### Gujral offers unconditional talks to tribal rebels

GUWAHATI, India, May 20: Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral Monday offered unconditional talks to tribal guerillas in the country's northeast where tens of thousands have died in separate homeland campaigns, reports

"My basic approach is to talk to all militant groups in the northeast who are willing," the Prime Minister told reporters in the Assam state capital of Guwahati.

The Prime Minister is currently touring the seven states which border either Bangladesh, Myanmar or China

Gujral, who assumed office on April 21 at the head of a 13party coalition government, said the talks will not be condi-

"The talks will be uncondi-

tional, talks do not mean preconditions on both sides.

"We appeal to all youths in the northeast to shun violence and come forward for the talks. Our doors are open," Gujral

The Prime Minister also said he would continue with the economic package and peace initiatives offered to the northeast by his predecessor HD Deve Gowda

Gurjal's appeal came as a general strike called by tribal rebels of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) crippled life Monday across the tea-and oil-rich state to protest his first ever-visit to the region.

Shops, offices, schools and colleges were closed, traffic stayed off the roads, and trains and flights were either cancelled or rescheduled due to the ULFA-led protest, officials said.

### Lanka asks newspapers to report on war cautiously

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, May 20: The government appealed to local newspapers Tuesday to express caution while reporting on the military's latest offensive to capture a vital road link in northern Sri Lanka, editors said, reports AP.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte told the editors of the local newspapers that publishing maps and names of military officers could affect the offensive.

In separate meetings with representatives of individual newspaper groups, 'Ratwatte admitted blemishes in the military's releases of news and assured that some changes would be made shortly, the editors

Army soldiers were continuing to fortify positions around the towns of Nedunkerni and Omantai, which were wrested from Tamil rebels in fierce fighting during the past week. military officials said Monday

Soldiers were consolidating their positions Tuesday, officials said. Details were not im-

mediately known. The military says 61 soldiers and more than 200 rebels have been killed in the fighting. It put the number of wounded at 99 soldiers and 316 rebels. But local newspapers say as many as 85 soldiers have been killed and over 300 wounded.

The rebels also accused the military of "dramatically exaggerating" guerilla losses, because "the government wants to create the illusion of its military strategy succeeding." The rebels admitted only 60 of its cadres had been killed.

Independent accounts are not available because the government prevents journalists from travelling to the region. Information about the offensive comes in a daily press statement from the defence

# Rebel leaders vow to change political face of Zaire

KINSHASA, May 20: Victorious guerilla leaders vowed on Monday to change the political face of Zaire and self-proclaimed President Laurent Kabila was expected in the capital Kinshasa to install a new administration, reports Reuter.

Under pressure to form a broad-based government, the leadership of the renamed Democratic Republic of Congo said their priority was political re-education from peasant collectives upwards before national elections could be held.

The euphoria over the weekend rebel overthrow of the 32year dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko was mixed with continuing violence in the capital of five million people.

The local Red Cross said it

BJP for changing

corrupt image of

leaders: Advani

BJP president LK Advani yes-

terday said his party wanted to

change the "corrupt image of po-

the historic Bindu Chowk on

the arrival of his "Swarna

Jayanti Rath Yatra" Advani

said this could be achieved by

making the working of the gov-

ernment and political parties

the people to extend their active

cooperation in building a

healthy democratic society de-

void of corruption, hunger and

fear, he said "we shall pledge

not to accept bribe, nor shall we

BJP government, it had created

a lot of confidence among the

public. Advani said adding that

the party could capture at least

300 seats if election to the Lok

Sabha were declared.

During the 13-day rule of the

Making a fervent appeal to

transparent.

give bribe.

Addressing a rally here at

litical leaders," reports PTI.

KOLHAPUR, May 20: The

retrieved 22 bodies across the city on Monday, taking the death toll since the rebel take over to 222. The dead were a mix of diehard Mobutu soldiers killed by Kabila's forces and irate civilians or looters shot by rebels.

Kabila's planning and devel-opment expert Babi Mbai was bombarded with questions about security when he sought to reassure the business community at a meeting in Kinshasa on Monday.

"It is planned that within a short period we will have 10,000 to 20,000 troops in Kinshasa to solve the problem of security," Mbai told his audience, mostly local business-

With the rebels still mopping up pockets of resistance, Kabila was expected to arrive in Kinshasa today from his temporary base in the southern city of Lubumbashi, according to official announcements by the

United States and South Africa. "We understand, based on meetings this morning, that Laurent Kabila plans to arrive in Kinshasa tomorrow, that he plans to formally establish an interim government by tomorrow evening," US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

South Africa's President Nelson Mandela, who led lastditch mediation in the Zaire conflict, made a similar announcement in Zimbabwe where he is on a state visit.

His deputy, Thabo Mbeki, said in Johannesburg that Kabila would announce a new government on Tuesday night Mbeki met Kabila in Lubumbashi on Sunday.

In a statement redolent with the rhetoric of 1960s anti-colonialism, Kabila's number two urged patience over an election

"We must reawaken the population politically. It is our first duty," Kabila aide Deogratias Bugera told a news conference in Kinshasa on Monday.

"The aim is to avoid the possibility in the future that any one man can confiscate power, he said, accusing Mobutu of plundering what is potentially one of Africa's richest nations.

### New treatment to raise survival rate of lung cancer patients

DENVER, May 20: An aggressive treatment that combines two chemotherapy drugs with radiation therapy appears to dramatically increase the three-year survival rate of lung cancer patients, according to Preliminary data released on Monday, reports Reuter.

Dr Chandra Belani of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute said the treatment could become the new standard of care in lung cancer, one of the hardest cancers to treat, if further tests confirm his findings. Belani presented his study at the American society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting in

While doctors already treat lung cancer patients with a combination of radiation therapy and chemotherapy, they do not administer the treatments at the same time for fear the combination will exacerbate the side effects

Dr Belani said he found that giving the patient all three treatments from day one increased the side effects somewhat, but not significantly.

"The message here is that this early aggressive, well tolerated treatment appears to save a significant number of lives." Dr Belani said.

His study involved 38 patients with stage three nonsmall cell lung cancer, the most common form of lung cancer. Stage three patients are those whose cancer has advanced locally in the chest but has not yet metastasised.

The patients were given radiation therapy combined with the tumour-shrinking agents taxol and paraplatin. They showed a one-year survival rate of 63 per cent, versus 50 per cent for those receiving the current standard of care : and a twoyear survival rate of 54 per cent, compared with about 35 per cent in patients receiving the radiation and the chemotherapy separately.

The most dramatic results were seen in patients followed over three years, when the survival rate remained around 54 per cent in the test group, compared with 30 per cent with the existing standard of care.

"I was very surprised," Dr Belani told Reuters after he presented the data. "I had my statistician run it three times.

Dr Belani cautioned that since the trial involved such a small number of patients, it would have to be repeated in larger test groups, but he said if his findings were confirmed, the new combination could be a breakthrough in the long-term treatment of lung cancer.

### One killed as Afghan rockets Pak border

ISLAMABAD, May 20: A girl was killed and six others injured on Monday when rockets fired from Afghanistan hit a Pakistani border village, the official Associated Press of Pakistan reported, reports AFP.

The news agency said three rockets fired from the Asfar area in eastern Afghanistan pounded Toti Banda village in northwestern Dir District, killing a 10-year-old girl.

Six others, including three children, were wounded in the incident which occurred at about 2:00 pm (0900 GMT), it added.

This is the first time that rockets have hit Pakistan from Afghanistan since the Taliban Islamic militia seized control of Kabul and the country's western and eastern provinces along the Pakistan border in September last year.

The attack coincided with reports of a rebellion by senior commanders against Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum who controls northern Afghanistan.

## ministry which hardly has any BDIFFIF

Basu condoles Shambhu's death: The West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu Monday expressed shock at the demise of Shambhu Mitra and said, his death had created a great void in the field of theatre, PTI reports from Calcutta.

In a condolence message, Basu said, Mitra had contributed significantly to bring about a revolution in modern drama. both in West Bengal and the country.

As a dramatist, director and actor, Mitra also introduced new art and technique. He had also given a new dimension to Tagore's plays.

Vietnamese PM visits Europe: Looking to strengthen post-Cold War ties with former communist allies, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet on Tuesday began a state visit to three Eastern European countries. AP reports from Hanoi.

Kiet will also visit Italy during his week-long trip, the Communist Party newspaper, The People, reported. The prime minister's visit will focus on rebuilding ties with Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Kiet's visit marks the first presidential exchange between Vietnam - one of the world's few remaining socialist countries — and its former allies since the collapse of communism in Europe in the early 1990s.

Mild quake hits Japan: A moderate earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.7 hit waters by an island near Tokyo on Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, AP reports from Tokyo.

The quake was centered about 110 kilometres (68 miles) beneath the sea floor near Miyakejima Island, 152 kilometres (95 miles) south of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said. A police official on Miyakejima said there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage from the quake.

executed in US: A carpenter who beat three people to death with a claw hammer in 1985 was executed by injection Monday in the first of four executions scheduled this week, AP reports from Huntsville.

Richard Drinkard, 39, was sentenced to die for bludgeoning Lou Ann Annthony, 44; her sister, LaDean Hendrix, 47; and Ms. Hendrix's boyfriend, Jerry Mullens, 43. At his 1986 trial, Drinkard became the first convicted killer in Texas to merit a death sentence under the new law that made multiple murders a capital offense.

Lion kills small boy in Brazil: A four-year-old boy was killed in a small town in northeastern Brazil by a lion that broke loose from its tamer, local television news said on Monday, Reuter reports from Rio de Janeiro.

The lion tamer was taking the animal for a stroll around the town's streets to advertise the performances of a visiting circus when the lion broke loose from its cord, Globo News said. The tamer yelled for everyone to shut their doors immediately, but the lion managed to get inside a video rental shop where Jose Vinicius Silva was playing video games and mauled the fouryear-old to death, Globo News said.

6 executed in S Arabia: An Afghan citizen and five Nigerians were beheaded Monday in Saudi Arabia for drug trafficking, assault and bank robbery, the Saudi Interior Minister said, AFP reports from Riyadh.

The Afghan Abdel Karim Mawlawi Mohamad Khan, was decapitated in Riyadh for drug trafficking. The Nigerians, Ali ibn Mohamad ibn Abdel Aziz, Adam ibn Issa ibn Suleyman, Yussef ibn Othman Jayan, Lukman Abassalo and Ali ibn Less ibn Mohammad, were executed in the Red Sea city of Jeddah for armed assault and bank robbery.

Road mishap kills 20 in India: At least 20 people were killed and 49 injured yesterday when a bus toppled into a gorge in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, Reuter reports from New Delhi.

The news agency said the bus, carrying 84 tourists, plunged into a ravine about 30 km (20 miles) from the hill resort of Kodaikanal after the driver lost control of the vehicle. A similar crash on the same road an May 2 killed 32 people, PTI said.

Yeltsin to visit Ukraine: Russian President Boris Yeltsin is to visit Ukraine on May 30 and 31, the government in Kiev announced Monday, AFP reports from Kiev.

It will be Yeltsin's first visit to Kiev since Ukraine and Russia split with the break-up of the Soviet Union and he took over at the helm in Moscow, despite the various differences between the two countries. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will be in the Ukrainian capital on May 28 and 29 to put the finishing touches to preparations for Yeltsin's arrival, already begun with the arrival Monday of a 37-strong team headed by vice-premier Serov.

Chirac set to meet Kohl: French President Jacques Chirac was set to meet his German counterpart Helmut Kohl in Paris yesterday to discuss an informal EU summit meeting later this month, officials said.

AFP reports from Paris. The two will have a working dinner at the Elysee Palace, said the officials, to discuss plans for the EU gathering. The talks come five days before the first round of the French general elections. Chirac is keen to take on the stateman role in the run up to the poll, and returned just on Sunday to Paris from Moscow, following a visit to China.

# Labour govt faces first challenge on foreign policy

Sanjay Suri writes from London

Britain's new Labour government faced the first serious challenge in Parliament to what it claims is the ethical thrust of its foreign policy.

The general questions about an ethical foreign policy raised in the debate are expected to have implications for the Kashmir policy the new government pursues. "It will have to be seen how consistently the new government can pursue its policies," an Indian diplomatic official told IANS.

In fact Kashmir did not come up in the debate at all. Indian officials said that was "significant in itself." Labour, which had singled out Kashmir for adopting a party resolution, had declared that Kashmir will be on top of its international agenda. But none of the MPs from any party who joined the debate on foreign policy considered Kashmir a subject worth mentioning.

Although the Labour foreign policy statement does not specify Kashmir, yet Kashmiri groups here have welcomed the policy, saying it is worded to include Kashmir among other international trouble spots. The challenge to the foreign

policy came in the House of Lords from Viscount Cranborne, who spoke for the Conservatives. However, he raised the moral question in relation to Tibet, not Kashmir. A senior Labour leader

noted, "the Labour government has talked of Cyprus but omitted any reference to Kashmir." matter of timing rather than a retreat from what it said be-Lord Cranborne asked

Baroness Symons, who was assigned to speak for Labour, "Will the noble Baroness give some idea of her ethical position on the present situation of the people of Tibet and what representations the government will make to the Chinese government in that regard?"

Symons said that China is a "country of great and growing importance." She said: "We will

speak up when we should in areas such as human rights, but that should be in the context of a much more wide-ranging and constructive relationship than has so far been achieved."

Kinshasa's residents examine body of relatives at the morgue Monday, who were killed

during the take-over of the city by Zaire's new strongman Laurent Desire Kabila's forces.

Many were killed by stray bullets from gunfire and others were looters killed by rebels.

Lord Cranborne attacked the launch of Labour's new foreign policy ways. Speaking of the foreign policy "mission" statement of Labour, he said: "This parcel has more wrapping than

He particularly attacked But that, he said, "could be a Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's assertion that Labour will make Britain "once again a force for good in the world." He called that claim "sheer sanctimonious humbug" and described the new foreign policies of Labour as "embarrassingly arrogant.

Commenting on Labour's claims that it will be a "morally superior" government, Lord Cranborne said: "We will watch with some interest the govern-In her reply Baroness ment's efforts to translate their moral strictures into foreign policy decisions."

He raised a question about

Zaire which Baroness Symons chose not to answer. "Does he (Mr Cook) envisage sending troops if asked to do so?" he queried. Mr Cook, he said, is "big on self-righteousness but is a little short on geopolitics."

- AFP/UNB photo

. The Queen's speech in the House of Commons, which sets out the broad objectives of the government, also made no mention of Kashmir. It spoke expectedly of Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and of Hong Kong. But it went on to specify that the Labour government will "support peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, that it will "work for a settlement in Cyprus" and "promote efforts for a durable peace in the Middle East."

More generally it said: "The promotion of human rights will be a priority, as will the fight against terrorism, organised crime, money laundering and drugs misuse and trafficking at home and abroad."

India Abroad News Ser-

#### Faryab, half of Badghis fall to Taliban control KABUL, May 20: The already cally important headway since

Key opposition commander changes side

shaky alliance battling Afghanistan's dominant Islamic Taliban has been dealt a body blow by the loss of at least one northern province after a key commander changed sides, according to reports, reports

The province of Faryab and the opposition-held half of its western neighbour Badghis fell to the purist Taliban on Monday when alliance commander general Abdul Malik switched sides and publicly announced his support for the Taliban, according to the reports.

The uprising spread to three other provinces. Reports from Faryab's provincial capital said that government buildings were flying the Taliban's trademark white flags and that a number of opposition fighters had been captured. The front line in Badghis

had remained static for more than 18 months until Monday, and, despite frequent skirmishing, neither group had been able to break the lines until Malik's defection.

The Taliban control almost two thirds of Afghanistan, but they had made little strategitaking the capital Kabul last September.

The capture of Faryab will boost their confidence, Talibancontrolled radio shariat said on Monday night that they would pursue their foes.

Japan sets up task force for India's power industry development

TOKYO, May 20: Japan has set up a task force to mobilise capital, technology and industrial planning know-how for fastest possible development of India's power industry, reports

A committee of private-sector which advises the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on Indian economy has recommended Japanese private sector's involvement in the Indian power sector.

Private-sector Japanese enterprises were helped and guided into it by the World Bank with assurances from their government.

### Interior minister appeals for calm following violence Opposition parties in Cameroon

# call for annulment of polls

YAOUNDE, Cameroon, May 20: Both major opposition parties in Cameroon called Monday for the annulment of general elections, charging vote fraud after the ruling party announced it was winning before all votes were counted, reports

The interior minister appealed for calm after violence over this weekend's elections left at least seven dead.

State run radio announced Sunday night that the vote tally showed the ruling Cameroonian People's Democratic Movement to be on its way to winning more than 100 seats out of 180 in the legislature. It had 88 seats in the previous parliament.

over, and the results have to be confirmed by the Supreme Court within 20 days of elec-

tions, but both the National Union for Democracy Party and the Social Democratic Front called for the elections' annul-

The opposition accused President Paul Biya's ruling party of extensive vote fraud, primarily by denying their supporters registration cards and by denying them access to polling booths. CPDM officials admitted

that some vote fraud was inevitable, but denied that it was widespread. The Social Democratic Front, which represents Cameroon's Anglophone com-

munity, demanded the estab-

lishment of an independent

electoral commission to call new elections. "The electoral process voter registration," the SDF said in a statement. 'This call is predominate.

made in the interest of peace in Cameroon." Interior minister Gilbert Andze Tsoungui, appealed after

the CPDM's announcement for "Cameroonians to be calm." During the two week campaign, five people died in clashes between the CPDM and the main opposition NUDP in the north. Another NUDP activist was found hacked to

death near Yaounde.

The SDF reported that 20 of its supporters were badly battered in a conflict with security officials in the capital during an attempt to force officials to give them voter cards.

Amnesty International has reported that police have arrested large numbers of mem-The counting was not yet should recommence from bers and supporters of the SDF scratch starting with proper in Cameroon's northwest province, where Anglophones

### Gaddafi violated air embargo, rules UN committee

UNITED NATIONS, May 20: Fights by Libyan leader Moammer Gaddafi to two African countries earlier this month violated an international air embargo, the UN Sanctions Committee ruled Monday, reports AFP.

The head of the UN Sanctions Committee for Libya, Polish Ambassador Zbigniew Wlosowicz, told reporters here that the UN Security Council would discuss a formal reaction to the sanctions breach today.

He said after a sanctions committee meeting that the panel had "established that the flights of the head of state of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya took place to Niger and Nigeria between 8th and 10th of May and that they constituted a breach of the sanctions regime.' But under pressure from

China and Egypt, according to diplomats, the committee also noted that the flights to Niger and Nigeria and return to Tripoli from May 8-10 were of a religious nature.

for dozing on the job.



US President Bill Clinton (R) meets with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana on Monday in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. Solana is also scheduled to meet with US Secretary of Defence William - AFP/UNB photo Cohen.

### Some turn to napping amid epidemic of sleep deprivation

NEW YORK, May 20: Winston Churchill partook. Thomas Edison did it secretly. President Bill Clinton indulges more often since turning 50, reports

The nap, that brief spell of daytime sleep most commonly associated with babies and cats, has long been reviled by many and reveled in by some. It's never been something to boast of, especially when taken at work.

That may be changing. Amid an epidemic of sleep deprivation, a determined few are napping during business hours and more may be following. "More people are willing to

admit privately that they nap,"

said William Anthony, author

of "The Art of Napping", pub-

lished this month, and a pro-

University. "You can't as yet acknowledge it at work. That's what I'm hoping to change." In his book, he argues that

the United States is a "nappist" society, prejudiced against the siesta because of the country's drive to produce. "Our culture has developed on the mistaken belief that productivity and napping are two different extremes," Anthony said. As a result, the country is

filled with "clappers" - people who hide their napping from others — and "napaphobics" people who try to make nappers feel ashamed of their naps, writes Anthony, whose family is so devoted to the ritual that they hold napping contests. Edison may have invented

the electric light bulb that arti-

fessor of psychology at Boston ficially extended the modern day, but he was both a "clapper" and a "napnoozler," a napper who pretends that they don't nap, Anthony said. Edison apparently liked to persuade others that he didn't need much

> Churchill, on the other hand, made no effort to hide his afternoon siesta. Nor does Clinton try to keep his snoozes a state secret. "He works long days and

sometimes keeps late hours and finds a nap is helpful in catching up on sleep when he needs to," said Deputy White House Press Secretary Barry Tove. "He does it more now, as he's reached the ripe old age of 50, but it's still occasional.

Graig Yarde, for one, is all

shocked when I asked them. They thought I was crazy." That may be partly because few people realise how much

but napping will be available to

people who work here," said

Yarde. "We're trying to see how

"Our greatest resource is the

Employees liked the idea,

said Yarde, but "were kind of

sleep they need and how little

both day and night workers.

can unwind."

Before the invention of the The Bristol, Connecticut, electric light, Americans slept businessman is planning to include a "napping room" in a new an average of 10 hours a night, according to James Maas, a 220-worker facility to be com-Cornell University professor pleted in 1998 for his metals and authority on sleep. Today. distribution business. The facthey sleep an average of 7.1 tory will be open 24 hours a day,

hours a night and a third of

Americans sleep get six hours

nightly. The popularity of night

work has also taxed Americans' sleeping hours. Yet if someone loses as little we can give them a break or a as an hour of sleep a night for a perk, a napping area where they week, his productivity drops 25 per cent, said Maas, author of a

book on sleep techniques for professionals that's to be published in 1998 by Villard. Increasingly, Mass is sounding his warnings to corporations, where he gives seminars

entitled "Asleep in the Fast

Lane" or "Power Sleep" to executives and managers. "Why mandate that people

have coffee or Coke breaks when they can put their head down on the desk for 15 minutes?" he asked. "It affects the bottom line." Public television news an-

chorman Jim Lehrar once was

shy about revealing the daily naps he started taking after a heart attack in 1983. But no "I've decided this is good for people. It's good for the soul," he

said after awakening one day from his 30 to 45 minute office look forward to it, he

added. "I know that whatever I do, whatever happens, whoever I see, I'll have my nap."