

Security Council to expand UN power

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 16: Leaders of the 15 Security Council nations gathered January 31 for an unprecedented summit to recommend expanding the diplomatic and peacekeeping role of the United Nations and discuss international security, reports AP.

Pan Am bombing Big 3 to put off vote

NEW YORK, United Nations, Jan 16: The United States, France and Britain Wednesday agreed to put off until Friday or Monday a vote on a UN Security Council resolution calling on Libya to cooperate in a probe into bomb attacks against US and French airliners.

BRIEFLY

Soviet N-arsenal well guarded: Visiting Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin said on Wednesday that the former Soviet nuclear arsenal was well guarded and there was no danger that nuclear weapons would be sold off, reports Reuter from Athens.

Miyazawa arrives in Seoul: Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa arrived Thursday in Seoul where protesters angered by new disclosures about Japanese war atrocities plan large demonstrations, reports Reuter from Seoul.

EC to recognise 2 republics: The European Community on Wednesday said it would recognise Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as independent countries, reports AP from Brussels.

3 Miami men plead for life: Three Miami residents condemned to die for attempted terrorism pleaded for their life before Cuba's supreme court on Wednesday, Cuba's Prensa Latina news agency reported from Havana.

Hurd in India: British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd opened a four-day official visit Thursday to discuss an anti-terrorism accord and review post-Cold War developments, reports AP from New Delhi.

Aborting of Algerian polls example of Western hypocrisy: DUBAI, Jan 16: Many governments breathed a sigh of relief when an Islamic fundamentalist sweep to power through the ballot box was halted in Algeria, reports Reuter.

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CIS invited to join East-West Cooperation Council

BRUSSELS, Jan 16: NATO agreed on Wednesday to offer formal ties to all republics of the old Soviet Union by inviting them to join a new East-West "Cooperation Council" that will meet next month at the alliance's headquarters, reports Reuter.

India deserves permanent membership of UN Council

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: India deserves a place as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council as the world's largest democracy, US Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan said Thursday, reports AP.

ROK to probe into 'comfort girls' issue. SEOUL, Jan 16: The government announced an investigation Thursday into new reports that dozens—perhaps hundreds—of primary school girls were forced to serve Japanese troops during World War II, reports AP.

Two children take part in Wednesday's celebration in Zagreb of the recognition of Croatia as an independent state. —AFP photo

EC recognises Croatia

ZAGREB, Jan 16: Church bells rang out here on Wednesday after the European Community announced recognition of the independence of Croatia and Germany established diplomatic ties, reports AP.

Gamsakhurdia for war against army

MOSCOW, Jan 16: Zviad Gamsakhurdia, Georgia's ousted president, secretly returned Thursday to western Georgia and declared a crusade against the military council that overthrew him, according to a council member, reports AP.

'Aborting of Algerian polls example of Western hypocrisy'

DUBAI, Jan 16: Many governments breathed a sigh of relief when an Islamic fundamentalist sweep to power through the ballot box was halted in Algeria, reports Reuter.

Germany Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had suggested holding a meeting of foreign ministers in Prague at the end of this month.

Off the Record

CAIRO: An Egyptian play that calls Arabs dictatorial and ignorant is thrilling audiences in Cairo and breaking new ground in what may be said on stage in the Arab world, reports Reuter.

She rarely does right

LONDON, Jan 16: The Duchess of York, the royal who rarely does right in the eyes of Britain's tabloids, was a bit of a yep another brouhaha Wednesday, reports AP.

Islam in the former Soviet republics

But even in Saudi Arabia, the government has to balance pressure for liberalisation carefully against a deep-rooted puritanical Islamic tradition.

Tunisia's rulers take chances

King Hassan's Morocco is not too dissimilar from the Shah's Iran, the diplomats said.

Turkey to restore citizenship of 15000 dissidents

ANKARA, Jan 16: Turkey will restore the citizenship of some 15,000 political dissidents and Kurdish separatists who fled the country after a 1980 military coup.

Slovenia wants to become part of Europe

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia, Jan 16: The tiny republic of Slovenia, recognised as an independent state for the first time in modern history, is already bracing for the struggle to become part of Europe.

Teresa leaves hospital

LA JOLLA (California), Jan 16: Mother Teresa left hospital on Wednesday to the cheers of well wishers after recovering from life-threatening heart and lung ailments, reports Reuter.

Off the Record

It reflects a political relaxation in Egypt over the 10 years of President Hosni Mubarak's rule. He has legalised opposition parties and allowed them to publish newspapers which routinely criticise the government.

Doings of the papers had the pictures, but they agreed

The tabloids said some pictures showed other people, including the Duchess's daughter Princess Beatrice, in the group.

Scotland Yard confirmed a number of photographs

Wyatt was described in two papers as 'a cross between Bobby Ewing and the Incredible Hulk', the adopted son of Houston oil tycoon Oscar Wyatt who lived in London while he worked for Delaney Petroleum.

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Iran is preaching military, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are, with Western encouragement, trying to promote a more moderate form of Islam.



The most dramatic scenario would see fundamentalists taking power in one Arab state after another, and also in other Muslim countries such as former Soviet republics in central Asia.