of corruption, abuse of power and mismanagement.

by special courts was one sided

Ms Bhutto is being tried on eight counts of misconduct and misuse of power and can be disqualified from politics

BEIJING, June 6: The suicide of Mao Tsetung's widow Jiang Qing, once China's most hated woman and last seen shrieking with fury in a televised trail, was announced without fanfare or comment in the official media Wednesday, reports Reuter.

For many Chinese people, the emotion-laden trial of Jiang in 1980 exorcised the demons of the cultural revolution, a 10-year period of political chaos that ended in 1976 when Jiang was arrested with other members of the "Gang of Four."

It marked a new beginning, an era of hope and promise under China's present leader, Deng Xiaoping.

The 'People's Daily' Wednesday carried news of Jiang's death in a small report on its back page headlined simply "Jiang Qing commits suicide." It repeated in the terse

'New China News Agency' announcement on Tuesday that Jiang killed herself on May 14 in a residence in Beijing where she was receiving medical

In a country where history

tionally-charged day of the

WASHINGTON, June 6

The United States main-

The White House said it op-

## dence against them.

Hilton bombing, India had blamed Ananda Marga (path of eternal bliss) for a series of attacks on its diplomats and

#### Soaring cost of pilgrimage to Mecca resented

1.000 Soviet Muslims demonstrated over the soaring cost of their annual pilgrimage to Mecca, which has risen by some 500 per cent since last year, the Independent Interfax News Agency said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

place on Tuesday in the city of

In 1990, the more than

#### government recently and it ' making remarks publicly in represents a moral victory for contempt of the special courts. us because it vindicates our 'I was Chairman



modern calendar - the second anniversary of the crushing of the pro-democracy movement - and act that for many Chinese citizens turned Deng into a national villain like

Jiang had ordered the violent suppression of an earlier round of anti-government protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on April 5, 1976, and blamed Deng for the turmoil.

Deng fell into political disgrace but bounced back as undisputed leader to put the "Gang of Four" on trial. On Monday night, students

at Beijing University smashed bottles to show their anger at Deng for the decision to use tanks and machineguns against unarmed civilians to crush the pro-democracy movements.

Smashing bottles is a protest that plays on Deng's given name, which rhymes with "Little Bottle."

"After all these years she's finally dead," said one middleaged Beijing woman on hearing the news. "Suicide? I never thought she would commit suicide."

Suicide seemed an unlikely end for Jiang, portrayed as a

monster during her trial at which she remained unrepen-

Chairman. "I was Chairman Mao's dog.

late Chinese Communist Party

Jiang's 1981 death sentence was commuted to life impris-

'The New China News

The delay of three weeks in announcing Jiang's death indicates an official nervousness in a country where public figures, disgraced or honoured, exert an influence even beyond the grave. While alive, she provided Chinese leaders with the perfect villain on which to blame the political evils of the past under ultra-leftist rule.

swered the potentially explosive question of who ultimately was to blame for the 'Cultural Revolution' \_ the 'Gang of Four', or 'Mao Tsetung', or the system of Communism he created and which his successors are pledged to uphold.

dents said on Wednesday they had not heard about Jiang's death, which was not reported on the morning Radio news. When told, their reaction was stunned surprise, and none passed comment.

## Off the Record

#### A cure for paralysis?

Wednesday that they were able to regenerate injured nerve pairing spinal cord damage, reports AP.

"Finding that it is possible to positively influence regeneration of adult human nerve cells is critical to the development of treatment strategies aimed at repairing the damaged spinal

Bunge, scientific director of the Miami paralysis research group, worked on the study with Dr. James Hopkins of the National Eye Institute.

Their findings were published Wednesday in the June issue of the journal Experimental Neurology.

this year in a competing research project. Previous studies have had success with laboratory animals, but failed to duplicate the results with human nerve tissue. Until these studies, people with spinal cord injuries were

neuro-degenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease. "It's an advancement because humans are resistant to regeneration," said Dr. Ronald Meyer, associate professor of developmental biology at the University of California at Irvine. He has been successful in regenerating retinal nerve fibers in

## **Tiniest writing**

for tiny writing, inscribing 1,314 characters on a grain of rice, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said yesterday, reports Reuter.

guinness book of records, wrote the names of 168 countries and regions on a single grain of rice, the agency said. Apharya, who works at the Jatpur branch of the archaeolog-

ical survey of India in the desert state of Rajasthan, set his first record last year with 638 characters on one rice grain,

the guinness book of records, PTI said.

#### Graham courting biggest names

SAN FRANCISCO: Rock promoter Bill Graham is courting some of the biggest names in music to perform at a concert

"No disrespect to the Kurds' problem and the Bangladesh problem, but the difference between jungle life and civilized life is education," said Graham.

Santana and the Grateful Dead, Graham raised 400,000 dollars for San Francisco's school athletics programmes. His first benefit back in 1966 raised 16,000 dollars to buy a school bus for a Berkeley alternative school. He also was in-

volved with the Live Aid for Africa and the Amnesty International Tours benefits. He launched his latest campaign on Sunday, inviting gui-

Graham's plans call for a march on state lawmakers in

October.



cused on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a well armed and battle-hardened guerilla force fighting for an independent Tamil nation in north-

# 

Foreign Minister Don Mekinnon Thursday welcomed news that the South African parliament had voted to repeal two apartheid laws, the group areas act and the land acts, AFP from Wellington says. "The repeal of these racist laws marks a watershed in

Repeal of laws welcomed: New Zealand

South Africa," Mckinnon said in a statement. "The repeal of these acts leaves only one remaining pillar of apartheid, the population registration act, which enforces race classification at birth."

2 killed in Afghan blast: Rebels caused

an explosion at a hotel in the western Afghan town of Herat on Wednesday, killing two people and seriously wounding four, the official Kabul Radio said, Reuter from Islamabad reports.

Islamabad, did not explain what caused the explosion at the town's Benazir Hotel. It blamed the blast on "criminal extremists," a term the Soviet-backed Kabul government uses for the western-sup-

The broadcast, monitored in the Pakistani capital

ported guerillas fighting it. Commonwealth meeting postponed: A meeting of ten Commonwealth leaders scheduled for London next week has been postponed because of political events in India and Australia, it was announced Wednesday, AFP from

Instead, the meeting to the high level appraisal group will be held immediately before the Commonwealth Summit, which takes place in Harare, Zimbabwe, October 16-22, said Commonwealth Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku. Events in India, including the murder of former Prime

Minister Rajiv Gandhi, as well as political developments in Australia, where Prime Minister Robert Hawke last weekend barely survived a challenge to his leadership, made the attendance of either premier impossible, Anyaoku added. Ghozali named as Algeria's new PM: Algerian President Chadli Benjedid named former Foreign

previous government for failing to stop fundamentalist violence, Reuter says from Algiers. The Algerian Press Agency (APS) said Ghozali, a former

Minister Sidi Ahmed Ghozali as the country's new Prime

Minister on Wednesday less than 24 hours after sacking the

engineer, was holding consultations to form a new government. Earlier on Wednesday, Chadli dismissed the government of Mouloud Hamrouche, imposed a state of stege throughout the country and postponed the first multi-party general elections,

#### due to be held on June 27, since independence. 68 die of cholera in India: A spreading cholera epidemic has killed 68 people in the Northern State of Uttar Pradesh over the last 11 days, the Press Trust of

India (PTI) said Wednesday, AFP from New Delhi says. Hundreds of more have been infected with the disease, state government officials were quoted by PTI as saying in the State Capital of Lucknow, where the epidemic erupted May

It was since spread to at least five more Uttar Pradesh dis-

A total of 811 more people have been affected by the disease, officials reportedly said, but PTI did not give details. UN Council members to meet in Paris: The five permanent members of the UN Security Council will meet soon in Paris to discuss the failure of the Cambodian

tricts- Ftehpur, Faizabad, Shaharanpur, Basti and Kanpur.

peace talks, a French Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday, AFP from Paris reports. It follow the inconclusive end of three days of negotiations on Tuesday in Jakarta, Indonesia, where the warring factions could not agree on the leadership of their Supreme National

The French spokesman Daniel Bernard, did not give any

date for the Paris meeting, but said that even though agreement wasn't reached, the Security Council sponsored peace process was continuing . Kabul apologises for bombing in USSR: The Afghan government has apologised for bombing a Soviet

The pilot thought he was bombing a concentration of Afghan Mujahideen rebels in Badakhshan province, which borders the Soviet Union, on Tuesday morning. In fact he attacked the village of named-Guti in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tajikstan, killing four people

village by mistake and killing four people, the Soviet Foreign

Ministry said on Wednesday, Reuter from Moscow reports.

wounding nine and causing material damage.

#### in protecting Rajiv NEW DELHI, June 6: Prime tion rally near Madras. The there had been lapses in protecting the former Prime Min-

Minister Chandra Shekhar says he had warned his predecessor Rajiv Gandhi about his lowlevel security because Gandhi had been "breaking the rules,"

which also has a large Tamil

population. As prime minister,

he had sent Indian forces to

intervene in the civil war in

reports AP. But Gandhi, who was killed by a suicide assassin May 21, wanted to be closer to the people, and no one could have expected a threat from a human bomb, Chandra Shekhar said in an interview published Thursday in 'The Hindu' news-

Wednesday they were doubling the reward to one million rupees (50,000 dollars) for information leading to the identification of the young woman who strapped the bomb around

her waist or her accomplice.

insulate himself from the pub-

Despite Gandhi's refusal to

Investigators announced

ister, who led the government from 1985 to 1989.

"Never before anywhere in the world, this human bomb was used to kill a VIP (very important person). This was a novel method for which we were not ready," he said. "Nobody knew that anybody would make himself or herself a live bomb and will jump upon a VIP."

He said 1,400 policemen

were on duty for Gandhi's visit to the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Of the 18 people who were killed, including Gandhi and the assassin, 12 were policemen or bodyguards, he said. Opposition leaders on

Wednesday criticized the gov-

ernment in parliament, alleg-

ing that standard precautions

crowd had not been checked with metal detectors, and no ambulance had been on alert nearby. Chandra Shekhar said he had urged Gandhi not to take

chances with his life. "There were reports that security arrangements were not working well with Rajiv Gandhi because he was breaking the rules and all that. So I had a talk with him because the security personnel told me

that I should talk to him. "I told him, 'Don't do it because the threat is there," the

prime minister said. He did not say when the conversation took place, but other reports said intelligence officials circulated a warning several weeks earlier that Gandhi could be a target of various terrorist groups.



SHIMABARA, Japan: Japan Self Defense Forces' (JSDF) armoured personnel carrierbulldozer searches for bodies of victims June 5 in the ash-covered area devastated by the massive eruption of Mt Unzen June 3. Thirty-one are presumed dead as a result of the

## Australian acquitted of plot to kill Morarji Desai

The bomb exploded in a

Conviction for killing 3 quashed

SYDNEY, June 6: An Australian was acquitted by a Sydney court today of charges of murdering three people with a bomb meant to kill former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai, reports Reuter.

eruption.

An Appeal court quashed the conviction of Tim Anderson, a former member of India's Ananda Marga religious sect, who was jailed for 14 years last November. It ruled there would be no new trial over the 1978 bombing. Anderson, 38, a post-gradu-

ate student of politics, has

protested his innocence since

being arrested two years ago

and charged with mastermind-

ing the bombing outside

Sydney's Hilton hotel during a

Commonwealth Heads of

Government meeting.

A Lower court had heard evidence from main prosecution witness Evan Pederick, another former sect member who said he had made and placed the bomb at Anderson's

direction.

rubbish bin, killing two

garbage collectors and a po-

Pederick, a civil servant, was jailed for 20 years in September 1989 for the murder of the three bomb victims. New South Wales Chief Judge Murray Gleeson, sitting with two other judges, said case against Anderson de-

pended mainly on Pederick's

evidence, which was shown to

be unreltable. The verdict acquitting Anderson brought screams and

loud clapping from about 60 of his supporters in the court-Robert Brook, one of those

campaign to free Anderson,

AFP/UNB —Photo

told reporters outside the court that there must be an official probe into the case. "We need an inquiry into Anderson's conviction, into Evan Pederick's conviction and into the wider implications of

the criminal justice system."

Anderson and two other

members of the Ananda Marga sect had been convicted in 1979 of conspiracy to murder the leader of an extreme rightwing group by placing a bomb at his home. The "Ananda Marga Three,"

as they were known, were released after serving six years of

involved in the hard-fought

Caucasus, Interfax said.

schools with state educators.

Ms Bhutto again called the special tribunals 'Kangaroo

courts' and said she was ready to go to jail for holding this

A special tribunal in Karachi has charged her mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, with

The report as released to

reporters by the opposition

leader, says the laws under

which Ms Bhutto and her hus-

band are being tried do not

meet even the minimum stan-

dards of due process of law.





If he said bite someone, I bit him," she snapped at her ac-

onment.

Agency' report saying she had been released from custody for medical treatment on May 4,1984, flatly contradicted repeated official assertions over the past several years that she

Her death still leaves unan-

A number of Beijing resi-

MIAMI: Researchers seeking a cure for paralysis said fibers from the eye, a step toward the long-sought goal of re-

Scientists at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis said they regenerated injured fibers from the eye's retinal ganglion cells in a special culture.

cord," said Dr. Richard Bunge.

European researchers presented similar findings earlier

given no hope for recovery. But experts say the new findings could lead to applications to repair spinal cord injuries and

NEW DELHI: An Indian has broken his own world record Surendra Kumar Apharya, who has featured twice in the

then broke it again with 1,136. Apharya's latest record will feature in the 1992 edition of

to benefit California's schools, reports AP.

Organising a benefit for education is in some ways getting back to his roots. In 1975, with the help of Bob Dylan,

tarist Carlos Santana, Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead, and Paul Kantner of Jefferson Starship to discuss the state of the

Sacramento "as soon as possible," and a rock benefit in