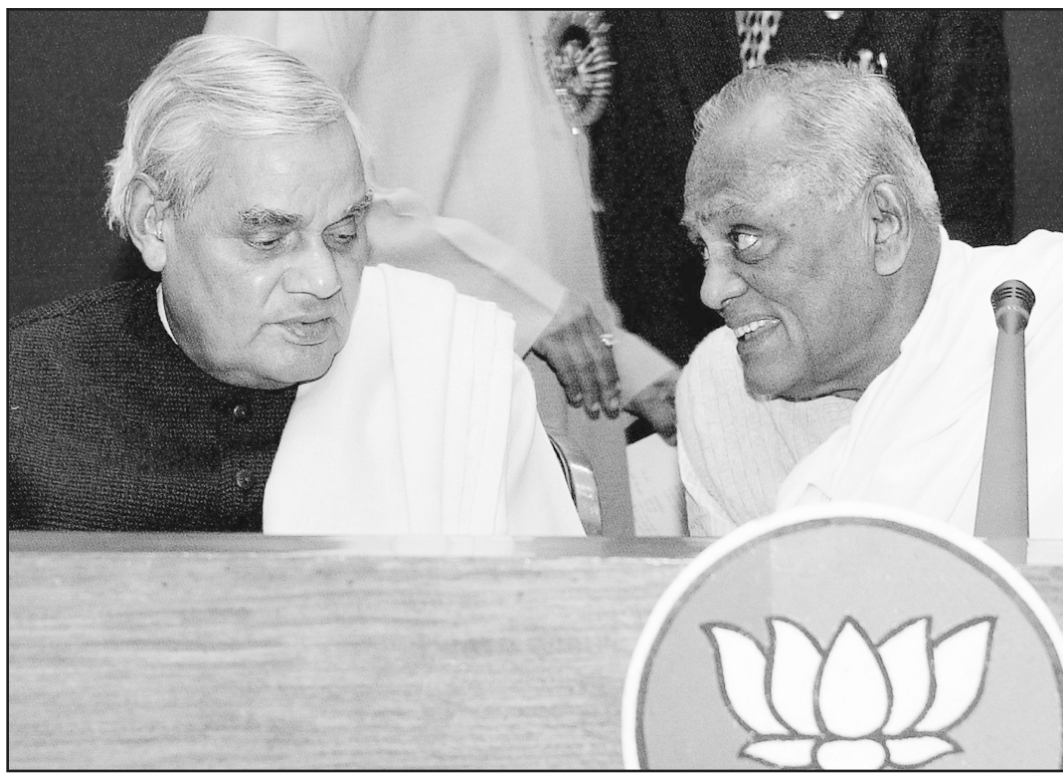


Use of N-arms should be 'inconceivable': Sattar

Indo-Pak FMs may meet in Nepal

AFP, Islamabad
The use of nuclear weapons in warfare should be "inconceivable" for any state, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said Saturday as tensions mounted with neighbouring India.

Meanwhile, India and Pakistan could use a regional meeting in Nepal next week to hammer a way out of the current political and military deadlock, media reports said Saturday.



Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee (L) speaks with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Janakrishna Murthy during the BJP National Executive meeting at the parliament annex in New Delhi on Saturday. Leaders of India's ruling right-wing Hindu nationalist BJP began a crucial meeting to discuss worsening relations with neighbouring Pakistan with the party chief throwing his weight behind Vajpayee.

19 Indian troops killed in accidental mine blast

AFP, Jodhpur
Nineteen Indian soldiers were killed and five injured when landmines they were laying along the border with Pakistan "accidentally exploded", officials said Saturday.

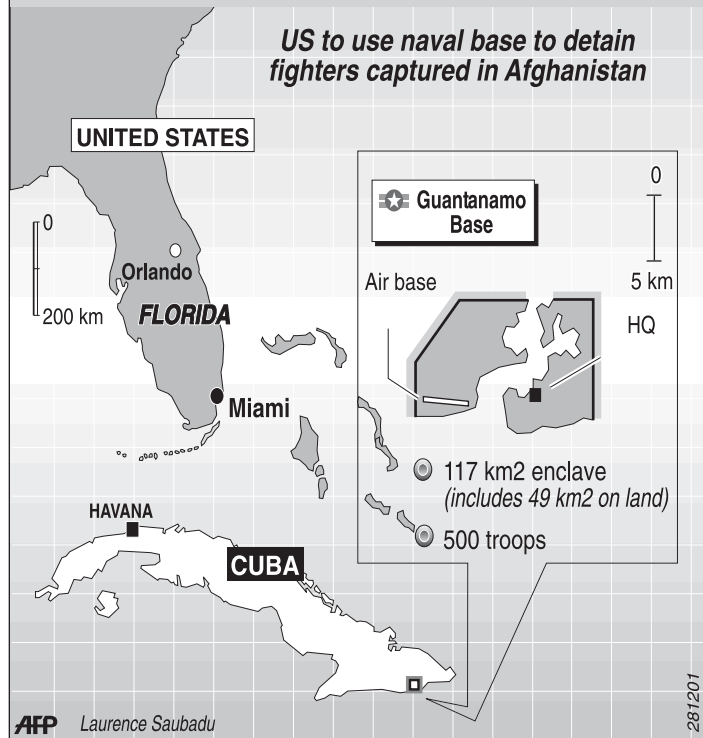
Indian Cabinet amends POTO

AFP, New Delhi
The Indian cabinet Saturday decided to amend a controversial ordinance to combat terrorism in the country.

Nepal declares one-day holiday for SAARC summit

AFP, Kathmandu
The Nepalese government has declared January 4, the first day of a South Asian summit, a holiday for the residents of the capital Kathmandu, state-run radio said Saturday.

The American base at Guantanamo



India, Pakistan urged to show restraint

AFP, Tripoli
Libyan leader Moamer Gaddafi has urged India and Pakistan to avoid a military confrontation over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, the Libyan JANA agency reported Friday.

US hunt for Laden to continue: Bush

AFP, Crawford
US President George W. Bush made a fresh vow to track down terror suspect Osama bin Laden "dead or alive," rejecting suggestions that the US campaign in Afghanistan may soon wind down.

Police in West Bengal ban rail, road blockades by protestors

AFP, Kolkata
Police in West Bengal on Saturday banned protests, which involve the blocking of roads and railways -- a regular occurrence in the eastern state and its capital Kolkata.

Argentine protestors set fire to Congress bldg

AFP, Buenos Aires
Protestors stormed Argentina's Congress building early Saturday, setting fire to the curtains and destroying furniture, in the latest display of mass rage over the planned introduction of a new currency and the continued limited access to their bank accounts.



Argentine citizens gather in front of the presidential palace in Buenos Aires on Saturday protesting the week-old government.

Palestinians seek renewed US mediation for ME peace

AFP, Jerusalem
Palestinian leaders are seeking renewed US mediation in the Middle East, asking Washington to send special envoy Anthony Zinni back to the region, amid signs that tensions on the ground are easing.

Change in weather helps Australian firefighters

AP, Sydney
A weather change helped thousands of firefighters in their battle to contain 100 wildfires across Australia's most populous state on Saturday.

US hails EU terrorist list

AFP, Washington
The United States on Friday welcomed the publication of the European Union's list of terrorist groups and individuals, saying it lays the groundwork for "greater cooperation" in battling terror.

Alleged shoe bomber is 'lost soul', says aunt

AFP, London
Relatives of Richard Reid, the Briton who allegedly tried to blow up a US-bound plane, have rallied round to insist that he is not a real terrorist but just a "lost soul" who must have been brainwashed.

Red Cross visits Taliban prisoners in Kandahar

AP, Kandahar
Red Cross representatives visited a makeshift US detention camp in southern Afghanistan where American Marines have added 25 prisoners to the complement of reputed Taliban and al-Qaida forces held on suspicion of being or harboring terrorists.

11 slain in attack on village in Philippines

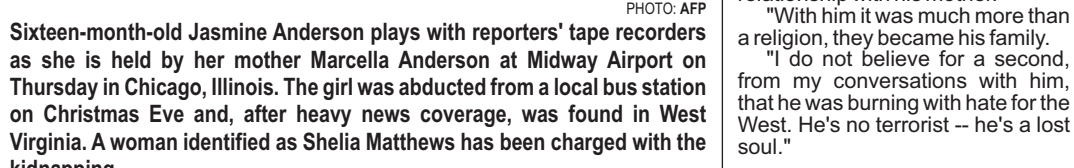
AFP, Zamboanga
Ten villagers and one gunman were killed when armed men, believed linked to Muslim rebels, raided a town in the southern Philippines, authorities and survivors said Saturday.

Mazoka declares himself winner in Zambian polls

AFP, Lusaka
Millionaire businessman Anderson Mazoka declared himself the winner of Zambia's presidential election and warned Saturday of "chaos" if the electoral commission did not confirm that result.

Myanmar junta frees 4 political prisoners

AFP, Yangon
Myanmar's ruling junta has released four political prisoners from democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD).



Sixteen-month-old Jasmine Anderson plays with reporters' tape recorders as she is held by her mother Marcella Anderson at Midway Airport on Thursday in Chicago, Illinois. The girl was abducted from a local bus station on Christmas Eve and, after heavy news coverage, was found in West Virginia. A woman identified as Shelia Matthews has been charged with the kidnapping.