



**all
the
world's
news**

Sanjay Gandhi is dead in Delhi plane crash. (this page)

Withdrawal

USSR begins withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. (this page)

Grim

Western leaders meeting in Venice paint grim picture of outlook for world economy. (page three)

South Asia

King Birendra of Nepal supports Dacca proposal for South Asian summit. (page three)

Scandal

Big scandal allegedly involving senior officials in fictitious sales of textbooks unearthed in Haryana. (page four)

Movement

Setting up third oil refinery is one of the demands on which Assam CPI plans mass movement. (page four)

Cricket

Rain disrupts play at Lord's. (page six)

Trade

India's deficit in external trade caused by price rise, maintains Commerce Secretary. (page eight)

WEATHER

OUTLOOK: Partly cloudy sky, mainly clear night, not much change in day temperature. The maximum temperature on Monday was 37.5 degrees C (-2) and the minimum 27.5 degrees C (-2). The maximum relative humidity was 85 p.c and the minimum 43 p.c. Rainfall nil. Sun sets on Tuesday at 7.22 p.m to rise on Wednesday at 5.25 a.m.

Rajya Sabha:

Opposition talks to pool votes

Our Special Correspondent

With only a day left for filing nominations, the Opposition leaders are still continuing discussions on sponsoring common candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections from eight States. The consensus after a series of negotiations in the past few days is for pooling the surplus votes of each party in favour of a joint candidate. This means that the Lok Dal will contest two seats in UP and one in Bihar and the Cong-I one in Maharashtra. The two parties have already announced the names of their candidates. The talks now seem to be more on how best the votes of all parties and surplus votes of the dominant Opposition parties could be pooled. In Maharashtra, the Cong-U is learnt to have already agreed to give its surplus votes to Dr Shanti Patel the Janata candidate. Mr Chandrajit Yadav and Mr Narendra Singh from the Lok Dal, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde and

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SUPPLEMENT

Included in this 14-page issue of PATRIOT is a four-page supplement on the Cable Industry.

Batch of Soviet troops leave Afghanistan

KABUL, June 23 (AFP). ONE Soviet troop division and 108 tanks left for the Soviet Union early this morning through the Salang Pass Highway, an official announcement here said. Foreign and Soviet journalists were taken to the Soviet army garrison and an Afghan television team filmed the withdrawal.

The announcement by the Information Ministry said that today's withdrawal was in accordance with "an agreement reached between the commander of Soviet forces and the Afghan Government on Sunday."

One of the journalists said that he counted "at least 200 Soviet trucks, and 100 tanks coming out of the Soviet army garrison and heading towards north."

Reuters adds from Moscow that the Pravda correspondent reported from Kabul that tank units and armoured personnel carriers left the city outskirts "in a long line" early yesterday morning at the start of their 500 kilometre journey north to the Soviet Union. He said Afghan people turn

for their "friendly assistance" to Afghanistan. Tass reported that the farewell ceremony took place at Kherkhane and was attended by representatives of the Afghan Government. Continued on page 7, Col. 4

USSR promises further help to Afghanistan

MOSCOW, June 23 (PTI) — President Brezhnev said today that while withdrawing some units of Soviet troops from Afghanistan "on agreement with the Afghan government," Soviet Union would "further help" that country "build the new life and preserve gains of the April revolution."

He made this statement in a report to the plenary meeting of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee. Life in Afghanistan, the Soviet leader said, is now gradually coming back to normal. Large gangs of counter-revolutionaries were routed. "The interventionists have suffered serious defeat."

Sanjay Gandhi dies in air crash

Tragedy during aerobatics

Our Staff Reporter
MR SANJAY GANDHI, M.P., Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's younger son, died with his co-pilot Subhash Chandra Saxena in the capital on Monday morning when their two seater American bi-plane crashed in Chankayapuri while performing aerobatics.

Cremation today at Shantivana

Our Staff Reporter
Shantivana, samadhi of Jawaharlal Nehru, has been selected the cremation site for Mr Sanjay Gandhi too. Cremation will take place on Tuesday at 5 p.m. Mrs Indira Gandhi visited the samadhi personally on Monday afternoon to finalise the cremation arrangements. The funeral procession will leave from 1, Safdarjung Road, the Prime Minister's official residence, for the cremation site at 4 p.m. It will pass through Rajaji Marg, Vijay Chowk, Rajpath, Tilak Marg, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road and Rajghat.

SPECIAL TRAINS BUSES
The railways are running special trains to Delhi to enable people attend the funeral of Mr Gandhi. The stations wherefrom the special trains will run include Varanasi, Rae Bareilly, Amethi, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Ajmer, Jaipur, Jhansi and Patna. The DTC will operate special buses from Delhi Junction, New Delhi, Rly Station, Nizamuddin Rly Station and ISBT on the morning of 24 June. It ran special services from 50 radial points to 1 Safdarjung road throughout 23-24 June night.

PM'S FORTITUDE

Our Staff Reporter
AT 1, Safdarjung Road, the day had started as usual on Monday. There were visitors: Ministers, MPs, senior officials, party workers and others. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was going through her daily routine of meetings when the tragic news of her son's death reached her.

Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism Chandulal Chandrakar, who was among the Monday's audience, later recalled: "It was around 8.45 a.m. a household aide came and whispered to her: 'Sanjayji ke accident ki khabar mili hai'. She calmly asked: 'Kiya huya hai?'"

Then, perhaps on second thoughts, Mrs Gandhi moved to 'JUNE COMET' **Our Special Correspondent**
Mr Sanjay Gandhi, who was killed in an air accident on Monday morning, has disappeared from the Indian political arena exactly five years after he entered it the same month of June.

June, 1975 was memorable for many reasons. In the early hours of 12 June that year, a close confidant of Mrs Indira Gandhi, India's Ambassador to the Soviet Union D P Dhar died in a Delhi hospital following a major heart attack. That very day came the Allahabad High Court judgment disqualifying Mrs Gandhi from membership of Parliament. There was a turmoil in the country, and it was then that Mr Gandhi stood beside his mother adding strength to her will as she undertook important measures that left an indelible imprint on the face of the country.

On 20 June—eight days after the Allahabad High Court judgment—a massive rally was organised by the Congress Party at the Boat Club. One of the key figures in organising the rally was Mr Sanjay Gandhi. From that day his prominence in the field of Indian politics started to be felt and noted by all, and though he remained for a brief period in the background he began to be associated with major policy decisions. Indeed, Mr Gandhi was consulted several times before the Emergency was im-

posed some time ago from the United States. The plane had arrived in the Capital in crates and had been commissioned after re-assembly only this month. Mr Gandhi had flown the plane a few times in the preceding days, and had taken his wife and some friends up for joy-rides.

On Monday, he drove to the Safdarjung airport at 7.40 a.m. in his car, signed for the plane and took off with his co-pilot at 8.04 a.m. After a smooth take off in clear weather and good visibility, the plane performed some inverted and trick flying, coming low over Ashoka Hotel after which it went into a spin, gouged a furrow through a dense grove of neem trees and crashed on its nose. There was no fire.

The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation, which has ordered a statutory enquiry into the crash and Central intelligence and forensic officials, were going over the wreckage and the crash site to find out the cause of the crash. They refused any comments.

The light plane does not have the 'black box' which is mandatory equipment on passenger airliners and records the movements and pilot's conversation which can later be decoded by investigators. The Delhi crime branch police are also investigating the facts leading to the air crash. Other intelligence agencies are also believed to have joined the probe. The preflight log book, the "snag register" and other documents pertaining to the imported sports craft were seized by DGCA officials within four hours of the accident. Senior officers of the Civil Aviation were seen interrogating engineers of the Delhi Flying Club at about 1.00 p.m.

The oil cart which filled the ill-fated aircraft with 25 litres of high octane aviation fuel on Monday morning was kept under lock and key apparently for analysis to detect foreign matter in the oil. A lock has also been put on the separate godown of the Flying Club hanger. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism sent a preliminary report on the air crash to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

At the hospital, where the crowd had started collecting, Mrs Gandhi rushed straight to the emergency ward. A senior doctor attending on Mr Gandhi came out and stuttered... "How are they?" enquired the Prime Minister. The doctor calmed himself a little and finally said: "Woh... woh... ji nahi rahe". Almost everyone there broke into loud wails. Mrs Gandhi tried to comfort some of them though her own tears gave her away. She soon wiped her tears and was found consoling her daughter.

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wards her house. There was some commotion. She got into a car and left the house immediately. Then, other household members left for the Lohia Hospital where Mr Gandhi and his instructor Subash Saxena had been taken.

Security officers inspecting the wreckage of the two-seater Pitts plane in which Mr Sanjay Gandhi and his co-pilot Subhash Saxena died. The plane had crashed in Chankayapuri on Monday morning.



Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mrs Maneka Gandhi on the police van carrying the body of Mr Sanjay Gandhi to their 1 Safdarjung Road residence from Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital on Monday—PATRIOT photo.

PROBE INTO AIR CRASH BEGINS

Our Staff Reporter
THE Directorate General of Civil Aviation has started an inquiry into the air crash in which Mr Sanjay Gandhi was killed on Monday. The Union Government is likely to appoint on Tuesday a three-member level Court of Inquiry, headed by a former Judge, to enquire into the crash.

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LEADERS SHOCKED

PRESIDENT Sanjiva Reddy in a telephonic communication from Tirupati to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said "I am shocked to learn about the sudden and sad demise of Sanjay," reports PTI. The President said Mr Sanjay's passing away at a young age was a great loss to the country. He said "My wife and I send our heart-felt condolences to you, Maneka and other members of your family in this hour of sorrow. May God give you the strength to bear this irreparable loss." Mr Reddy who is camping at Tirupati, is likely to fly to Delhi on Tuesday. Vice-President Hidayatullah said in a choked voice that the

Plane had done only six hours

Our Staff Reporter
THE white-and-red biplane, in which Sanjay Gandhi and chief instructor S Saxena died on Monday was a brand new sports model Pitts S-2A and had done only six hours of flying after it was re-assembled in Delhi eight days back. The aeroplane was registered with the DGCA on 19 June. From the twisted wreckage of the ill-fated aircraft, senior experts of the DGCA have come to the preliminary conclusion that the plane had stalled and come crashing down from a height of at least 2,000 feet as it could not regain optimum airspeed. The bent propeller and the position of the throttles and

Parliament adjourned

Our Special Correspondent
STUNNED and grieved by the sudden death of Mr Sanjay Gandhi in the plane accident on Monday morning, Parliament met in an atmosphere of gloom and adjourned for the day after paying tribute to the departed soul.

Parties condole untimely death

The Cong-I Parliamentary Party adopted a condolence resolution on the death of Mr Sanjay Gandhi and their members marched in silent procession to No 1, Safdarjung Road, the Prime Minister's residence, says PTI. A resolution, moved by Mr Samantji Tripathi, placed on record CPI's deep sense of sorrow over "this national tragedy" and conveyed to "our beloved leader," Mrs Indira Gandhi its heart-felt condolences. Mr Tripathi described Mr Gandhi as "the rising star of Indian politics which has disappeared... a fire which has been extinguished."

A meeting of the members of the AICC office expressed "great shock" at the death of party general-secretary Sanjay Gandhi. In the Lok Sabha, Speaker Bal Ram broke down several times as he made the short announcement and paid his tribute to Mr Gandhi. In the Upper House, Chairman M Hidayatullah said "we are poorer, much poorer after his death."

The Chairman said: "Honourable members must have learnt the sad news of the untimely loss of Mr Sanjay Gandhi in an aerial accident. The untimely loss of any patriotic citizen of the country is to be bemoaned. When we lose somebody who was more than that, who was

Unsafe for loops, says pilot

LUCKNOW, June 23 (UNI) — The two-seater Pitts biplane was unsafe for aerobatical feats like loop, according to Capt K S Mankan, who had flown with Mr Gandhi several times. With tears in his eyes, Capt Mankan told newsmen "An American pilot, settled in Australia," had warned him against doing loops in the Pitts biplane. He, however, was too dazed to recollect the name of the American pilot. Capt Mankan had himself done one sortie in the biplane, on Sunday, morning after which Mr Sanjay Gandhi flew two sorties.

Yugoslav PM for putting off visit

Our Special Correspondent
Yugoslavia PM Veselin Djuranovic has conveyed to the Indian Government his desire to put off his official visit to this country scheduled to begin on 26 June. Though the reason for this has not been explained, it is learnt that due to the demise of Mr Sanjay Gandhi he does not want to come to India just now, especially when the Prime Minister herself has been personally bereaved. Mr Gandhi has not yet decided



Subhas Saxena

