

International

Pakistan has 7 nuclear weapons : Benazir was overthrown for protest

Pindi planned to drop N-bomb on India in '90

WASHINGTON, Dec 3: Pakistan readied a nuclear weapon to drop on India in the spring of 1990 when the Indian army was conducting war games near the border, NBC reported on Wednesday, says Reuter.

"I have no proof for this but I feel that someone may have turned on the (nuclear) switch in the spring of 1990 to justify the dismissal of my government and, now, having done that, does not know how to turn that switch off and explain to the people who turned it on that she was right and they were wrong," Bhutto told NBC.

told NBC the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had described the Pakistani nuclear programme to him. "They'd have the capability within a matter of hours to have a bomb in an aeroplane and flying someplace and dropping it," Pressler said.

He was responding to questions about the Pakistani government's denial earlier in the day that it possesses any atomic bombs. An NBC television network report on Tuesday reported that Pakistan had components to make seven nuclear bombs.

"The status is still the same," Boucher said, "that we are unable to certify that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device."

lion regimes, to begin confidence-building steps, and to participate in multilateral discussions aimed at averting a regional nuclear arms race," Boucher said.

54 city govts dissolved in Algeria

ALGIERS, Dec 3: Seeking to tighten control as violence continues, the military-led government on Wednesday dissolved 27 more city governments and announced a curfew beginning this weekend, reports AP.

Blast rocks Manchester

MANCHESTER, Dec 3: An explosion rocked central Manchester Thursday morning, injuring four people and damaging office buildings, police and fire services said, reports AP.

BRIEFLY

Khmers urged to free UN troops:

The United States urged the Khmer Rouge to free six United Nations peacekeepers seized while aboard a boat in the Stoen Sen River where they were observing troop movements, reports AFP from Washington.

UN teams' new mission in Iraq:

Two teams of UN weapons inspectors, including nuclear experts, are due to start a new mission to Iraq Friday in a bid to discover the names of Baghdad's foreign weapons suppliers, a UN spokesman said Wednesday, reports AFP from Manama.

CIS summit likely Dec 25:

The next summit of Commonwealth leaders is likely to be held on December 25, the head of the 10-nation block's coordination group said on Wednesday, reports Reuter from Moscow.

3 Argentine ministers resign:

Argentina's ministers of the interior, labour and education resigned unexpectedly, the official news agency Telam reported late Wednesday, reports AP from Buenos Aires.

Abkhazians kill 8:

Eight people were killed and 37 wounded in an artillery attack by Abkhaz separatist forces on the main market of the Black Sea Port of Sukhumi on Wednesday, a senior Georgian official said, reports Reuter from Moscow.

Plane crashes in Stockholm:

A small airplane carrying three people crashed into an apartment building in a Stockholm suburb Thursday morning, Swedish radio reported, says AP from Stockholm.

Latam summit ends

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 3: Leaders of 11 Latin American nations concluded a two-day summit Wednesday pledging to strengthen democracy and fight poverty, and endorsing efforts to conclude world trade talks, reports AFP.

Asians pushing for a new definition of human rights

MANILA, Dec 3: Stung by what they see as bossy western moralising about human rights, the newly-affluent nations of Asia are pushing for a new definition of human rights they say is rooted in their own culture and values, reports IPS.



President George Bush (R) and Vice President Dan Quayle (C) meet on Wednesday with US Sen. Bob Kerry (L), D-Mass, in the White House Oval Office about Kerry's recently concluded trip to Southeast Asia in search of information about American POW/MIA's.

Americans invited to celebrate Clinton's installation

WASHINGTON, Dec 3: "All Americans" are invited to take part in five days of festivities that will mark the assumption of office January 20 of Bill Clinton as President of the United States.

characterised Clinton's campaign for the presidency. "The whole thing will look very much like America," said Ron Brown, he Democratic Party Chairman who was named by Clinton to head the committee organising the inaugural ceremonies.

accessible to the people. "We have invited all Americans to participate," he added. Only 10 balls, tickets for which will cost 125 dollars, will not be free.

Discovery crew releases spy satellite

SPACE CENTER, Houston, Dec 3: Discovery's crew of five astronauts released a secret military satellite, then awakened Thursday to work on the open portion of their seven-day mission, reports AP.

Panic's candidacy uncertain

BELGRADE, Dec 3: A top electoral official said Wednesday that moderate Yugoslav Premier Milan Panic failed to produce documents qualifying him to run against hard-line Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in December 20 elections, reports AP.

Greece closes border with Macedonia

SKOPJE, Dec 3: Greece closed its border with its northern neighbour Macedonia on Wednesday, Macedonian radio reported, according to Reuter.

Israeli move to repeal ban of meet with PLO

JERUSALEM, Dec 3: The government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which has ignored violations of a law prohibiting contacts with the PLO on Wednesday asked parliament to formally repeal the ban, reports AP.

Off the Record

Don't drive in public

MANAMA: American servicewomen have been ordered not to drive in public in Saudi Arabia to avoid conflict with the kingdom's rigidly Islamic society, US military sources disclosed Wednesday, reports AP.

They are not interested in 'safe sex'

LONDON: Many people in Britain and France are not practicing 'safe sex', leaving them and their partners at risk of getting the AIDS virus, according to two studies published Thursday, reports AP.

Kids are too sure of their ability

WASHINGTON: The US government has found what parents already knew: Kids who smoke are too sure of their ability to stop, reports AP.



CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD: A group of Myanmar teen-aged girls reportedly sold by their parents, due to acute poverty, is seen with a social worker, after they were rescued from Thai brothels. They were forced to prostitution. — Star TV photo

Survivors observe Bhopal disaster day

BHOPAL, India, Dec 3: Survivors of the Bhopal gas disaster on Thursday burnt effigies and marched through the streets to condemn Union Carbide Corp. on the eighth anniversary of the world's worst industrial accident, reports AP.

Survivors observe Bhopal disaster day

health care is more fundamental than its right to vote. South-east Asian officials bristle when concepts like democracy and human rights are measured by standards set in Europe or the United States.

Survivors observe Bhopal disaster day

bluntly warned the west not to "dictate its concept of democracy and human rights... on others."

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that is keeping them poor. In some countries like Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia which are battling separatist insurgencies, state sponsored suppressing of freedoms is justified on grounds of national security.

Survivors observe Bhopal disaster day

mission Control announced late Wednesday, nearly seven and half after the shuttle's liftoff, that the Pentagon satellite had been released.