

India carries out third missile test in three days

AFP, Bhubaneswar
India Monday carried out its third test in three days of its surface-to-air Akash missile at an eastern coastal testing range, a defence official said.

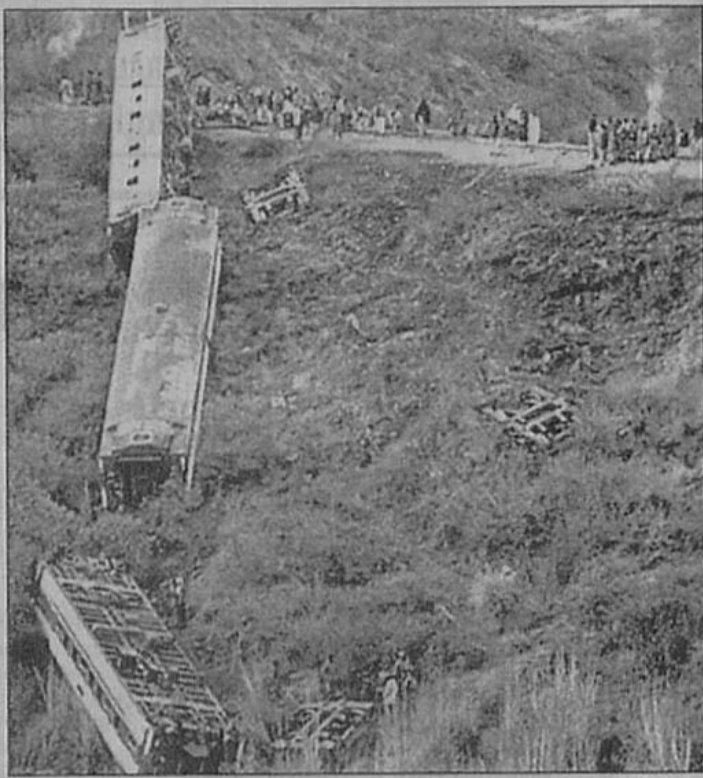


PHOTO: AFP
Pakistani soldiers and accident investigators inspect the wreckage of a train at Domeli, near the city of Jhelum yesterday.

Sabotage blamed for Pak train plunge

4 passengers killed

AFP, Islamabad
Pakistani investigators believe saboteurs tampered with a section of railway track, causing a train to plunge into a ravine and killing at least four people, a minister said yesterday.

AFP, Islamabad
"We have seen spanners, the nuts of the fish plates were open," he added, referring to a key track part used to join different rail sections.

passengers in the stricken coaches survived and it was a miracle that more were not killed, said Major General Shaukat Sultan, President Pervez Musharraf's spokesman.

On Sunday suspected rebels blew up a stretch of track in Shadran-Lund, which is also in Punjab but about 400km southwest of Jhelum, 40 minutes before a passenger train was due to pass, police said.

Candidates stay out of Nepali polls campaign

AFP, Bidur
A candidate was shot while others stayed largely out of sight as campaigning officially began for controversial municipal polls called by Nepal's royal government, which Maoist rebels have threatened to disrupt.

paing in the capital.
The February 8 elections are touted by King Gyanendra as the first step in restoring democracy after he seized power last February.

the army and the Maoists," he said.
Seven police and army checkpoints on the way to Bidur indicate that this is a different world from the cocoon of the capital, where one mayoral candidate prepared Monday to launch his campaign with a motorcycle rally.

MULFORD EFFECT
India plans to abstain from Iran vote

REUTERS, New Delhi
India plans to abstain from a vote on Iran's nuclear programme at a meeting of the UN's atomic watchdog this week, top Indian officials said yesterday.

expressed regret, his remarks triggered a domestic furore with allies in Manmohan Singh's ruling coalition and opposition groups accusing the government of selling out to Washington.

New recruits bolster Tigers ahead of talks

AFP, Colombo
Tamil guerrillas have inducted scores more combatants to their "Sea Tiger" force ahead of crucial peace talks with the Sri Lankan government, a pro-rebel website said yesterday.

However, since the Colombo government and the LTTE agreed last week to end a three-year deadlock in peace talks and try to strengthen a ceasefire, the level of violence has dropped sharply, defence officials say.

Naga rebels sound warning to Delhi

AFP, Guwahati
Separatist rebels from northeastern Nagaland warned Monday, ahead of another round of talks with the Indian government in Thailand, that they will let a ceasefire lapse unless they clinch concessions.

Ex-Pak PM Sharif arrives in London

AFP, London
Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has arrived in London from Saudi Arabia where he has lived in exile since being thrown from power by the regime of Pervez Musharraf.

Advertisement for Rolls-Royce power generation solutions. Features a large image of a gas engine and the text 'NO MORE POWER CRISIS' and 'BEST power generation solution Rolls-Royce Gas Generating set units, MW - 2.4, 3.2, 3.61, 5.1, 6.8, 8.5'.



Flanked by riot police, Nepalese students shout anti-monarchy slogans on the streets of Kathmandu yesterday ahead of the first anniversary of King Gyanendra's power grab.

Tough new judge threatens to derail rocky Saddam trial

AFP, Baghdad
The notoriously chaotic trial of deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had a new judge on Sunday determined to shape the process up, but in the process lost half his defendants and all their lawyers.

Muslim anger snowballs over cartoon on Prophet

AFP, Cairo
Four months after the fact, Muslim anger over the publication in Scandinavia of cartoons depicting the Prophet Hazrat Mohammed (SM) has snowballed into a diplomatic crisis threatening trade relations with Europe.

Cartoons including a portrayal of the prophet wearing a time-bomb shaped turban were published in a Danish newspaper last September and reprinted in a Norwegian magazine in January, sparking uproar in the Muslim world where images of the prophet are considered blasphemous.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bank. Includes the bank's logo, name, and a list of services and interest rates in Bengali.