

France keen to sign N-accord with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Jan 29: Paris is keen on signing nuclear cooperation agreement with Pakistan for civilian purposes...

Turkmenistan sets up own Defence Ministry

MOSCOW, Jan 29: The central Asian republic of Turkmenistan has set up its own Defence Ministry...

9 killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, Jan 29: Nine people were killed and 11 injured in separatist violence in Kashmir...

PALESTINIANS MAKE A MISTAKE

Israel: Israeli officials said Palestinians had only harmed themselves by staying in the corridors of the Middle East...

POLICE ARREST 13 YOUTHS IN ITALY

Italian police arrested 13 youths on Tuesday after a gang attacked a hostel housing 200 Asian immigrant workers...

US-VIETNAM TALKS TO NORMALISE TIES

The United States and Vietnam will hold a new round of talks on normalising relations Wednesday in Washington...

US TO SELL RADARPLANES TO THAILAND

The Bush administration said on Tuesday it has notified Congress of its intention to sell three E-2C military radar warning aircraft to Thailand...

Yeltsin calls for liquidation of N-arms

Bush proposes dramatic cuts in long-range N-missiles

WASHINGTON, Jan 29: President George Bush on Tuesday proposed dramatic new cuts in long-range nuclear missiles...

missiles, Bush said, the United States will do the same and will also cut its submarine-based warheads by one-third...

was allowing him to cut production by Northrop Corp of the controversial, radar-avoiding B-2 to only 20 bombers...

With billions spent on research, development and construction of the first three B-2s, the cost of 20 bombers would become more than two billion dollars each...

The deep weapons cuts are part of the Pentagon's plan to slash the defence budget by eliminating or reducing arms programmes instead of making additional cuts in troops...



Aboard the 'RUSSIA', off Novorossiysk: Russian President B Yeltsin talks with CIS-Army commander Evgeni Shaposhnikov(R) and Black Sea Fleet commander Igor Kasatonov about the future of the Black Sea Fleet...

Li Peng won't bow to foreign pressures over human rights

ROME, Jan 29: Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, making clear he has no intention of bowing to foreign pressures over human rights...

influence at all on us, but it has only been small," he told a news conference. Li, who later left for Switzerland on the second leg of an international tour...

list of clergymen and political prisoners on Monday and mixed promises of economic cooperation with pleas for China to respect human rights...

be "immoral to talk to the Chinese only about business without raising the issue of freedom and human rights."

Imelda arrested, freed on bail

MANILA, Jan 29: Former first lady Imelda Marcos was freed on bail today after being arrested and held for three hours by police on charges of violating Philippine currency regulations...

Her arraignment was set for February 25. Marcos, hounded into exile by a popular revolt in 1986...



520 Lankan leftists on hunger strike at detention camp

COLOMBO, Jan 29: About 520 Sri Lankans at a detention camp for left-wing rebels are on hunger strike to demand they be released or charged...

a section of the law which permits indefinite detention, others must be brought before a magistrate or released within six or nine months...

Kim Jong may become army marshal

SEOUL, Jan 29: Kim Jong Il, the mysterious son of North Korean President Kim Il Sung, will likely become army marshal in April...

Major Seoul newspapers quoted a government official as saying the younger Kim is likely to replace his father as army marshal on April 25...

Rafsanjani wants to improve ties with neighbours

NICOSIA, Jan 29: Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Tuesday Iran was ready to do all it could to assist Muslim countries...

Rafsanjani spoke during a meeting with his foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, and Iranian ambassadors in Tehran for consultations...

"Global enemies of Muslim countries are constantly attempting to hinder the process of expansion of relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf states," he said.

FIS chief spokesman arrested

ALGIERS, Jan 29: Algerian security forces, increasing pressure on the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) have arrested another top leader of the fundamentalist party...

FIS sources said Rabah Kebir, who was effectively the party's chief spokesman after the arrest of provisional leader Abdelkader Hachani last week...

They said a platoon of 35 to 40 soldiers was patrolling a village when it was attacked by the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam...

The guerrillas escaped after a 1 1/2-hour gun battle in Singapura, 190 kilometers (120 miles) northeast of Colombo...

Twenty soldiers were killed Jan 21 in the northeast Trincomalee district, a day before the first batch on 614 Tamil refugees returned to the Trincomalee port.

Off the Record

Affluent boredom

BONN: Germans have so much free time on their hands they don't know what to do with it, says Reuter. A survey released on Tuesday said 33 per cent of West Germans...

Dewi Sukarno denies champagne glass assault charge

ASPEN, Colorado: Dewi Sukarno, widow of Indonesia's first president said on Tuesday she will file a countersuit against a New York socialist who alleges that Sukarno attacked her with a champagne glass...

Hardship won't stop Albanian beauty contest

TIRANA, Albania: To the accompaniment of pounding Euro-pop music, 25 young women in mini-skirts are learning to saunter down a catwalk in preparation for Albania's first beauty contest...

Love ends in death

FRESNO, California: A couple married for 63 years died within minutes of each other, both apparently of heart attacks, relatives said, reports AP. Kelly Thomas found his wife, Hazel, dead on the floor of their home Friday...

Bored chimp goes bananas

CAIRO: A depressed chimpanzee caused panic in an Egyptian zoo when she attacked her keeper and escaped from her cage, an Egyptian newspaper reported Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Libya lures Russian nuclear scientists

HAMBURG, Jan 29: Libya is trying to employ Russian nuclear scientists and is offering them annual salaries of dollars 100,000 the German magazine Stern reported Tuesday, says AP.

Germany, the United States and other Western countries have been increasingly concerned about reports that Libya and other Third World nations seeking to develop their nuclear potential are trying to hire scientists from the states that once formed the Soviet Union.



SAN SALVADOR: Salvadoran guerrilla commander Ramon Medrano(R) announced at a press conference the official dissolution of the FMLN general command and its conversion into a political party...