

Newspapers predict fall of Gujral

India's minority govt comes under attack from key ally

NEW DELHI, Sept 28: India's fragile minority government came under attack on Saturday from a key ally which has been keeping it in power since April, reports AFP.

sponsibility of governing the country." "The picture is not at all encouraging."

government in March after alleging that then premier H D Deve Gowda had insulted the Congress. But Congress failed to set up a coalition of its own.

gions of India and a slowdown in economic growth, and complained that the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party was being allowed to fan religious tensions.

Assassination bid on 2 leading Indian politicians

NEW DELHI, Sept 28: Two prominent Indian politicians on Saturday survived an assassination attempt when gunmen fired at their cars in the northeastern state of Nagaland, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.



Wearing surgical masks to shield themselves from the stench, Indonesian rescue workers carry a coffin containing the body of an air crash victim at a hospital in Medan, northern Sumatra, 1,400 kilometres (870 miles) northwest of Jakarta, Sunday. Relatives of victims of Friday's Garuda Airbus crash, which investigators are trying to determine if it was caused by the thick haze, were able to fly to Medan to identify the bodies of their loved ones when the airport opened on Sunday. Two hundred and thirty-four people were killed in the crash. — AP/UNB photo

Lanka to hold cabinet meet today to finalise power sharing plan

COLOMBO, Sept 28: Sri Lanka is to hold a crucial cabinet meeting tomorrow to discuss a radical plan aimed at ending the Tamil separatist war amid mounting opposition from majority Buddhist leaders, officials said, reports AFP.

Buddhists were fostering ethnic bloodshed by blocking peace moves. A chorus of Buddhist organisations led by the chief priests of the country's three main sects asked Samaraweera to apologise to the clergy over his statement made Thursday at a weekly press conference.

country," Samaraweera said. "The only person happy about it is Prabhakaran, arms dealers and those who love to see blood."

Di's mother draws strength from mourning crowds

OBAN, Scotland, Sept 28: Princess Diana's mother says she drew strength from the crowds that brought flowers and lit candles in mourning for her daughter, and later felt peace when she by herself to the grave, reports AP.

Israeli housing plans criticised

PALESTINE, Sept 28: Israeli housing plans in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are being criticised by Palestinians, reports AP.

Palestinians stage protests in West Bank, Gaza Strip

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip, Sept 28: Palestinians scuffled with police and burned US and Israeli flags during demonstrations to protest plans for continued building in Jewish enclaves near Palestinian zones, reports AP.

continue building Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, brushing off US demands for a settlement freeze.

scene of some of the worst of the tunnel riots one year ago. Outside the settlement of Gush Katif in southern Gaza, more than 100 Palestinian policemen formed a human chain to block hundreds of protesters who chanted, "We will die for Palestine" and scuffled with police.

China tests new missile

China's air force has successfully tested a new surface-to-air missile designed to hit long-range targets, the Liberation Army Daily reported Sunday, AP reports from Beijing.

Strong quake claims 7 in Indonesia

Seven people were killed and 21 hospitalised after an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6 struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi Sunday, officials and police said, AP reports from Jakarta.

Zimbabwean shipment of mortar bombs for Lankan army missing

COLOMBO, Sept 28: After a silence of nearly three months, official confirmation has finally been given that a consignment of 32,400 mortar bombs ordered from Zimbabwe by the Sri Lankan Army, has gone missing, reports Xinhua.

NLD renews appeal for talks with SLORC

YANGON, Sept 28: In the biggest meeting of the democratic opposition in years, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's party renewed an appeal Sunday for dialogue with the military regime but reserved the right to name its own delegation, reports AP.

HK legislature endorses new election law

HONG KONG, Sept 28: Hong Kong's China-appointed provisional legislature overwhelmingly endorsed a new election law today that curtails democracy in the former British colony, reports Reuters.

Search for Indonesian jet's 'black box' going on

MEDAN, Indonesia, Sept 28: Rescue workers today searched for the flight recorder of the Airbus that crashed in Indonesia's worst-ever air disaster, as grieving relatives arrived in Medan to help identify the victims, reports Reuters.

'China has history of 10,000 yrs of civilisation'

HAIKOU, Sept 28: China has a history of 10,000 years of civilisation rather than 5,000 years, some historians have announced, reports Xinhua.

US Red Cross chief vows to carry Di's fight to ban landmines

LONDON, Sept 28: American Red Cross president Elizabeth Dole has vowed to carry on Princess Diana's fight to ban landmines, reports Reuters.

5 more weeklies suspended in Jordan

Jordan has suspended five more weekly newspapers amid an international outcry that temporary closures restrict press freedoms, AP reports from Amman.

Small plane crash kills 2 in NZ

Passengers aboard a tourist train watched in horror as a light aircraft crashed and burst into flames alongside them killing the pilot and a passenger, reports said yesterday, AFP says from Auckland.

India launches new satellite today

BANGALORE, India, Sept 28: India began a 53-hour countdown on Saturday for its biggest satellite rocket launch ever from home soil, officials said, reports AFP.

Japan PM delivers opening speech in Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) economic meeting in Makuhari, suburban Tokyo, Sunday.



Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto delivers an opening speech in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) economic meeting in Makuhari, suburban Tokyo, Sunday. — AP/UNB photo

China completes Shun's statue

China has completed the first large-scale bronze statue commemorating Shun, one of the ancestors of the Chinese nation, in Jina, capital of east China's Shandong province, Xinhua reports from Jinan.

India launches new satellite today

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US denial to mediate on Kashmir setback for Pakistan

With the US declaring that it would not mediate on Kashmir, Pakistani efforts to bring it up at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Edinburgh next month has received a setback, according to diplomats.

Clinton described the CTBT as the "largest sought, hardest fought prize in the history of arms control." The Tory government of former Prime Minister John Major had said earlier that Britain "would like" to see India sign the CTBT.

saying of late - that they are willing to offer their good offices if both parties want it. The Labour government has at least for the moment chosen not to bring out from the shelves the resolution at the party conference in 1995 which says Labour has a "duty" to intervene in Kashmir to resolve a dispute that arises from its position as "the former imperial power."

policy mission statement announced soon after the new government took over. "This is an age of internationalism. We are instant witnesses in our sitting rooms through the medium of television to human tragedy in distant lands, and are therefore obliged to accept moral responsibility for our response."

The British position on distant troubles echoes the views expressed by President Clinton who said, "We dare not be complacent or indifferent, trouble in a far corner can become a plague in everyone's house." Officials see this as a veiled reference to a nuclear threat.

Officials do not expect any move by Britain to play a direct role in disputes between India and Pakistan. But over the CTBT and again on Kashmir under the garb of human rights, Indian officials are preparing to face a good deal of subtle diplomatic pressure.

Atlantis docks with Mir

JOHNSON SPACE CENTRE, Texas, Sept 28: The US Space Shuttle Atlantis docked with Russia's Mir space station on Saturday for a controversial exchange of American astronauts, reports Reuters.

Congressional critics accused NASA of putting astronauts' lives at risk by leaving them aboard the troubled craft. But the space agency said independent safety reviews had given Mir a clean bill of health.