

EU trio agree on military planning wing

AFP, Naples Britain, France and Germany have agreed plans to give the European Union its own facility for military planning independent of NATO, officials said.



PHOTO: AFP An unidentified relative of 35-year-old Palestinian Said Abu Safra mourns during his funeral in Beit Lahia Friday. Abu Safra was shot dead by Israeli soldiers in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday as he tried to prevent a mentally-deranged person from approaching a Jewish settlement, Palestinian medical sources said.

Arafat urges Western leaders to relaunch peace process

Israel fails to comply with UNGA demand to halt fencing: Annan

AFP, Ramallah Palestinian president Yasser Arafat has launched a series of appeals to Western leaders to relaunch the stalled Middle East peace process, one of his aides said.

Iran pledges cooperation with IAEA

AFP, Tehran Iran will provide the UN's atomic watchdog with all the required information by February and soon sign an additional protocol to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the country's top nuclear official said yesterday.

Anti-terror raids target Islamists in Europe

REUTERS, Milan/Berlin Police hunting Islamic militants across Europe capped a dramatic series of anti-terror raids in three countries with the arrest of a suspected Algerian extremist in the German port of Hamburg on Friday.

Paparazzis acquitted of Diana car crash case

AP, Paris Three photographers who took pictures of Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed on the day they died were acquitted on Friday of invading their privacy.

'India shifting its policy on Myanmar junta'

THE NATION/ ANN, Bangkok Support for Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi in India, where she studied in 1960s and has wide connections, is declining as New Delhi shifts its policy to engage the ruling military junta and gain strategic advantages against China, an expert said.



PHOTO: AFP President of the European Commission Romano Prodi (R) and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee (L) arrive for an official meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday. The European Union welcomed the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan in disputed Kashmir and expressed hope the move would lead to dialogue to resolve the vexed problem.

Japan may send ground troops to Iraq in Feb

REUTERS, Tokyo More than 500 Japanese non-combat ground troops could be sent to southern Iraq in February and March according to a draft plan for their dispatch, Kyodo news agency said yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP Former US first lady Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (2nd L) shares a Thanksgiving meal with US troops at Camp Woverlina in Kuwait City yesterday. Clinton is in Kuwait for a brief visit after stopovers in Kabul and Baghdad where she also marked Thanksgiving with US troops. Clinton has denied that she would run in next year's presidential election but has not ruled out a bid in 2008.

Iraq's interim leaders review transition plan

AFP, Baghdad Iraq's US-installed interim leadership held key talks yesterday demands from the powerful Shiite religious hierarchy for immediate elections that have undermined the democratic credentials of the US-led coalition and left its plans for an accelerated transfer of power in tatters.

Campaigning for state polls ends in India

AFP, New Delhi Strident campaigning by thousands of candidates contesting India's provincial elections ended Saturday, setting the stage for the crucial voting on Monday in four key states, officials said.

Japan fails to launch spy satellites

AFP, Tokyo Japan aborted the launch of a second pair of spy satellites to monitor North Korea shortly after take-off yesterday in a bitter blow to its efforts to enhance space and security programmes.

Irish peace plan put on hold as hardliners gain in election

REUTERS, Belfast British and Irish ministers begin the arduous search for a way to save the Northern Ireland peace process yesterday, after election triumphs for hardliners shattered hopes of a speedy return to power-sharing.



PHOTO: AFP Opposition activists of the Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez gather to sign to call a referendum to revoke Chavez term in Caracas on Friday. To call the referendum is needed the signatures of a 20 percent of the voters of a register of about 20 million, it means that the opposition has to pick up approximately 2.5 million signatures.