#### Gunmen kill Pak high court judge

QUETTA, Pakistan, Jan 7: Masked gunmen killed a Pakistani high court judge today in the southwestern city of Quetta. police said, reports Reuters.

Four masked men firing automatic assault rifles killed Justice Mohammad Nawaz Marri, second senior-most judge of the Baluchistan province high court, in central Quetta, the provincial capital, police said.

He was shot on a busy street near the official residence of the provincial governor when he was driving to his court.

Marri was hit by four bullets, one of which pierced his heart, a police official said. His driver and an armed guard travelling in the car were unhurt, while the gunmen escaped.

There was no immediate information about the motive for the shooting, the second in Quetta of an important figure within a little over three months.

A provincial minister, Sardar Nisar Ali Hazara, survived a shooting attack on October 4 on his car but his driver was killed.

Marri was due to become the chief justice of the Baluchistan High Court after the scheduled elevation of the present chief justice, Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhury, to the Supreme Court later this month.



An undated photo shows Ugyen Trinley Dorje, the 17th living Buddha. The Tibetan government in exile confirmed yesterday that the third highest leader in Tibetan Buddhism had arrived in the northern Indian hill town of Dharamsala after fleeing Tibet.

# Tibetan spiritual leader flees China, joins Dalai Lama

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: A 14year-old boy, who is the third highest leader in Tibetan Buddhism, has joined the exiled Dalai Lama in India, after apparently fleeing China by walking across the Himalayan

mountains, reports AFP. The Tibetan government in exile, based in the northern indian hill town of Dharamsala confirmed Ugyen Trinley Dorje. the 17th living Buddha, had arrived on Wednesday, but refused to give any details of his flight

or future plans. "The first we knew of this was when he arrived here on January 5," a spokesman for

the exiled government said. "Please appreciate that this is an extremely sensitive matter and we cannot give out any more information at this stage," he added.

The Chinese authorities also confirmed that the Karmapa had left Tibet, but without acknowledging he had defected to the Dalaf Lama.

The official Xinhua news agency quoted a government spokesman as saying the Karmapa had left the Tsurphu monastery in Lhasa recently

around him. He left a letter at the monastery saying he was going "abroad this time to get the musical instruments of the Bud-

dhist mass and the black hats

that had been used by the previous living Buddhas. This did not mean to betray the State, the nation, the monastery or the leadership. he said in his letter, according

to Xinhua. According to a website (www.maul.net/tsurphu/karma pa) run by the US-based Tsurphu Foundation, the Karmapa was staying with the Dalai

Lama in Dharmsala. "His Holiness Karmapa left Tolung Tsurphu monastery with a handful of attendants. Their flight from Tibet took seven days on foot," the website added in a brief note, promising more details later.

The site gave his date of birth as June 16, 1985.

The extremely hazardous, high-altitude trek to Dharamsala was also made by the Dalai Lama when he fled Tibet in 1959 after Beijing brutally suppressed an uprising against Chinese rule.

Indian foreign ministry with "a small number people spokesman R.S. Jassal said he Sikkim, which had been spear- Tibet.

was "aware" of the Karmapa's arrival, but refused to comment any further.

The Karmapa is the spiritual leader of the Kagyu lineage of Tibetan Buddhism, and ranks third in the Tibetan spiritual hierachy behind the Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama.

He was enthroned on September 27, 1992 at Tsurphu monastery, north of the Tibetan capital Lhasa where he has been living ever since. His predecessor, the 16th Karmapa, defected in 1959

The last defection from Tibet was in November 1998, when the head of the Kumbum monastery in northwest ginghal, Agya Rinpoche, 48, left for the United States to protest Beijing's religious policies in the

Chinese troops first marched into Tibet in 1951. After fleeing Tibet, the 16th Karmapa had established the headquarters-in-exile of his Kagyu sect at Rumtek monastery in the northern in-

dian state of Sikkim.

The United News of India carried a statement by the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Buddhist organisations in

heading a campaign to bring the 17th Karmapa to Rumtek.

"It is still too early to comment on the issue as the details of his holiness's arrival to India are still sketchy," the

statement said. "The JAC will, however, be meeting soon to discuss the latest development and chalk out its course of action."

If Dorje were to be installed at Rumtek, it would help end a bitter and at times violent row within the Kagyu order over the true incarnation of the 16th Karmapa.

A human rights group Monday said China's repression of the Tibetans took a turn for the worse in 1999 with arbitrary detentions, torture and forced

abortions. In a 140-page report, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) documented the systematic violation of religious freedom, racial discrimination and the abuse of women and children's rights.

It also said religious persecution intensified with the Chinese government launching a three-year "atheism" campaign alleging Buddhism was alien to

# B 2 = F

70 injured in S Korean clashes: Some 70 people were injured Friday as rival factions of a South Korean religious cult battled each other with petrol bombs and metal pipes here, witnesses said. AFP reports from Yoju County, South Korea

About 500 followers of the Daesoon Jinri Hoe cult clashed with a equal number of rival members for the second straight day despite a massive police presence at their provincial headquarters on the southern outskirts of Seoul.

#### Former UK minister released: A former Conservative Party Cabinet minister once regarded as a future party leader was freed from jail Friday after serving

seven months of an 18-month sentence, AP reports from Jonathan Aitken, chief secretary to the Treasury in the government of former Prime Minister John Major, was jailed

Friday morning, carrying his belongings in a black plastic bag. Russian FM postpones Japan visit: A visit by Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov planned for January has been postponed following the sudden resignation of Boris Yeltsin as president last month, Japanese Foreign

in June after admitting to perjury and perverting the course of

justice. Aitken left the Elmley jail on the Isle of Sheppey early

Minister Yohei Kono said Friday, Reuters reports from Tokyo. "We received word from Russia that, for technical reasons, it would be difficult for the visit to take place in January." Kono told a news conference. Kono said that although he understood the Russian situation. Japan wants Ivanov's visit to take place at an early date and hopes it will occur sometime in February.

Crackdown on Turkish prison riot: One person was killed and three others injured Friday when security forces intervened after Muslim extremist inmates took a prison director and some 20 guards hostage at a high security prison in Istanbul, Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said, AFP reports from Ankara

The hostage-takers at Metris prison were demanding that members of their group, the Islamic Front of Fighters for the Greater East (IBDA-C), on hunger strike in Bandirma prison on the Marmara Sea be transferred to the Istanbul facility, the Anatolia news agency said.

# Indonesian Muslims protest Maluku violence

JAKARTA, Jan 7: Hundreds of thousands of Indonesian Muslims massed in Jakarta's largest park Friday calling for a holy war to avenge those killed in Christian-Muslim violence in the Maluku islands, wit-

nesses said, reports AFP. The protesters, many clad in long white robes, started flooding into the Independence Monument Square here in buses. open trucks and on foot at dawn and soon overflowed the park.

It was the largest protest against the government's inability to staunch the bloodshed in the Malukus, since Muslim-Christian fighting erupted there a year ago, leaving more than 1,700 dead.

The three-hour rally ended with a mass prayer as the crowd slowly left the area marching peacefully to the nearby Istiqlal mosque -- which is opposite Jakarta's Catholic Cathedral. Some of the crowd, mostly

male vouths, drove by the cathedral in open trucks shouting profanities at those in the grounds, an AFP reporter said. Some members of the vast crowd interspersed chants of

"God is Great," "Jihad," and "Mujahid," with screams of: "Burn churches" to avenge the hundreds of Maluku dead. "Tolerance is nonsense, slaughter Christians," read a

huge banner waved by a group of slogan shouting hardline Musmonument, an AFP reporter

"Mega your silence is poison for Ambon," read another placard tacked to a stop sign, referring to calls for the resignation of Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri over the government's inability to halt the bloodshed in the islands.

A lone voice from the crowd velled: "The cathedral is close by, Burn it." But the green-clad securitymen, provided by the Front for the Defence of Islam, urged the crowd to disperse

The organisers of the mass rally -- who included the Muslim Committee for World Soli darity and the hard-core Islamic Defenders' Front, Muslim political party leaders -- estimated the size of the crowd at between 400,000 and 500,000.

Observers and journalists put the crowd at around 300,000: But central Jakarta police

chief Lieutenant Colonel Timur Pradopo told AFP the figure was difficult to estimate. "It's probably more than 100,000," he "We have deployed all secu-

rity units ... in order to avoid any provocation," Pradopo told AFP when asked what measures had been taken to protect churches from any violence. Among those addressing the

crowd were Hamzah Haz, a forlim youths at the foot of the mer minister and leader of the Habsi yelled.

United Development Party, and Amien Rais, the speaker of the People's Consultative Assem-

Haz told the cheering crowd the time had come for a state of military emergency to be declared in the Maluku islands and for all Muslim parties in Indonesia to united under one banner.

Muslim author Al Chaidar, one of the first speakers, called for the government to replace its "functional system with an Islamic system.".

"We have to gather a bigger force to achieve an Islamic revolution ... we have to turn Indonesia into a Muslim country, Chaidar said. Police were seen on the

perimeter of the area, but no weapons were in evidence.

A former political prisoner, Husein Ali Habsi, condemned the country's national Human Rights Commission (Komnas-HAM) for probing killings of Christians in East Timor, while neglecting the slaughter in the

"If the government and the armed forces in one month's time does not replace Brigadier Max Tamaela (the military commander of the Malukus) I will send three million Muslims to Ambon for a holy war,



mass demonstration in a central Jakarta park yesterday. Some 300,000 Muslims staged a massive protest for Jihad to avenge the bloodshed in Christian-Muslim fighting in the strife-torn province of Ambon and Maluku. - AFP photo.

Protestors belonging to Jamaat-i-Islami charting anti-American slogans during a demonstration in the Pakistari southern city of Karachi yesterday. Around 200 activists staged the demonstration and warned the government not to sign the nuclear Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

### Islamic party warns Pak govt not to sign CTBT

(CTBT).

KARACHI, Jan 7: Around 200 activists from Pakistan's Jamaat-i-Islami party Friday demonstrated and warned the government against signing the global nuclear test ban treaty. reports AFP.

The protest followed a statement by foreign minister Abdus Sattar earlier this week in favour of joining the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty CTBTI.

Bearded protestors shouted slogans against the United States for pressuring Pakistan to join the treaty which the Islamic party says would undermine the country's nuclear programme.

We prefer to be poor but will save our atom bomb," read a poster carried by the demon-

that it should not even think of signing CTBT," the party's cen-tral leader Naimatullah Khan told the gathering. "We will resist any pressure

from the US," he said.

We warn the government

4 security men killed in Kashmir SRINAGAR, Jan 7: Suspected

-AFP photo

separatist guerillas stormed a national weather office in Kashmir Friday and gunned down four paramilitary soldiers guarding the building, police said, reports AP.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in the Rambagh neighbourhood in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state and seat of a decade-long Islamic insur-

Police said a group of armed men stormed the complex at 4 am and opened fire with automatic weapons. Four paramilitary soldiers were killed instantly and two others wounded, said an officer speaking on condition of anonymity.

The assailants fled under cover of darkness. Police blamed separatist Kashmiri guerillas for the attack. In the last three weeks, Srinagar has witnessed several bomb blasts and gun firing by

militants. The rebels have been fighting security forces to separate Kashmir from India. More the 25,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

# Deadlock in Syria-Israel talks

SHEPHERDSTOWN, West Virginia, Jan 7: US President Bill Clinton left Israel-Syria peace negotiations here late Thursday without hosting three-way talks between the parties but is expected to return on Friday, the White House said. reports AFP.

Clinton left after meeting separately with Israeli Prime Minister Éhud Barak and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara.

It was not immediately clear

why a trilateral meeting between Clinton, Barak and Shara had not taken place. Clinton had arrived in Shepherdstown by helicopter at

mid-afternoon and immediately conferred with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Clinton then met separately with Barak and Shara, spend-

ing a total of seven hours here.

The president had also spent Monday and Tuesday at the talks, helping resolve an earlier row over procedure. His mission here on Thursday followed a new flare-up in the dispute, which triggered a suspension in expert-level ne-

gotiations on the question of how and when new Israeli-Syrian borders would be discussed. The border question is one of four main issues to be thrashed out in committees, along with normalisation of relations, se-

curity and water rights. To date, only two of the groups -- those dealing with normalisation and security have met, with Syria accusing Israel of trying to block a meeting of the borders commit-

In earlier discussions with Albright, Shara conveyed the Syrian complaint, according to a Syrian delegate, who said it was up to the United States to solve the problem.

"It is all now in the hands of the sponsor of the peace process," he said, warning that Damascus would "not resume committee meetings so long as Israel is blocking the meeting of the committee on border is-

For Syria, the delineation of a new frontier following an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights -- Syrian territory seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war -- is a critical component of the negotiations. Syrian officials insist that it must be addressed "simultaneously" with the other questions.

Israel is adamant that normalisation and security guarantees be discussed before the border and water rights issues as a test of Syria's seriousness on its commitments. "We said all along that we

will discuss borders only after normalisation and security, and our position has not changed," an Israeli official said. Albright's spokesman James

Rubin sought to minimise the

difficulties, saying that informal contacts on all four issues had been continuing with US officials meeting separately with Israelis and Syrians. In an effort to galvanise momentum, he said Albright

had instructed US officials to draft a "working document' that would outline positions and ideas presented at all meetings -- including the informal

### Emergency in Ecuador QUITO, Ecuador, Jan 7:

tried to march to the presidential palace Thursday to demand President Jamil Mahuad's resignation, between turned back six blocks from their destination by police using tear gas, reports Similar demonstrations were

dispersed in coastal Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city, and in the southern city of Cuenca, after groups of students tried to block traffic by setting small fires in streets. The government declared a

state of emergency, empowering the armed forces to maintain order and contain the protesters, who were demanding Mahuad's resignation over his handling of Ecuador's economic crisis.

Heavily armed riot police. backed with armored vehicles. formed a cordon around the presidential palace in Quito's

center. Radio reported large About 1,000 demonstrators numbers of soldiers and police guarding streets and highways throughout this small Andean nation of 12 million people.

Another attempt by 300 protesters, mainly high school students, to reach the palace late in the day also was turned back by police firing tear gas. The Red Cross reported that

two persons had been injured in the street protests throughout the day and that a 17-year-old | youths. male high school student suffered a bullet wound in the neck. It said it was not clear who fired the shot. Protest leaders said at least

10 people were hurt in clashes with the police and more than 20 were detained. Authorities said they had no information on how many were hurt or ar-Businesses in major cities

were operating normally.



This undated photo montage released on Thursday by the Indian Home Ministry shows the five hijackers of the Indian Airlines flight IC-814. From left to right are Ibrahim Athar (Brother of freed Pakistani Islamic scholar Maulana Masood Azhar), Sunny Ahmed Kazi, Shahid Akhtar Sayed, Mistri Zahur Ibrahim and Rajesh Gopal Vermma Alias Shakir. The Indian Airlines Airbus plane was hijacked on December 24, 1999 from Kathmandu. The crew and 160 passengers were eventually released in Afghanistan on December 31 after the hijackers secured the release of three jailed Kashmiri militants. -AFP photo

## Thai military chief warns of threat from Myanmar

BANGKOK, Jan 7: Thailand's armed forces chief has warned of a potential threat from military-run Myanmar in a rare public criticism of Yangon's arms spending, reports said Friday, says AFP.

"Though posing no threat now. Burma could change in the future," That Supreme Commander General Mongkon Ampornpisit told 200 officers during a lecture at the National Defence College.

"While most countries are

downsizing their armed forces. Burma keeps expanding its military capability," Mongkon was quoted saying in the English-language Bangkok Post. He dismissed any potential threat from other neighbours and Association of Southeast Asian Nations partners Malaysia, Laos and Cambodia.

His warning follows a dip in normally cordial relations between the two countries which share a border more than 2,000 km long.

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai this week blamed Myanmar authorities for a lack of cooperation in stemming the massive inflow of illicit drugs believed responsible for soaring addiction rates amongst Thai

Myanmar is one of the world's biggest producers of heroin, along with Afghanistan, and is accused of hosting hundreds of amphetamine factories along its

border with Thailand. Relations have been strained since the seizure here of Yangon's embassy and nearly 40 hostages including diplomats by pro-democracy student gunmen in October.

The siege ended with Thai authorities providing the hostage-takers with an escape helicopter to the border, leading Myanmar to close the frontier for weeks at the cost of millions of dollars in trade.

Although Myanmar's defence expenditure is a closely guarded secret, analysts estimate it to have poured about 40 percent of central government expenditure into the military throughout the 1990s, while much of its population is still without basic education or health care.

Annual defence expenditure at least doubled from 1988 to 1996, analysts say, giving Myanmar possibly the largest army in Southeast Asia in terms of enlisted troops.

Most of the weapons and ammunition came overland from China, but other sources included Pakistan, Yugoslavia, Singapore, North Korea, Russia and Israel, analysts say.

## Off the Record

# Grandmother expecting

SUNNYSIDE. Washington: Aracelia Garcia, who already has 15 grandchildren, was a bit surprised to find herself pregnant again - and with triplets, reports AP.

ness. I feel happy God wants me to have three. ... A child is a gift, a treasure. The babies, all girls, could come as soon as next week. Garcia is waiting out the pregnancy at home, where the living

their grandchildren. Dr Diana Smigaj at the Cascade Woman's Health Care Center in Yakima said older expectant mothers like Garcia face additional health risks including high blood pressure and dia-

years of toil as a farm worker. "She's amazing," Smigaj said. "I've never seen anyone like

# triplets

"I could have imagined one but not more - not three," the 54-year-old woman said in Spanish. "My heart is full of happi-

room is filled with portraits of her and her husband surrounded by their eight children, whose ages range from 16 to 34, and

betes. The babies are also at risk for growth problems, premature birth and Down syndrome. But Garcia's health is excellent, which she attributes to her

Garcia, a native of Mexico, said she move to Sunnyside in 1976 and became an American citizen in 1996. She plans to go back to work as soon as her health and the babies allow.

### Indian Army Chief warns of limited wars

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: Army Chief Gen V P Malik yesterday warned the nation that in prevailing circumstances the country could be faced with limited wars erupting with scant warning, reports PTI.

Putting forth the example of the recent Kargil operations and ongoing low intensity conflict in Jammu and Kashmir, which changed characteristics unpredictably. Matik said planning for all future contingencies should be joint, involving all the three services, to contend with such outbreaks.

The rationale for limited wars is economic considerations, risk of high casualties, international pressure and the nuclear factor, he said delivering the closing address at a twoday national seminar on the challenge of limited war organised by the Institute for Defence

Studies and Analyses (IDSA). "For a successful decisive outcome in a limited war," he said, "military operations. diplomacy and domestic environment would have to be orchestrated with fine judgement."

"Here we see once again the close relationship between security policy and foreign policy with the need for the former to lead the latter," he said in the address read out by Maj Gen V G Patankar, Additional Director General, Perspective Planning, at army headquarters.

Referring to the linkage between deterrence and escalation. Malik said we were able to keep Kargil war limited primarily due to nuclear as well as conventional deterrence.

#### Plane hijack Pakistan asks Nepal for copy of probe report

ISLAMABAD, Jan 7: Pakistan has asked Nepal for a copy of its inquiry report into the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane hoping it will provide clues to the identities of the hijackers, according to newspaper reports Friday, says AP.

Five hijackers, armed with renades, pistols and knives. ook control of the aircraft no. 1 0 minutes after it took on the sec ese capital of Katmandu on Dec 24.

The aircraft went through a series of landings and takeoffs across South Asia and the Middle East before landing in southern Kandahar where it remained until Dec 31 when the hijackers freed their hostages in exchange for three freed Kashmiri militants.

The Nepalese government has conducted an inquiry into airport security in Katmandu and Pakistan wants to see a copy of that report hoping it will reveal "important clues" that could determine responsibility for the hijacking and their identities, said the independent English-language newspaper

Pakistan has strongly condemned the hijacking, but India insists that Islamabad was involved. The hijacking has launched the two nuclear neighbours on a blistering war of

### Four great Indians

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: Mahatma Gandhi, Dhirubbhai Ambani, Lata Mangeshkar and Swami Vivekananda have been chosen as the four Indians, who made a difference in this century, in a poll conducted by Times of India online, reports

More than 8.81 lakh readers voted for four categories - leaders and politicians, creators of wealth, artistes and entertainers and great minds and spiritual lights, according to a press release. All the four were self-made

individuals and who have not

had the advantages of wealth,

aristocracy or caste. Alleged Nazi war criminal

arrives in

Australia MELBOURNE. Australia. Jan 7: Suspected Nazi war criminal Konrad Kalejs landed in Australia Friday and was clearing Customs before security officials whisk him away, a Melbourne Airport official said.

"He is in Australia. He is

clearing customs and will then

be escorted to a waiting car and driven to safety." spokeswoman Tricia Hyde told AFP. Kalejs flew economy class and remained at the back of the plane, passengers who shared his flight told reporters, adding that he was harassed by photographers and reporters during

the flight.

Latvian-born but an Australian citizen, had changed planes at Singapore after fleeing from London, beating an expulsion order from a British government under fire for not putting him on trial.

He is accused of being a member of the Arajs Kommando unit that slaughtered 30,000 Jews, gipsies and communists during World War II. About 50 Jewish students were at the airport to protest his

arrival. Deported from Britain, he invoked his rights to sanctuary as an Australian citizen in the only country which cannot

refuse him admission. He has already been thrown out of the United States and Canada. His destination in Aus-

tralia is unknown.