

BRIEFLY

Benazir to visit Singapore: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit Singapore from March 7-10 as part of her ongoing effort to lure investors to Pakistan...

Algerian TV staff killed: A staff member of Algeria's state television, Nasser Ouati, was murdered near Algiers on Wednesday...

Brizan Grenada's new PM: George Brizan was sworn in as Grenada's Prime Minister on Wednesday and said he would work to improve the tiny spicing island's economy...

2 Greek fighter jets missing: Two Greek Air Force F-5 fighter planes vanished on Wednesday while flying near the eastern Aegean island of Limnos...

3 bombs explode in Istanbul: A bomb explosion killed a suspected terrorist on Wednesday and two other blasts damaged buildings but caused no injuries...

Clash leaves 7 dead in Philippines: Five soldiers and two rebels were killed in a two-day clash between troops and the Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf Group in the southern Philippines...

Jordanian new IOJ Secy-Gen: The International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) elected a Jordanian as its first Arab secretary general on Wednesday...

Dini gets support to govern Italy: New Prime Minister Lamberto Dini secured overwhelming support to govern Italy in a vote by the Upper House on Wednesday...

78 Kurds killed in Turkey since '91: Seventy-eight members of the pro-Kurdish Party of People's Democracy (PPD) have been killed in unsolved political assassinations since July 1991...

Discovery blasts off today: NASA announced on Wednesday that it was postponing Thursday's scheduled launch for the Discovery space shuttle for 24 hours because of a problem in the navigation system...

US denies asylum to ethnic Indian: An ethnic Indian living in Fiji who was seized, beaten and questioned about his membership in a dissident party was not subjected to political persecution...

Kobe rocked again: A tremor measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale hit the Kobe region, scene of last month's devastating earthquake...

1m die of TB in S Asia a year: One million people die every year of tuberculosis in South Asia, home to one of every four new victims of the disease...

Phoolan has finally got her wish: NEW DELHI, Feb 2: India's 'bandit queen' Phoolan Devi finally got her wish and watched a controversial movie based on her life as an outlaw...

HR abuses still a significant problem in India: US WASHINGTON, Feb 2: Human rights abuses remain a significant problem in India despite its longstanding democratic tradition...

PHOOLAN HAS FINALLY GOT HER WISH: NEW DELHI, Feb 2: India's 'bandit queen' Phoolan Devi finally got her wish and watched a controversial movie based on her life as an outlaw...

Sharif's close aide to form separate bloc Split in Pakistan Muslim League

ISLAMABAD, Feb 2: A split has surfaced in Pakistan's main opposition party led by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif with the announcement by a key lieutenant that he would form a splinter group...

Nawaz Khokar, a member of the national assembly, announced his decision here late Tuesday and said he had the support of 12 other MPs who would join him to form a 'forward bloc' within the Pakistan Muslim League (PML).



Several women and children shout slogans in a street protest on Wednesday for the security of life organised by the Karachi Women Action Committee.

Peace chances slim as fighting continues in Bihac

SARAJEVO, Feb 2: Efforts to bring peace to former Yugoslavia ran into fresh difficulties over the involvement of Krajina Serbs from Croatia fighting in Bosnia's Muslim held Bihac enclave...

UN aid drive for Chechen refugees GENEVA, Feb 2: United Nations humanitarian agencies launched a joint appeal Wednesday for 23.6 million dollars to provide aid for more than 160,000 refugees who have fled the fighting in Chechnya...

EU for negotiated end to Chechnya conflict PARIS, Feb 2: The European Union (EU) on Wednesday urged Russia to call an immediate ceasefire in Chechnya and seek a negotiated end to the conflict...

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There was no immediate reaction from Sharif or his aides to Khokar's rebellion, but sources in the party accused the MP of having had clandestine contacts with the government. Khokar has denied striking any deals, citing outstanding charges against him by the government in a case involving a bank loan default...

Clinton endorses Cairo summit WASHINGTON, Feb 2: President Bill Clinton told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday he endorsed his call for an unprecedented summit with leaders of Jordan, Israel and the PLO...

Peru-Ecuador border clash leaves 50 dead LIMA, Feb 2: Fifty soldiers were killed in a fresh outbreak of border clashes Wednesday between Peru and Ecuador in the Gondor mountain range...

PLO leader warns of 'new uprising' JERUSALEM, Feb 2: Palestinians will wage a new uprising against Israel if construction of Jewish neighbourhoods in predominantly Arab east Jerusalem continues...

Lebanese army accused of harassing SLA BEIRUT, Feb 2: The Israeli army has protested to the Lebanese army about its treatment of residents of Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone and warned of counter-measures...

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ROK studying US request to send troops to Bosnia SEOUL, Feb 2: South Korea is studying a US request that it send troops to join the UN peacekeeping operation in Bosnia...

Two Nepali parties walk out of parliament

KATHMANDU, Feb 2: Nepal's two main opposition parties stormed out of parliament over separate issues on Tuesday night, causing the first embarrassment to the minority communist government...

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Off the Record A blatant act of sexual harassment NEW YORK: Russian ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy sexually harassed a Playboy magazine interviewer and her translator on a campaign trip...

Men's sperm counts falling BOSTON: Men's sperm counts seem to be falling, and no one knows why, reports AP. The latest evidence of this troubling trend is a French study that found that the sperm counts of donors at a Paris sperm bank have dropped by one-third over the past two decades...

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