

UPA rallies behind Speaker Somnath

PTI, New Delhi
The UPA today rallied behind Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, a day after the veteran Marxist was expelled from the CPI-M, with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meeting him, a move aimed at assuring him of the coalition's backing.

Pakistan rules out foreign 'invasion' against militants

Gilani faces tough terror questions in US

AFP, London/ Islamabad
Pakistan will not allow foreign troops into its tribal areas to root out extremists threatening coalition forces in neighbouring Afghanistan, its foreign minister said here yesterday.

territory."
Qureshi's comments came as Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani prepared to leave for the United States to discuss stepping up efforts against Islamist extremists launching attacks on Nato forces in Afghanistan.

"The US will have one simple question for Gilani: Do you have the will to manage the affairs in the tribal areas?" Hasan Askari, a political analyst at Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC, told AFP.

Deaths of western troops in Afghanistan have exceeded those in Iraq for the last two months, while the bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul and a militant raid that killed nine US troops this month have also set alarm bells ringing.

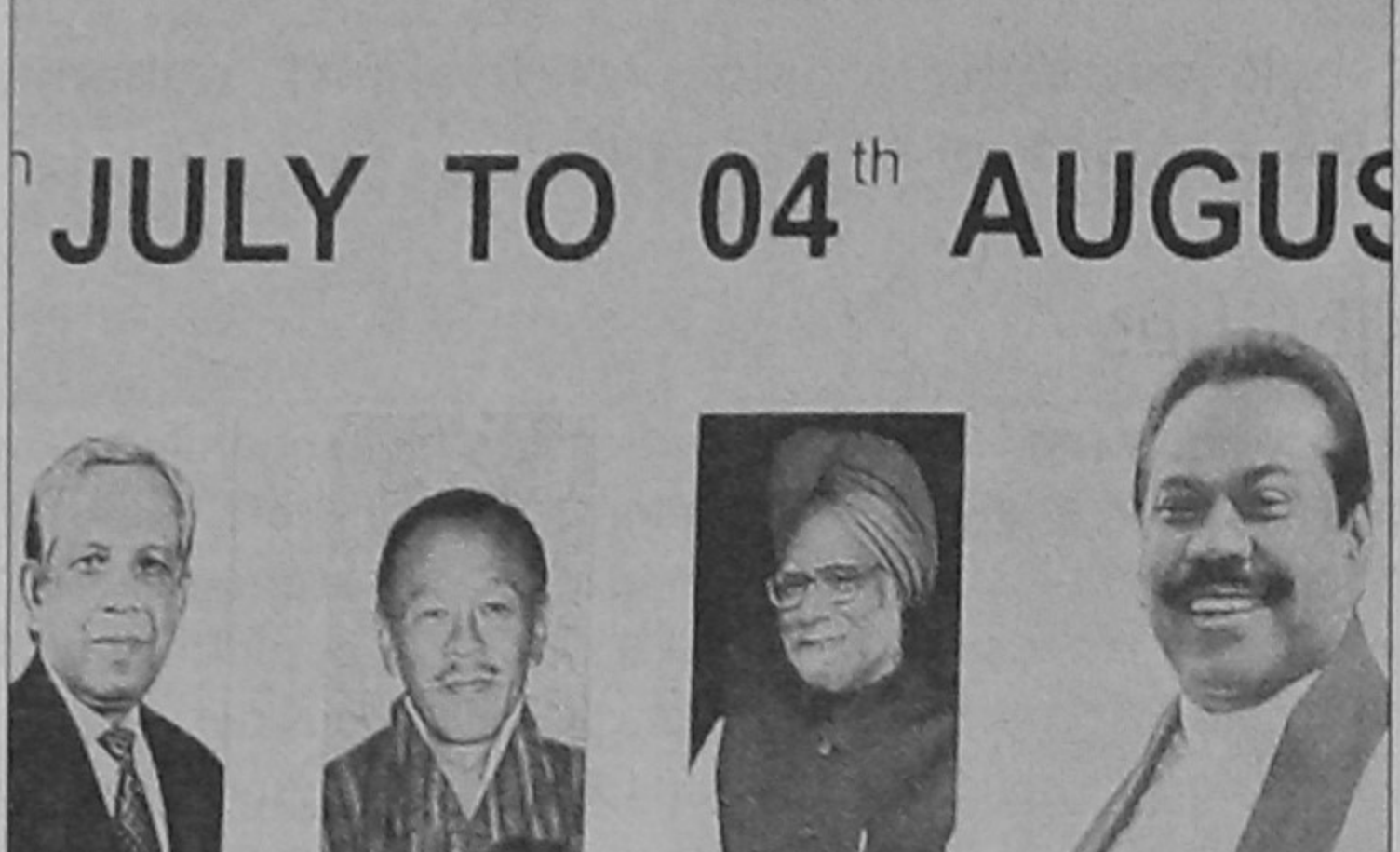


Pakistani lawyers and political activists wave placards as they march in Lahore yesterday demanding reinstatement of sacked judges. The two main ruling coalition parties agreed to reinstate the judges when they originally formed the coalition in March this year, but have failed to agree on how to do it.

Attention now turns to fugitive Mladic

AFP, Belgrade
With war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic finally in custody, Serbia came under increased pressure yesterday to capture his fugitive wartime military chief Ratko Mladic, also wanted for genocide.

SAARC



A Sri Lankan pedestrian walks past a billboard featuring images of South Asian Leaders in Colombo yesterday. South Asian leaders will meet in the Sri Lankan capital for the two-day annual Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit starting August 2.

India in diplomatic overdrive to seal US nuclear pact

AFP, New Delhi
India said yesterday it was sending out envoys to lobby for the final international clearances needed to finalise a controversial nuclear energy deal with the United States.

Pakistan warns of new N-arms race with India

AP, PTI, Vienna
Pakistan has warned a deal leading to increased Indian access to nuclear fuel could accelerate the atomic arms race between the rivals, according to a letter obtained on Wednesday by The Associated Press.



The fossilised bones of a juvenile Tyrannosaurus.

Complete dinosaur fossil found

AP, Tokyo
Japanese and Mongolian scientists have successfully recovered the complete skeleton of a 70-million-year-old young dinosaur, a nature museum announced Thursday.



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Asia forges accord on joint disaster taskforce

AFP, Singapore
Asia's top security forum agreed yesterday on military exercises aimed at forging a regional taskforce to deal with calamities like those that struck Myanmar and China this year.

All options against Iran must be prepared: Israel

AFP, Jerusalem/ Moscow
The Israeli army chief of staff has said in Washington that all options must be prepared to counter Iran's controversial nuclear programme, in remarks relayed on Thursday.

Mayawati returns with larger profile

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Lucknow
The loss in the parliament trust vote may have dashed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati's immediate dream of power in New Delhi, but she is returning to Lucknow with a larger national profile, including new allies who are more than ready to accept her as prime ministerial candidate.

Top Pak leaders on Taliban hit-list

PTI, Islamabad
Pakistan's security and intelligence agencies have been put on high alert following reports that local Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud has prepared a hit list of 300 high-profile figures, including top political leaders.

Nine killed in fresh Kashmir violence

AFP, Srinagar
At least nine people including women and young children were killed in fresh outbreaks of violence in Indian Kashmir yesterday, officials said.

had surrendered in 2004, earning himself a place on a militant hit-list.
He was killed in Doda district, about 170 kilometres (105 miles) south of Srinagar, hours after a separate grenade attack also left two policemen and a civilian wounded.



Indian police officers stand at the site of a grenade attack in Srinagar yesterday. At least nine people, including women and children, were killed in fresh outbreaks of violence in Indian Kashmir, officials said.

Advertisement for the Institute of Governance Studies at BRAC University. It lists various job openings such as Project Coordinator, Manager Admin & Finance, and a position for a mid-level professional. The ad includes details about the institute's focus on governance research and media development, as well as application procedures and contact information.