

BRIEFLY



South Korean President Kim Young-Sam (C) holds high on Tuesday the hands of his newly appointed ruling New Korea Party chairman, former premier Lee Hong-Koo (L) and outgoing party chairman Kim Yun-Hwan at a party national committee convention in Seoul.

Gunmen kill 2 cops in Nepal: Two policemen were killed and another injured when gunmen believed to be Maoist insurgents ambushed a patrol in a remote village in West Nepal, officials said on Tuesday.

Istanbul names park after Dudayev: The pro-Islamic municipality of Turkey's biggest city Istanbul on Tuesday named a park after rebel Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev who was killed in a Russian attack last month.

Lebanese PM arrives in Rome: Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri arrived in Rome on Tuesday to ask the European Union to help Lebanon after last month's Israeli attacks.

"Endeavour" to be launched May 19: NASA has bumped the launch of space shuttle Endeavour to May 19, three days later than planned, because of a scheduling conflict with the US Defense Department.

AIDS virus on rise in Ukraine: A growth in drug use in Ukraine has spurred a sharp jump in cases of HIV infection in recent months, health officials said Wednesday.

Russian forces kill 8 rebels: Russian border guards killed eight rebel fighters who were trying to enter Tajikistan from Afghanistan, Russian military officials said Wednesday.

ROK PM begins Europe tour: South Korean Prime Minister Lee Soo-sung departed Wednesday for a 16-day tour of Turkey, Poland, Hungary, and Romania to promote bilateral ties.

14 feared drowned in Albania: A group of 13 children and their teacher were presumed drowned in south-eastern Albania when their boat capsized, Albanian state radio said yesterday.

Quake hits Russian Far East: A strong earthquake occurred Wednesday in the Pacific Ocean near the Kuril Islands region of Russia's Far East.

US sees threat to Dayton peace accords: The promised peaceful reintegration of Bosnia as a multiethnic society is threatened by the refusal of rebel Serbs to permit refugees to return to their ancestral homes.

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WASHINGTON, May 8: The promised peaceful reintegration of Bosnia as a multiethnic society is threatened by the refusal of rebel Serbs to permit refugees to return to their ancestral homes, the State Department said Tuesday.

Exit poll predicts BJP's victory

NEW DELHI, May 8: A Hindu opposition party that promotes nuclear weapons advocates a tough stance toward Pakistan and has been critical of foreign investment, has won the most votes in parliamentary elections, according to an exit poll, reports AP.



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (R) is welcomed by Swedish Labour Minister Margareta Winberg (L) upon her arrival in the Swedish capital on Tuesday.

Last month's attack on UN compound in Lebanon

US, Israel criticise UN report

UNITED NATIONS, May 8: The United States and Israel strongly criticised a UN report which said it was unlikely that last month's artillery barrage on a UN compound filled with Lebanese civilians was an accident.



A Jordanian UN soldier monitors the first cars passing over the border crossing between Croatia and Yugoslavia, at Bajakovo on Tuesday.

China plans another N-test soon

TOKYO, May 8: In a move sure to draw international protests, China is planning to conduct another underground nuclear test as soon as late May, a Japanese newspaper reported Wednesday.

Karadzic rejects UN war crimes tribunal

LONDON, May 8: Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic rejected the UN war crimes tribunal in the Hague Tuesday as a court of political manipulations.

18 killed in Algiers hostage crisis

ALGIERS, May 8: Police stormed a housing project outside Algiers Tuesday where Islamic militants were holding residents hostage. Eighteen people, including one hostage and a policeman, were killed.

Iran ready to confront any US aggression

DUBAI, May 8: Iran's defence minister Mohammad Forouzandeh said in remarks published on Tuesday that Iran was ready to confront any US aggression against it in the Gulf.

To ensure orderly counting of vote!

NEW DELHI, May 8: The Delhi government has banned the sale of alcoholic drink for three days to ensure orderly vote-counting, excise officials said today, reports Reuters.

Pakistan blames India 8 killed, 40 hurt as bomb explodes in bus in Lahore

LAHORE, May 8: At least eight people were killed and more than 40 injured when a bomb exploded on a bus today near here, in the second such attack in less than two weeks, police said, report AFP.

Off the Record

Costly kiss! BANGKOK: A Thai man killed his wife after he saw another man giving her a kiss in a video tape of a relative's wedding, police said Wednesday.

Lingerie thief! SINGAPORE: About 50 pieces of women's underwear and two wedding gowns worth a total of 7,150 dollars were stolen from a lingerie fashion show.

Nothing gonna stop them now LEICESTER, England: No Hindu services at St Paul's Cathedral? One couple is taking things to a higher authority.

Iran ready to confront any US aggression DUBAI, May 8: Iran's defence minister Mohammad Forouzandeh said in remarks published on Tuesday that Iran was ready to confront any US aggression against it in the Gulf.



Natali Sacco of Peru (L) and Maria Jose Suarez (R) of Spain pose with a man costumed as a Roman Centurion at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas during preparations for the 1996 Miss Universe Pageant on Monday.

ANC, Nat'l Party agree on new SA constitution

CAPE TOWN, May 8: Two years after the end of apartheid, South Africa's two main political parties have agreed on a new constitution, reports AP.