

Li admits confidence crisis in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Feb 5: Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng has admitted there is a confidence crisis in Hong Kong in the run-up to China's takeover of the territory next year...

Hawala scam may hit Congress hard in upcoming polls: Pranab

NEW DELHI, Feb 5: An Italian-style bribery scandal, which has stung almost all political parties and embittered ties between leaders, may hurt India's ruling Congress (I) in upcoming polls...

Opposition leaders say Rao himself accepted almost one million dollars from Jain, an allegation the beleaguered Congress government has vehemently denied.

Iraqi defector abandons campaign to oust Saddam

KUWAIT, Feb 5: Iraqi defector Lt Gen. Hussein Kamel al-Majid has decided to quit politics because of the lack of support for his efforts to overthrow Saddam Hussein...

CHRISTOPHER'S ME TRIP BEGINS

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived Sunday from the former Yugoslavia to begin a Middle East visit that will continue through Friday...

US actress Audrey Meadows dies: Actress Audrey Meadows best known for her role as Jackie Gleason's caustic wife in the 1950s US television comedy 'The Honeymooners' has died after a battle with cancer.

Landslides kill 4 in Indonesia: Four people were killed, two others were missing and eight were injured in landslides in the north Sulawesi province...

3 newsmen to face trial in Egypt: Three opposition journalists will go on trial for publishing articles accusing a former minister of cheating during parliamentary elections last year.

3 rebels killed in Philippines: Three rebels were slain and 300 Muslim residents fled their homes when two rival Muslim groups clashed in the southern Philippine town of Buluan...

17 die in Chinese bus mishap: An overloaded bus collided with a tractor killing 17 people and injuring 30 in central Anhui province on Saturday...

Bid to calm rioting soldiers Guinean president takes over as defence minister

CONAKRY, Guinea, Feb 5: The Guinean president took over as defence minister on Sunday in an effort to calm rioting soldiers who killed at least 30 people over the weekend...

Rebels rocket Kabul: 2 killed

KABUL, Feb 5: Rebels fired rockets at the besieged Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday night and on Sunday, killing two people and wounding eight...

Lord Buddha's birth chamber found in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Feb 5: Archaeologists have discovered the birth chamber of Lord Buddha under an ancient temple in southwestern Nepal...

Colombian plane crash kills 23

ASUNCION, Paraguay, Feb 5: A Colombian cargo plane exploded in the air shortly after takeoff, killing at least 23 people, including seven children who had been playing volleyball on the ground...

Strike cripples Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Feb 5: A strike called to express solidarity with the people of the northern Himalayan state of Kashmir brought life to a standstill in Pakistan today...



South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-myung (R) greets US National Security advisor Anthony Lake (L) before high-level talks on aid to famine and flood ravaged North Korea at Seoul's Foreign Office Monday.

ROK unhappy with US moves to improve ties with DPRK

SEOUL, Feb 5: South Korea on Monday asked the United States not to improve ties with North Korea unless the Stalinist country changes its hard-line policy...



Three Serb girls walk by the ruins of a mosque in central Srebrenica on Sunday. The UN special envoy for human rights, Elisabeth Rehn, visited the former UN enclave that was overrun by Serbs last summer.

Off the Record

The reason behind committing suicide: LONDON: British scientists say they have discovered a gene that makes certain people more likely to commit suicide...

Overweight persons on rise in USA

NEW YORK: America's waistband is expanding. Seventy-four per cent of Americans 25 and older report being overweight, up from 71 per cent a year ago...

Indecently dressed, unlawfully punished

NAIROBI: An angry crowd of male street vendors in Nairobi stripped a woman naked after accusing her of being indecently dressed...

China to begin war games against Taiwan this week

HONG KONG, Feb 5: China has mustered 400,000 troops along its coast facing Taiwan and will begin month-long war games this week...

Maya Indians no longer hide ancient faith behind Catholicism

SAN ANDRES ITZAPA, Guatemala, Feb 5: Maya Indians cross themselves in Roman Catholic fashion after walking miles to visit San Simon, a wooden idol seated in a chair...

Chechens demand resumption of peace talks

GROZNY, Feb 5: Thousands of people rallied in the centre of Chechnya's capital on Sunday, demanding the resumption of peace talks and Russian troops withdrawal...