

Destruction of shrine

Protests on in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, May 16: Police used tear gas and batons to disperse hundreds of Kashmiri Muslims who poured into the streets of downtown Srinagar Tuesday to protest against last week's destruction of a historic mosque, reports AP.

S Koreans won't be allowed to join border rally

SEOUL, May 16: The government said Tuesday it will ban South Koreans from attending a North Korea-sponsored unification rally at the border, reports AP.

Rao's bid to woo back Muslim voters TADA won't be renewed

NEW DELHI, May 16: Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao appears set to axe a harsh detention law in a bid to woo back the votes of Muslims, Whom human rights groups say, suffered most from it, government sources said today, reports Reuter.

Contrary to what the government says, the act has failed to control terrorism, said PA Sebastian of the committee for the protection of democratic rights.

where Congress lost for the first time since 1952, attributed the defeat to Muslim alienation because of TADA.

BRIEFLY

Policeman kills boy in UP: An irritated policeman in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh killed an 11-year-old boy who disturbed his siesta, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said yesterday.

Road mishap kills 18 in Nepal: At least 18 people were killed and three injured yesterday when a passenger bus and a truck collided near the industrial township of Hetaunda, 120 kilometres (75 miles) south of Kathmandu, the state-run Radio said.

Kazakhstan, ROK to boost ties: Visiting Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev agreed with South Korean President Kim Young-Saun yesterday to boost economic and other ties between the two nations, Reuter reports from Seoul.

9 missing in Jakarta quake: East Timor authorities were searching for nine people, including a number of children, still missing after an earthquake shook the tiny territory's capital Dili, an official said on Tuesday, Reuter reports from Jakarta.

Two more killed in Lanka: Tamil rebels launched a nighttime attack on an isolated northern military base, killing two soldiers, defence officials said Tuesday, AP reports from Colombo.

Clinton's popularity jumps: President Clinton's popularity has jumped to its highest level in more than a year, the latest Washington Post-ABC News poll shows, AP reports from Washington.

Relief for Kashmiris sought: The Pakistan parliament's Upper House on Monday called for international relief for victims of an Indian crackdown in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, Reuter reports from Islamabad.

20 rebels killed in Peru: At least 20 Marxist Shining Path rebels were killed in a clash with government troops in Peru's southeast Monday, and a key rebel leader was wounded but escaped, an army spokesman said, AFP reports from Lima.

Flash flood claims 20 in India: Flash floods have killed more than 20 people and devastated crops and property worth two billion rupees in the eastern Indian state of Orissa, official said, Reuter reports from India.

New WHO chief named: Professor Li Shichuan has been named head of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 32-member executive council for the coming year, to replace Dr. Jesus Kumate of Mexico, a WHO statement said Monday, AFP reports from Geneva.

Aum leader arrested in Japan: Police on Tuesday arrested the Aum Supreme Truth leader Shoko Asahara for alleged murder and attempted murder in connection with the March 20 sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway, Japan Broadcasting Corp (NHK) said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

Christian Anfinsen dies: Christian Boehner Anfinsen, winner of the 1972 Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died of a heart attack, colleagues say, AP reports from Pikesville, Maryland.

Christian Anfinsen dies: Anfinsen won the Nobel Prize while laboratory chief of the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, where he worked from 1963 to 1981. He shared the prize with Rockefeller University scientists Stanford Moore and William H. Stein.

Chinese vessels block Filipino navy ship

SPRATLY ISLANDS, May 16: Two Chinese vessels blocked a Philippine navy ship carrying 38 journalists and a Filipino general during a tense 70-minute confrontation near the Philippine claimed area of the disputed Spratly Islands, reports AP.

UN troops in Sarajevo asked to avoid clashes

SARAJEVO, May 16: United Nations units in Sarajevo have been ordered to avoid clashes with Bosnia's combatants while U.N. chiefs review the future of the peacekeeping mission, reports Reuter.

Ferry blaze leaves 37 dead in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines, May 16: Coast guard and police are searching for survivors of a ferry that caught fire early Tuesday said the death toll had risen to 37, reports AP.

39 separatists rebels killed in India in fortnight

GUWAHATI, India, May 16: Security forces have killed at least 39 separatist rebels from different guerrilla groups and arrested 40 in troubled north-eastern India over the past fortnight, a defence ministry spokesman said, reports Reuter.

Struggle for press freedom on in Asia

SEOUL, May 16: Journalists on Tuesday pointed a grim picture of press freedom in much of Asia where editors and reporters are harassed, jailed and killed, reports AP.

Malaysia for new plan to end war in Bosnia

KUALA LUMPUR, May 16: Malaysia is dismissing UN peace efforts in Bosnia as ineffective, today said it would call for a new plan to end the civil war in the former Yugoslavia at an upcoming Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting, reports AFP.

Russia, China pledge to boost military ties

BEIJING, May 16: Russia and China have pledged here to boost military cooperation, with a senior Chinese official playing up the historical links between the armies of the two countries, Xinhua reported.

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Off the Record

Teenage bomb maker! AUCLAND: Two high school students using a recipe from the Internet were found concocting a bomb powerful enough to destroy a multi-story building, police said Tuesday, reports AP.

Police Sgt. Paul Ormond said a tip-off led police to the two 17-year-old students, who were experimenting with a formula they obtained through a computer bulletin board.

The teen-agers had 20 liters (5 gallons) of a chemical which, when mixed correctly with other ingredients, could make an explosive 150 per cent more powerful than TNT and capable of blowing up a multi-story building, he said.

Police confiscated the chemicals and decided not to prosecute the teen-agers.

Encyclopaedia for sale NEW YORK: Encyclopaedia Britannica, the oldest continually published English-language encyclopaedia, is being put up for sale and could possibly fetch up to \$500 million, according to a published report, says AP.

Executives at Encyclopaedia Britannica had announced last month that the company needed cash and was considering outside investors or a sale.

Pet counselling scheme LONDON, Apr 8: British pet owners are being offered a counselling service to help them get over the death or loss of their animals, reports Reuter.

Malaysia for new plan to end war in Bosnia KUALA LUMPUR, May 16: Malaysia is dismissing UN peace efforts in Bosnia as ineffective, today said it would call for a new plan to end the civil war in the former Yugoslavia at an upcoming Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting, reports AFP.

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Three young boys peek through the bars of a basement window in Sarajevo Monday. The schools of the Bosnia capital have been closed for nearly three weeks due to increase of shelling. More than 1,500 children have been killed in Sarajevo since the beginning of the siege in April 1992. - AFP/UNB photo