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Congal alleges plot to assassinate Sonia

NEW DELHI, May 23: The Congress Party today alleged that a 'fascist clique' plans to assassinate Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, reports AP.

Federal Home Minister L K Advani, who oversees security, ordered secret service and police to enhance her security. He asked them to be vigilant against militants and others trying to disrupt the upcoming general elections by 'precipitating some tragedy,' Press Trust of India news agency said.

At a news conference here, Congress leader Arjun Singh refused to identify the potential assassins. He said the 'same fascist clique' that assassinated Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi in 1948, is now trying to target Sonia Gandhi through a 'diabolical plot,' domestic news agencies reported.

Congress leaders, including Singh, met with the president and the prime minister Saturday to give details of the alleged plan, the reports said.

Singh quoted Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee as saying

20000 die

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gramme. 'A significant number of the delivery cases are complicated as noticed. So it is important to strengthen the capacity of the thana health complexes.'

He said, 'The main issues we are going to focus on is identify the risk mothers and provide them with surgical intervention. Doctors are currently being trained for management of high risk mothers, complications and emergencies.'

A view from the Gully

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than one to have delivered those two vital decisions that had far-reaching effect on the match.

The Oval is a principal cricketing centre in England. Situated in the southern part of London, this ground has a history which dates back to 1550. The Wisden says: No county can boast a longer or richer history — mention of the game at Guildford goes back to 1550 — and The Oval, once a 10-acre market garden, has an honoured place ever since it staged the first home Test against Australia in 1880. The sight of a packed house at The Oval on a great occasion, a Jack Hobbs-Tom Hayward first-wicket stand, Peter May in full attacking flight, a bowling burst from Tom Richardson, overs from Alec Bedser, Jim Laker and Co and the fielding during those incredible seven championship seasons would have exceeded all expectation. Here on this ground Len Hutton scored his record-breaking 364 against Australia in 1938 that stood as a record till 1958.

But that was not so, exactly. The house was full, the crowd was partisan (naturally), the weather magnificent and expectations were high (naturally). Even the final of the FA Cup (another popular game properly codified and choreographed by the same nation) could not detract the interest of the crowd at The Oval.

Stewart followed his dotted path as South Africans built on Kirsten and young Gibbs till the Nelson appeared. As it generally happens after such a good beginning, the middle-order caved in against Mullally.

Flintoff and Gough. But the South African southpaw Lance Klusener caught the English bowling by the scruff of the neck and with able support from Boucher hammered more than a run-a-ball to put his side in a respectable position and claimed his second MOM medal in the process. These South Africans must be tougher than they appear. Cronje and Woolmer's claims of producing one or two tricks out of their sleeves are becoming too hot to handle. First the earphone and then the batting order — bowling and fielding have always been their strong points.

Despite Klusener the English bowlers did extremely well to restrict their opponents to a modest total but this World Cup has produced only three innings that surpassed the two hundred and fifty mark in 14 matches till Saturday. Obviously we may not see many high-scoring matches in these conditions, but the two shock-decisions at the start of the match followed by vicious and mean bowling by Donald, Pollock, and Co and backed by superlative fielding prepared a smooth early landing for England that eventually resulted in a huge win.

Champions Sri Lanka kept their chances alive for a Super Six' berth by a shaky win against Zimbabwe who have two wins from their three matches. But once again their main batsmen failed to score. This is not a good sign for them. With Muralitharan more economic than wicket-taking, they will have to depend on their scoring ability rather than going for the kill.

Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Amanullah Aman MP, Manzurul Ahsan Khan, president of CPB, Habibunabu Solhi, president of Chhatri Dal, were among others who joined the human chain.

Prof. Shamsur Rahman, writer Zobida Gulshan Ara, Faizul Hakim Lala, Ruhin Hosain Prince, Akther Sobhan Masrur and Dr Abrar Choudhury also addressed the gathering, reiterating their opposition against removal of trees.

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