

French court upholds Chirac's immunity

AFP, Paris

France's highest court of appeal on Wednesday upheld presidential immunity for head of state Jacques Chirac...

Schroeder to visit India for talks

AFP, New Delhi

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder will make an official visit to India later this month for high-level talks with Indian leaders...

South Korea apologises for deaths of immigrants

AFP, Seoul

The South Korean government on Wednesday apologised to China for the deaths of 25 illegal immigrants who suffocated on a smuggler's boat...

Tigers attack military camp: 4 killed

AFP, Colombo

Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked a military camp in northeastern Sri Lanka Wednesday, killing at least four air force men and wounding seven others...

'Iran can set up camps in Afghanistan for refugees'

AFP, Tehran

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia have given Iran the green light to erect camps inside some Taliban-controlled areas...



Thai Muslims hold a banners as they march down the street to the front of US embassy in Bangkok on Wednesday. Hundreds of Thai Muslims protested outside the embassy calling for an end to the US-led attacks on Afghanistan and for solidarity among Muslims to reject the strikes.

Protests spread in Asia against US strikes

AFP, Jakarta

Protests flared in Asian cities for a third day Wednesday as demonstrators called for an end to the US-led strikes in Afghanistan...

The largest protests have been in countries with major Muslim populations, where government leaders are attempting to juggle domestic demands with international pressure...

The strikes launched to retaliate for the September 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington. The Indonesian Council of Ulemas (Muslim scholars) wants Megawati to sever ties with the United States...

Taliban urge US Muslims to show their opposition to war

AFP, Islamabad

The Taliban militia on Wednesday called on Muslims living in the United States to show their opposition to US "atrocities" against the Afghan people.

ally the support of the Muslim world for the people of Afghanistan. On Tuesday the ambassador described the US-led strikes as "open terrorism."



Pakistan's cricket hero Imran Khan speaks before the audience during the concert for peace and fund raising for Afghan refugees in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Lankan govt set to collapse after new defections

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's minority government looked as though it was heading for collapse Wednesday after 13 legislators defected to the opposition...

state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation radio, did not say whether the president would again suspend the assembly. Kumaratunga gained the constitutional power to dissolve the assembly on Wednesday when it completed the first year of its six-year term.

India warns US against Pak place in coalition

AFP, New Delhi

India will stress its opposition to Pakistan's inclusion in the global anti-terrorism coalition when US Secretary of State Colin Powell visits South Asia, officials said Wednesday.

the coalition), which will not accept as long as Pakistan supports cross-border terrorism in Kashmir, a senior Indian foreign ministry official told AFP.

Helicopter strikes are next in US campaign

AFP, Washington

The United States plans to use helicopter gunships to strike targets in Afghanistan linked to Saudi-born extremist Osama bin Laden and the ruling Taliban regime.

Launched Sunday, US air strikes against al-Qaeda and Taliban positions in Afghanistan in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States achieved air supremacy Wednesday...



A dead ewe (front) lies outside the ruins of a house devastated by Hurricane Iris, in San Marcos, Belize, some 150 miles south of Belmopan on Tuesday. At least 20 people were killed and massive destruction was feared after Iris battered Belize and Guatemala, capsizing boats and flattening buildings.

'US bombers changed targets in mid-flight'

REUTERS, Washington

Some US bombers conducting raids over Afghanistan were unexpectedly ordered to change targets in the middle of their mission, Air Force crew members said on Tuesday.

supposed to and they were a successful strike," he said. It was unclear why targets were switched because the fliers would not elaborate and defense officials have refused to discuss so-called operational detail.



Selvam Panner (L), the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu state, offers a bouquet of flowers to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in New Delhi on Wednesday. Panner is in New Delhi for a meeting of Kaveri river water sharing project between the southern Indian states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

US, Pakistan deeply divided over support to anti-Taliban forces

AFP, Washington

The United States and Pakistan, its most crucial ally in its bid to crush terrorism in Afghanistan, are deeply divided over Washington's support of the main Afghan opposition, analysts said Tuesday.

criminal killings," he said, referring to the faction infighting of the early 1990s. The public split is a worry for Washington as it moves to shore up its coalition against terrorism amid a rash of protests in the Muslim world over the US-led military action in Afghanistan.