

International

Plane hijackers are not in Pakistan: Musharraf

Freed militants seen in Karachi, Muzaffarabad

ISLAMABAD, Jan 4: Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf said Tuesday the hijackers of an Indian airliner were not in Pakistan and accused India of conducting a smear campaign.

One of the Kashmiri militants, a Pakistani scholar named Maulana Masood Azhar, has been seen in Karachi, a source in a Muslim guerrilla fighting group said Wednesday.

When I was told by my friends that Maulana sahib is back, that was the biggest happiness of my life, the source said.

India is planning to manufacture anti-ballistic missile system. PUNE, Jan 5: Principal Scientific Advisor to the government APJ Abdul Kalam yesterday said India was planning to manufacture an anti-ballistic missile system in near future to counter the incoming enemy missile attacks, reports PTI.

US won't declare Pakistan a terrorist state

WASHINGTON, Jan 5: The US has said that it will not accede to India's demand to declare Pakistan a terrorist state for its alleged role in the hijacking of the Indian airlines plane but urged all concerned states to take action to ensure that the hijackers are arrested and prosecuted, reports PTI.

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Broccoli cuts cancer risk

LOS ANGELES, Jan 5: Eating lots of broccoli, or even coleslaw, may help protect men from prostate cancer, but consuming tomato products probably will not, researchers said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Every men's magazine in the country says eat more spaghetti sauce to cut your prostate cancer risk, but we found no relation at all, Kristal said.

The results called into question earlier research extolling the prostate cancer-fighting benefits of lycopene, a carotenoid found most abundantly in cooked tomatoes.



Police cover the remains of a male victim, killed in the suicide bomb attack yesterday outside the Prime Minister's office in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo.

When the Tiger strikes

Suspected Tamil Tiger terror continues in 2000



Bomb blast in Pakistan injures 27

KARACHI, Jan 5: At least 27 people were injured when a powerful bomb exploded in a shopping market in Hyderabad, southern Pakistan, on Wednesday, police and residents said, reports AFP.

Hyderabad police chief Deputy Inspector General Saud Mirza told reporters at the site he blamed terrorists.



US President Bill Clinton (C), Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak (L) and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara meet during the second day of peace talks between Israel and Syria in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, on Tuesday.

Syria, Israel start talks

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W Va, Jan 5: Syrian and Israeli negotiators started detailed peace talks on Tuesday after US President Bill Clinton resolved a dispute over how to begin and brought off a meeting between Syrian and Israeli leaders, reports Reuters.

The US president, trying to break the ice after more than 50 years of conflict, then hosted an informal social gathering at the secluded hotel venue in the town of Shepherdstown, with six members from each of the three delegations.

Toll rises to 11 in Norwegian train crash

OSLO, Jan 5: The toll in the head-on train crash near Lillehammer rose to 11 on Wednesday as rescuers pulled out four more charred bodies from the wreckage, Norwegian public radio NRK reported, says AFP.

Russians move closer to centre of Grozny

GROZNY, Russia, Jan 5: Russian forces fought their way closer to the centre of Grozny from the north on Wednesday as soldiers reported for the first time that Chechens were breaking the federal circle around their capital on the south, reports AFP.

In Moscow, Defence Minister Igor Sergeev said after a top government meeting held by acting President Vladimir Putin that the "anti-terrorist" operation was going just according to plan.

Pinochet undergoes medical tests

LONDON, Jan 5: Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet arrived in hospital Wednesday in London for independent medical tests to help determine whether he is fit for extradition to Spain on torture charges, reports AFP.

A spokesman for Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow, northwest London, said the 84-year-old general arrived under police escort at 8:45 a.m. (1445 BST), and would spend the day there.

N Korea demands compensation to improve ties with Japan

TOKYO, Jan 5: North Korea, fresh from setting up diplomatic relations with Italy, Wednesday demanded war-time compensation and an apology from Japan as a condition for improved ties, reports AFP.

The DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and Japan are to be improved, Japan must sincerely apologise and compensate for the immeasurable misery, pain and disaster imposed by it upon the Korean people in the past and drop its hostile policy towards the DPRK, said an official North Korean media report.

Boat with 117 immigrants held

A boat carrying 117 suspected illegal immigrants has been stopped at Ashmore Reef, 600 km north of the Australian mainland, Customs Minister Amanda Vanstone said Wednesday, AFP reports from Perth, Australia.

Prison riot in Venezuela kills 6

A gang fight at a prison in northwest Venezuela on Tuesday killed six inmates and injured 27, officials said, AP reports from Caracas.

Taliban release 90 captives

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia released 90 prisoners from the capital's main jail in honour of the imminent Muslim Eid al-Fitr festival, an official report said, reports AFP.

Off the Record



A file photo dated February 5, 1999 shows Atlanta Braves' owner Ted Turner and his wife Jane Fonda during a reception honouring baseball legend Hank Aaron on his 65th birthday.

Turner, Fonda separating

ATLANTA: Maverick CNN broadcast mogul Ted Turner and Oscar-winning actress Jane Fonda, whose union seemed made in media heaven, said Tuesday they are separating because they need personal time but will stay married, reports Reuters.

Turner, 61, and Fonda, 62, married on December 21, 1991 in a small, private ceremony at Turner's north Florida ranch. It was the third marriage for both.

Ivory Coast junta leader names transitional cabinet

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Jan 5: Ivory Coast's first junta leader named himself president and defense minister Tuesday in an interim coalition government that will run the country until democracy is restored, reports AP.

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Turner, a longtime environmentalist who owns hundreds of thousands of acres of ranchland in the US west, was the winning skipper in the America's Cup yacht race in 1977.

Santana's coming back

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Jan 5: Carlos Santana, whose career caught fire when he gave a scorching performance at Woodstock in 1969, received 10 Grammy nominations Tuesday for his commercial comeback album, "Supernatural," reports AP.

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BRIEFLY

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