

Powell wants to end stalemate over Kashmir

By Associated Press
INTERNATIONAL
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Head-
ing into talks with Pakistani President
Pervez Musharraf, Secretary of State
Colin Powell is intent on keeping up
momentum toward ending a volatile
month long stalemate with India over
Kashmir.

Powell, who arrived here today on
the first leg of a five-nation Asia tour,
planned an evening dinner with Mus-
harraf and will meet with Indian offi-
cials Thursday in New Delhi.
En route here, Powell said Mus-
harraf’s conciliatory speech on Satur-
day and the Indian response “certainly
showed that this rush toward conflict,
I think, has been slowed quite a bit.”
In his talks here, Powell said he
wants “to see what we have to do now
to bring this to a complete halt and then
start going in reverse.”

RAMALLAH, West Bank — The
Palestinian Authority said it has de-
tained a senior PLO official whose sup-
porters assassinated an Israeli Cabinet
minister last fall — a step long de-
manded by Israel and apparently aimed
at reducing tensions after a spate of
killings of Israelis by Palestinian mili-
tants.

ap news capsules

The detention of Ahmed Saadat,
leader of the Popular Front for the Lib-
eration of Palestine, a radical PLO fac-
tion, came just hours after Palestinian
gunmen killed a 72-year-old Israeli-
American man shopping for building
supplies near the West Bank town of
Bethlehem and a 45-year-old Israeli
woman driving to a wedding north of
Jerusalem.
Today, the body of a Palestinian man
was found in his car near the Jewish
West Bank settlement of Shavei Shom-
ron. The victim had Israeli citizenship
and was in a car with Israeli license
plates. Initial reports said he apparently
was the victim of a shooting attack.

The shootings came in the wake of
the death of a Palestinian militia leader,
Raed Karmi, in a Monday bomb blast
widely attributed to Israel. Karmi’s
supporters have said they would
avenge their leader with new attacks on
Israelis.

NATIONAL

HARVEST, Ala. — The State De-
partment is looking into a report that a
man was kidnapped during a humani-
tarian mission in Afghanistan and is

being held by a tribal warlord for
\$25,000 ransom.

Amanda Bowers said Tuesday that
her husband, political consultant Clark
Bowers, called her with instructions on
how to deliver the ransom money.

“I don’t know many of the details,
but I’ll tell you what I know,” Amanda
Bowers said outside her home west of
Huntsville, Ala.

Clark Bowers, 37, was delivering
medical supplies and other humanitar-
ian aid by private plane when he and
an Afghan interpreter were abducted
earlier this month, Amanda Bowers
said.

NEW YORK — Students at the New
York City high school where two teen-
agers were shot in a hallway said it was
easy to bring guns inside, despite metal
detectors at the entrance.

Andrel Napper, 17, and Andre
Wilkins, 18, were shot from behind
Tuesday during last period at Martin
Luther King Jr. High School near Lin-
coln Center, authorities said. One was
wounded in the back and the other in
the buttocks. Both were hospitalized

Tuesday night; one was in serious con-
dition and the other was listed as stable.

The shooting — the first inside a
New York City public school since
September 1994 — occurred on what
would have been the 73rd birthday of
the school’s namesake.

No one had been arrested in the
shooting, which Schools Chancellor
Harold Levy said may have stemmed
from a dispute about a girl. Police ques-
tioned an 18-year-old and later arrested
him for an outstanding warrant unre-
lated to the shooting, said Lt. Brian
Burke, a police department spokes-
man.

TRENTON, N.J. — James E. Mc-
Greevey promised to change state gov-
ernment, bolster reading skills and
“live within our means” as he was
sworn in as New Jersey governor, the
first Democrat to lead the state in eight
years.

McGreevey, 44, did not offer specif-
ics in a 20-minute address that quoted
Abraham Lincoln and Henry Wads-
worth Longfellow, but he promised to
be held accountable. His first major job
as governor will be to find a solution
for a growing budget crisis in a slow-
ing economy.

“So this is my call to action. In the

days ahead, each citizen of New Jersey
should demand more of me. That is
your right. But you also must ask more
of yourselves. That is your responsibil-
ity,” he said.

McGreevey rose from a suburban
mayor to state chief executive by his
tenacious pursuit of party politics,
maintaining a power base days after he
narrowly lost to Christie Whitman in
1997.

The Democrat never truly stopped
that campaign until he won in Novem-
ber.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — The job of re-
covering the missing Enron Corp. ac-
counting documents is falling to com-
puter sleuths whose work can foil the
casual use of the delete button.

They’ve been called on before in
high-profile cases, looking for sus-
pected spy transmissions and missing
Clinton White House e-mails.

And now they’ll be asked to recover
documents from the computers of
Arthur Andersen LLP, which acknowl-
edges its employees destroyed thou-
sands of e-mails and paper documents
about Enron.

Investigators want to know who
knew about the problems at Enron,
which shocked the financial world and

its own employees with its fall from
Wall Street grace to bankruptcy.

Computer sleuths move quickly to
preserve hard drives and backup tapes
before the bits of deleted data are over-
written forever.

WASHINGTON — Pfizer Inc. is
hoping to quickly enroll low-income
senior citizens in a program that offers
drugs from Viagra to Lipitor for \$15 for
a one-month supply.

There is no limit to how many dif-
ferent Pfizer drugs can be purchased
each month at the discount price, nor a
limit on how many months they can be
refilled at the same price.

The pharmaceutical giant plans to
begin the program March 1. As many
as 7 million elderly Americans are be-
lieved eligible.

“Today begins a public information
campaign, using traditional and grass-
roots strategies,” Hank McKin-nell,
Pfizer’s chairman and chief executive
officer, said at Tues-day’s announce-
ment.

Pfizer plans to launch a campaign in-
forming seniors about the program by
focusing on local emergency rooms,
health clinics, physicians’ offices,
pharmacies and senior centers. A help
line will also be available.

American faces charges of taking up arms against countrymen

WASHINGTON (AP)—John Wal-
ker Lindh, the American who fought
with the Taliban, will be brought to the
United States promptly to face charges
of taking up arms against his country-
men, Attorney General John Ashcroft
said today.

Lindh’s transfer from custody at sea
“will be in the very near future,”
Ashcroft said, declining to be more
specific.

Court records filed Tuesday said
Lindh, 20, consciously betrayed the
United States. Using his own words,
the documents portrayed his evolution
from young Muslim convert in Califor-
nia to Taliban warrior in Afghanistan.

In battle, Lindh’s rifle malfunc-
tioned, he was bombed by U.S. planes
before surrendering, then he was shot
in the leg during a violent prison upris-
ing.

Court records also said Lindh lea-
rned as early as June — fully three
months before the Sept. 11 terrorist
attacks against New York and Wash-

ington — that Osama bin Laden had
dispatched suicide squads to the
United States.

Lindh and four other recruits also
met personally with bin Laden for
about five minutes, when the al-Qaida
leader thanked him for helping, ac-
cording to the court papers.

“He chose to embrace fanatics, and
his allegiance to those terrorists never
faltered,” Ashcroft said Tuesday in
announcing the charges. “Terrorists
did not compel John Walker Lindh to
join them. John Walker Lindh chose
terrorists.”

He will be tried in northern Virginia,
across the Potomac River from Wash-
ington, where he was born. It’s the
same venue where Zacarias Mous-
saoui, the only man charged directly in
the Sept. 11 attacks, is facing trial.

Lindh, who converted to Islam at 16
and is alleged to have trained at an al-
Qaida camp in Afghanistan, was
charged in U.S. District Court in Alex-
andria, Va., with conspiracy to kill U.S.

citizens, providing support to terrorist
organizations, and engaging in prohib-
ited transactions with the Taliban,
Ashcroft said.

After weeks of deliberations, the
Bush administration opted against a
military trial or charges that would carry
the death penalty.

Ashcroft, on the morning interview
shows today, said that if evidence
emerges of treason or other crimes car-
rying the death penalty, “then it would
be possible for those charges to be
brought against him.”

Friends have described Lindh as an
intelligent young man who wore full-
length robes to high school in a Marin
County suburb of San Francisco and
went by the name “Suleyman” follow-
ing his conversion to Islam. After his
capture, his parents, Marilyn Walker
and Frank Lindh, had asked the public
to withhold judgment about their son.

They issued a statement through their
lawyer late Tuesday that said they are
praying for a “just resolution” of their

son’s case.

“We are grateful to live in a nation
that presumes innocence and with-
holds judgment until all of the facts are
presented,” the statement said.

“We may never know why he turned
his back on our country and our values,
but we cannot ignore that he did,”
Ashcroft said. “Youth is not absolution
for treachery, and personal self-discov-
ery is not an excuse to take up arms
against your country.”

Ashcroft suggested that proving
Lindh committed treason would be
difficult.

“The Constitution imposes a high
evidentiary burden to prove the charge
of treason” — a confession in open
court or testimony by two witnesses,
Ashcroft said.

White House spokesman Ari Fleis-
cher said President Bush “is support-
ive of the process put in place. He is
confident that the process will end in
justice.”

The charges were recommended to

Bush by the National Security Coun-
cil, which considered advice from the
Justice Department, the Pentagon and
the State Department.

The chairman of the Senate Judi-
ciary Committee, Sen. Patrick Leahy,
D-Vt., said he supported the “difficult
and complex” decision to place the
case in the civilian criminal justice
system.

Lindh was captured in November
fighting with the Taliban in Afghanis-
tan. He was taken into custody by U.S.
forces after a prison uprising at a for-
tress in the northern Afghan city of
Mazar-e-Sharif.

CIA agent Johnny Michael Spann,
who had questioned Lindh, was killed
in the uprising. There has been no in-
dication that Lindh was directly in-
volved in Spann’s death.

The federal affidavit said that after
Spann interviewed him, Lindh was
moved to a lawn and tried to run when
he heard gunfire. He was shot in the leg.
“Walker claims not to have seen what

happened to the two Americans who
had interviewed him,” the affidavit
said.

Lindh since then has been held on the
amphibious attack ship USS Bataan in
the Arabian Sea. He will be transferred
to FBI custody, Ashcroft said.

Lindh told the FBI that after he
trained at a paramilitary camp run by
the terrorist group Harkat ul-Mujahe-
deen, he was given a choice of fight-
ing in Kashmir or with the Taliban in
Afghanistan.

Ashcroft quoted Lindh as telling
Taliban recruiters that “he was a Mus-
lim who wanted to go to the front lines
to fight.”

Lindh was interviewed by the FBI on
Dec. 9 and 10.

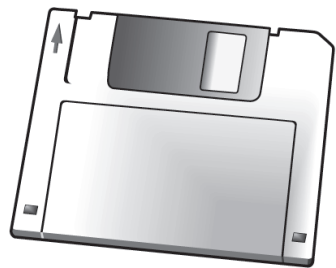
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