



A Fatah militant shoots in the air in front of the Palestinian Legislative Council building on Saturday in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Some 600 Fatah activists and dozens of Al-Qaqa Martyrs Brigades gunmen marched through the city towards the PLC to protest against their party following polls defeat to Hamas.

No immunity for Hamas leaders if remain violent: Israel

AFP, Jerusalem
Israel will accord leaders of the radical Islamist movement Hamas no immunity if they persist in waging "terrorist" attacks against the Jewish state, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Saturday.

Those at the top of a terrorist organisation and those who continue to carry out attacks against the State of Israel will not have immunity, Mofaz told army radio following Hamas's huge victory in the Palestinian election.

Hamas unless the faction disarms its armed wing and recognises the Jewish state's right to exist. Hamas's Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades has been responsible for dozens of suicide attacks in Israel. The Israeli military has likewise carried out a campaign of targeted assassinations against Hamas militants and leaders.

'Blair to hand over power to Brown within 2 yrs'

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has reached a "new understanding" to hand over power to his finance minister Gordon Brown within two years, a close ally and former minister said yesterday. "My sense is that there is a new understanding, yes," former work and pensions secretary David Blunkett told BBC television.

IRAN'S NUKE STANDOFF

West tries to close ranks with Russia, China

AFP, Vienna

The United States and the three major European powers meet with Iran's allies Russia and China in London today to bridge differences over how to deal with an Iranian nuclear programme the West fears hides secret work on atomic weapons.

Security Council for possible sanctions was still very much on the cards. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier warned that Iran could face economic sanctions if it does not come to an agreement with the international community.

The UN watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency has called on Iran to cease work that can make fuel for nuclear power reactors but also nuclear bomb material and to cooperate fully with a

nors session Thursday in Vienna. The IAEA's 35-nation board has the power to send the Iranian atomic dossier to the Security Council.

North Korea warns of nuclear war

AP, Seoul

North Korea warned of nuclear war Saturday and vowed to strengthen its deterrent forces as it demanded that Washington show evidence backing its allegation that the communist regime is counterfeiting US money.

(North Korea) would only compel it to bolster its deterrent for self-defence in every way. The North repeatedly has accused the United States of planning to attack Washington has denied any such intention.

19 Iraqis, GI killed in attacks

AFP, AP, Hillah Baghdad

Nineteen Iraqis and a US soldier were killed in a series of rebel attacks ahead of the resumption of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein's trial, police said.

Bajji, police said. Elsewhere 10 Iraqis were killed and two others wounded by a roadside bomb in Eskandariyah town, 65km south of Baghdad, a police officer from Hillah said.

He said the US forces helped evacuate the casualties. US troops killed three suspected insurgents wearing Iraqi police uniforms Sunday in the northern city of Kirkuk, the military said.

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