NEW DELHI, May 25 : India

has moved to seek the extradi

tion of the chief of the

Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eelam (LTTE) from Sri Lanka

in connection with the Rajiv

Gandhi assassination, newspa-

pers said here Monday, re-

Home Minister S B Chavan as

saying Sunday his ministry had

forwarded the request for the

extradition of Vilupillai

Prabhakaran and other ex-

tremists" to India's Ministry of

for Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist

last week as the primary and

secondary accused in the May

21, 1991 a assassination of the

former Indian Prime Minister.

militia and opposition

Mujahideen guerillas, leaving

several people dead, residents

and guerilla sources said

Abdul Rashid Dostam clashed

for several hours with guerillas

of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's

Hezb-i-Islami late Sunday in

the city's three southern dis-

Hekmatyar insists that the

militia leave Kabul, saying he

will not participate in the in-

terim government that came

to power with their help a

were killed in the fighting."

said a spokesman from

Hekmatyar's headquarters in

the Prime Minister's office

The spokesman said he did

not have exact details of the

fighting, nor would he give

details of casualties suffered by

the Hezb guerillas in Kabul's

Bin Hissar, Kalauchar and Shau

"At least 18 Dostam men

month ago unless they do.

Uzbek fighters of general

Monday, reports AFP.

tricts, they said.

They are among 41 people

Prabhakaran, the supremo

The National Herald quoted

ports AFP.

External Affairs.

SANTAFE DE BOGOTA, May 25: The Colombian armed forces clashed with rebels in the northwest of the country Sunday, in heavy fighting that has left at least 13 soldiers dead, a military spokesman said, reports AFP.

Troops backed by helfcopters have been battling about 600 rebel soldiers of the Colombian revolutionary armed forces (FARC) in a zone between Dabeiba and Mutata in Antioquia Department, 600 ktlometers northwest of Santafe de Bogota, for the past two days.

Fierce fighting has prevented the recovery of the bodies of the 13 victims, army spokesmen said in Medellin, the capital of Antioquia.

Fourteen soldiers were injured and 20 have gone missing, the army said

It was not known how many rebels had been killed, but witnesses and rebel sources said the number was high.

The unconfirmed rebel reports seemed to lend credibility to telephone calls by selfidentified rebel spokesmen to Medellin radio stations, asking the Red Cross to help wounded rebels on the battlefield. The rebels' plea was the first of its kind in more than 40 years of armed conflict.

Authorities in Dabeiba declared a curiew and banned sales of alcohol, fearing the guerillas would try to occupy the town.



ISLAMABAD: Indian diplomat Rajesh Mittal (R) is helped

to undress for a medical examination by an Indian High Commission doctor Sunday after he was kidnapped and beaten by Pakistani security officer, according to allegations made by the High Commission. Pakistan expelled Mittal, the High Commission's number four - AFP/UNB photo man, charging him with espionage

BREFFEY

Pak minister in Kabul: Pakistani Labour Minister Ejaz-ul-Haq arrived Sunday with a personal message from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for Afghan interim President Sibgatullah Mojaddedi, diplomats said, AFP reports from Kabul.

Ejaz, the elder son of late president Mohammed Zia-ul Haq, who was known for his tough stand against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, was warmly received by senior officials and Mujahideen commanders.

After disembarking from his plane Ejaz kissed Afghan soil and emotionally embraced officials. Diplomats said he delivered a message from Sharif to Mojaddedi.

The contents of the letter were not immediately known. But Afghan television reported that the minister assured Pakistan's full support in the reconstruction of the war ravaged country.

Thai newsman wounded: A reporter was wounded when four men on motorcycles fired shotguns

at journalists waiting at an air force base for the possible departure of Thailand's ousted Prime Minister, General Suchinda Kraprayoon, a newspaper spokesman said Monday, Reuter reports from Bangkok.

The shooting happened about an hour before midnight on Sunday when nine reporters were outside Bangkok's main military airport hoping to catch a glimpse of Suchinda, who announced his resignation on Sunday, a spokesman for

mass-circulation That Rath newspaper said. The motorcyclists fired 12 rounds in their direction,

wounding a Thai Rath reporter, the spokesman said. Suchinda's whereabouts are now a mystery but he is still

Israeli planes raid Shi'ite base: Israeli warplanes attacked Shi'ite Muslim guerilla bases in southern Lebanon on Monday, killing three people, police reported. It was the third such raid in five days, AP reports

from Lebanon. Police said two fighter-bombers and two Cobra helicopter gunships took part in the 6:30 am (0330 GMT) raid on two villages that are traditional strongholds of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God. There was no immediate confir-

mation by Israeli officials. The victims were killed in a two-storey villa built by a Shi'ite business tycoon and believed used by guerrillas outside Jibsheet, police said.

Hezbollah fighters cordoned off the stricken area, allowing only ambulances to race in and out as they searched for more victims in the villa's rubble, police added.

Two union official arrested: Algerian authorities have arrested two union officials who lead a strike last week at the El Hajar Steelworks in the east of the country, officials said, reports AFP from Algiers.

Dilmi Derradji, Secretary General of the Steelworks Labour Union Council, and council member Lahlu Hocine were charged with carrying out unauthorized activities after the local branch of the government-backed General Union of Algerian Workers suspended the entire council.

Their arrest was ordered by a court in Annaba after a complaint was filed my management at the El Hajar steel plant, which employs 18,000 workers.

2400 held in China: Police have arrested more than 2,400 people in China's freewheeling special economic zone of Shenzhen in a renewed campaign against the "seven evils" that have grown along with the area's

prosperity, reports AFP from Hong Kong. The semi-official Hong Kong China News Service said the crackdown, which began in March, had focused on prostitu-

tion, pornography and gambling. More than 60 prostitution syndicates have been smashed

and more than 1,200 prostitutes arrested, it said. The others arrested included some 900 gamblers and 150

drug traffickers or addicts. Other 'evils' that make up the list include kidnapping,

drug dealing, feudal superstition and participation in organised crime societies.

US may offer to

WASHINGTON, May 25: The United States is considering proposals to limit nuclear weapons testing, the Washington Post reported today, says Reuter.

The proposals range from halving the number of underground nuclear explosions from six to three a year to a more sweeping plan that would virtually halt nuclear testing by 1995, the paper said quoting unnamed officials.

No US agency supports last October.

Red alert in

told reporters that there was erupted again in Kabul no electricity in the area when longing to the United Nations overnight between Uzbek the fighting broke out.

of Prabhakaran

charged, 26 of them Sri

Lankans, asked whether

Colombo was likely to accede

to the request, Chavan told the

United News of India: "We

ted prime facie Prabhakaran's

involvement in the crime and

hence there should not be any

Gandhi was assassinated at

an election rally in southern

India by a woman suicide

bomber who detonated a mas-

sive explosive charge strapped

The charge sheet filed in a

Madras court last week alleged

that Prabhakaran personally

masterminded the killing in

revenge for Gandhi's having

sent Indian troops to Sri Lanka

Hekmatyar men clash with

Uzbeks: Several killed

to her waist when she pre

tended to touch his feet.

problem."

hope so. At least it had admit-

There were many civilian casualties," said one resident adding that the two sides fought with rockets and guns from their respective bunkers.

Dostam has placed his men in the south of the city to keep the Islamic fundamentalist fighters out, but the residents said the Hezb guerillas had occupied portions of the three districts.

Sunday's fighting followed shelling of the area Thursday and Friday despite a neutral Mujahideen commission's announcement that the battle for Kabul had ended.

Hospitals in Kabul report receiving several casualties and injured people every day from the city's suburbs where rival guerillas are entrenched in face to-face positions.

Sporadic shelling in the south continued today, but details of casualties were not

"We are trying to find out, said another official from Hezb's headquarters here.

jacked another staff car bein the unpoliced city of Kabul after beating up the vehicle's driver, sources said here today.

in 1987 to curb Tamil sepa-

ratism, and to prevent his re-

May 14 after accusing the

group of assassinating Gandhi

and supporting secessionist

movements in southern India.

rity forces are currently bat-

tling the LTTE in the island's

northeast, Colombo has ruled

out banning the guerillas, argu-

ing that it would prejudice a

possible solution to the island's

ernment may agree to the ex-

tradition of Prabhakaran and

Amman, there is still the ma-

jor problem of arresting them

from the Tiger-controlled

Tamil heartland of the Jaffna

Though the Sri Lankan gov-

dragging ethnic conflict.

peninsula.

Although Sri Lankan secu-

India outlawed the LTTE on

Three Mujahideen fighters held up a car belonging to the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) late Sunday at gunpoint in the city's Kalaifatullah district and ordered its occupants to get out, UN sources said.

The hijackers clubbed the car driver when he tried to resist, dragged him out of the vehicle and drove it away, they

Sunday's hijacking was the second incident involving UN vehicles in Kabul, where several complexes belonging to the world body have either been occupied by guerillas or looted by unidentified people since the April 28 handover of power to an interim Islamic government

Afghan residents too have reported scores of car thefts from the city's Microrayon district. Many have begun selling their automobiles because of the security situation in the

India seeks extradition Off the Record

She's more a writer than a rock star

MINNEAPOLIS: Don't confuse Ingrid Chavez with Sheila E, Vanity Apollonia or other Prince proteges. The singer-poet actress says she's more a writer than a rock star, reports AP. "If I lived in a different era, it would be Paris in the 20s." said Chavez, a fan of Parisian cases and silent-screen actress Louise Brooks. "I fell in love with the people there."

Chavez, 27, is an American with a big following in Europe and Japan. Her self-titled debut album, co-written, co-produced and co-performed by Prince, has received some US

airplay but has gotten a better reception overseas. Marketing Chavez in the United States may be a challenge. Her dreamy song-poems have a pulsating rhythm well-suited to clubs and discos, but they're a bit offbeat for top 40 radio.

Her ex-husband convicted wrongfully

SYDNEY: Lindy Chamberlain, wrongfully convicted of the 1980 murder of her baby daughter Azaria, was finally granted compensation yesterday, but the amount fell far short of her Australian dollar 5 million (US dollar 3.8 million) claim, reports Reuter.

Chamberlain, who maintained the nine-week-old child was taken by a Dingo from a campsite near Ayers rock in August 1980, was paid a dollar 900,000 (US dollar 680,000), the northern territory government announced;

Her ex-husband, Michael, wrongfully convicted of complicity in the murder, received a dollar 400,000 (US dollar 300,000).

"This matter is now at an end," Northern Territory

Attorney-General Daryl Manzie said in a statement. Lindy Chamberlain, whose pent three years in jail after one of Australia's most bizarre and controversial criminal cases,

was not immediately available for comment.

US to become outcrop of new monuments

WASHINGTON: The people of America are giving their capital an outcrop of new monuments, reports AP.

There'll be one to honour Franklin Delano Roosevelt, one for Francis Scott Key, one for the blacks who fought in the War of Independence, one for combatants of the Korean conflict, one for the 11,000 women who served in Vietnam and one for all women who aided the cause in America's wars.

And amidst the granite and bronze, one leafy garden will be built, intended to invoke thoughts of peace.

Ground was broken last September for the FDR Memorial, ending decades of debate over how the nation should pay distinct tribute to a leader who changed the relationship of the people to their government.

Previous designs - two abstract columns, dubbed 'instant Stonehenge," and rose garden - had been discarded. And Congress was slow coming up with the money. The memorial now is to be completed by 1995.

Like all it has a beginning and an end

ROME: Giovanni Falcone, the magistrate killed by an alleged Mafia bombing, was a good-humoured, handsome hero who believed that organized crime could be defeated despite the tough odds, reports AP.

"The Mafia isn't unbeatable," Falcone once told an interviewer. "The Mafia is a human entity, and like all humans it has a beginning and an end".

Falcone began fighting organized crime in the 1960s when he was assigned to a small Sicilian town.

" In 1978, he was assigned to Palermo, and he soon began handling the island's top Mafia cases, including the 1982 assassination of another national hero, General Carlo Alberto

Dalla Chiesa. Like Dalla Chiesa, Falcone was killed along with his wife, 46-year-old Francesca, a Palermo judge. She died a few hours

after her husband did in the same hospital.

Falcone was sent to Sicily by Rome just 100 days ago to lead the state's war against the Mafia.

Iran-Contra scandal

Clines first man to serve 16-month term machine guns, grenades and

WASHINGTON, May 25 Arms middleman and retired CIA officer Thomas Clines on Monday will become the first participant in the Iran-Contra scandal to go to prison, reports AP.

Clines is scheduled to serve a 16-month term at Camp McKean, a minimum-security federal correctional facility in Bradford County, his lawyer, Tom Spencer, Said Sunday

A federal appeals court refused to let Clines remain free while he appeals his convictions for failing to disclose to the US government some of the profits he made from arms deals for the Nicaraguan Contras.

Clines is asking the US Supreme Court to review his case.

In 1985 and 1986, Clines assisted the secret Contra aid network run by White House aide Oliver North, who was assigned by Reagan administration higher-ups to help the rebel force when Congress cut off military aid.

Clines used his contacts in the Communist East Bloc and western Europe to arrange the purchase and delivery of rifles,

explosives to the Contras fighting Nicaragua's then-leftist government. A federal court jury in

Baltimore found Clines guilty on September 18, 1990 of four felonies, including failing to report to the Internal Revenue Service more than 260,000 dollars in profits from the arms shipments.

He also was convicted of failing to tell the IRS about overseas financial accounts.

"He basically failed to file a piece of paper with the government," said Spencer. "This was a situation in which the prosecutors decided they were going to get him and then they scoured hundreds of thousands of federal statutes to determine what they could get him on. This is the best they could come up with."

Richmond, Va. upheld Clines' convictions in February. Spencer said he expected

A federal appeals court in

his client to serve about half of the 16-month term. Clines is an executive for

Panex Corporation of McLean, Va, an international security consulting firm.

Sihanouk for Cambodian unity

FREY VENG (Cambodia). May 25 : Prince Nordom Sthanouk launched an appeal for Cambodian unity here today, urging the Khmer Rouge to abide by a United Nations peace plan, reports AFP.

The Khmer Rouge have been accused of using delaying tactics in the Supreme National Council (SNC) in an attempt to slow down the implementation of UN peace

plan. The SNC groups the four Cambodian factions and was established to embody the country's sovereignty during a transition period leading to elections early next year.

MOSCOW, May 25: The former Soviet Union is an environmental nightmare with pollution of every sort, including the nuclear poisoning of land and water resources from the Arctic to China and from Chernobyl to the Pacific rim,

official reports say. Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, successor to the Soviet Union, will be looking to next month's earth summit in Brazil for assistance in clearing up some of the worst damage caused by decades of breakneck industrialisation, reports AFP.

The UN conference is to be attended by more than 100 heads of government and 185 delegations totalling 30,000 people.

Massive radio-active fallout resulting from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in the Ukraine is the best known case of pollution in the former Soviet Union but represents only the tip of the leeberg.

CIS an environmental nightmare with pollution In fact Chernobyl was only one of several such cases. Nuclear weapons testing in the 1950s left parts of the northeast of the country heavily contaminated, while accidents such as one affecting a nuclear storage facility in the southern Urals led to the interdiction on a huge area in the late 1950s.

their separation.

Nuclear fallout from Chernobyl poisoned large tracts of land in the West of the former union and killed over 6,000 people, according to the latest Ukrainian Government figures.

There have also been dozens of cases of radio-active leaks from nuclear power stations, most recently near St Petersburg official reports, long kept secret, now speak of nuclear waste, including aging nuclear submarines, dumped or scuttled at sea in the Arctic Ocean.

A coordination council for ecological questions, appointed by the Russian presidency, in

February drew an apocalyptic picture of the environmental situation in Russian federation, the largest of the former Soviet republics.

Oil leaks from pipelines criss-crossing Siberia, acid rain from giant industrial plants. and untreated chemical wastes pumped into rivers and lakes have turned large parts of the country into disaster areas, the report said.

Among the areas worst affected, the council pointed to the lower Volga Basin whose waters drain into the Caspian Sea, the coal mining Kuzbass region of Siberia, areas of central Yakutia, the Amur river bordering China and the heavily-militarized Kola Peninsula in the northwest.

Other CIS republics have also been badly hit. Armenia's Sevan Lake has turned form light blue to dark grey and produces only a few tons of fish per year, compared to 600 tons 10 years ago. Damage is blamed on the heavy use of fertilizers in the countryside and the diverting of water from its main affluent.

In the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan, one in three children die at birth in the city of Lsumgait, a sprawling petrochemical city on the shore of the Caspian Sea, according to medical reports quoted by western experts.

The situation is as bad around the Aral Sea, in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, where the diversion of waters for cotton production has resulted in the silting up of the sea and the turning of agricultural land into desert.

In Siberia, the giant lake Baikal, the largest fresh water reservoir in the world, is also threatened by pollution as wood-pulping factories and other chemical plants pour waste into

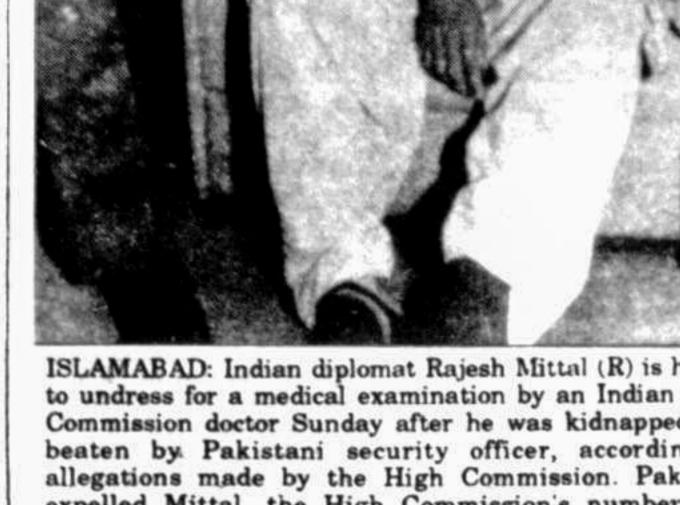
In an overall depressing picture even the cities are in a bad way, with Moscow considered one of the most polluted in the world.

Wan in Tokyo to normalize relations

TOKYO, May 25: Wan Li, chairman of the National People's China's Parliament, arrived here today for an eightday stay amid a deepening dispute over a possible visit to china by Japanese Emperor Akihito, reports AFP.

Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin, is to meet Japanese leaders included Prime Minister Kitchi Miyazawa, Foreign Minister Michio Watnabe and the emperor.

Wan, 'accompanied by Vice



limit N-test

Yeltsin's demand that Washington immediately join the nuclear testing moratorium that Russia announced

POONCH, May 25: A red alcrt was sounded in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch after police found explosives in several areas, reports PTI.

Poonch, Rajouri

An explosion was averted as the police and intelligence wing of the border security force defused an anti-tank mine planted along the Mendhar-Balnot road before it could cause any damage, offi-

cial sources said.

The sources described this incident as the handiwork of the Pak military intelligence network. Interservices intelligence, to intensify insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir, especially the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri to create panic and harassment among people in general.



ITALY: The coffin containing the body of anti-Mafia judge Giovanni Falcone is brought into the Court of Justice building by officials on Sunday. Falcone, his wife and three bodyguards - AFP/UNB photo

were killed by an explosion on a highway near Palermo on Saturday. Winnie suspended from Women's League

JOHANNESBURG, May 25: The African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) in the Johannesburg region suspended its President Winnie Mandela and the entire executive, her powerbase, an ANC regional spokeswoman said to-

ANCWL Sunday decided on the suspensions after half the executive offered to resign, the spokeswoman told AFP. It was felt suspending the entire executive, which was re-elected with Mandela as president only on May 3.

A regional meeting of the

spokeswoman said. But a source who attended the meeting told the domestic news agency SAPA the suspensions were a "concerted effort

would permit a thorough re-

view, and was preferable to

piecemeal resignations, the

to clip her (Mandela's) wings." It coincided with a further blow when ANC Information Director Pallo Jordan told the Sunday papers she was under investigation for alleged fraud in her department.

Beset by rumours that she was involved in murders and assaults, Mandela, 58, has thrown herself into campaigning for victims of township violence, bolstering her claim to political rehabilitation.

Some 40 regional members of the ANCWL unveiled a social welfare support committee at ANC regional headquarters here Thursday to call for her reinstatement as head of ANC social welfare.

She resigned that post on

April 15, two days after her

husband, ANC President

Nelson Mandela, announced

flights during an overseas fund-raising trip last year. the Sunday Times here that shortly before her resignation as head of social welfare, dozens' of summonses from

WINNIE MANDELA

iewellers and clothing stores seeking payment had been delivered to her department.

The ANCWL's national exec-

utive committee in a statement

Sunday disassociated itself

from the Winnie supporters,

saying they were "innocent,

uninformed women who have

been misled into believing they

were involved in a principled

the Sunday Press reported that

Mandela and her supposed

lover, sacked ANC lawyer Dali

Mpofu, squandered 400,000

rands (142,857 dollars), on

top class hotels and concord

A senior ANC source told

As for the fraud allegations,

demonstration.