

Security alert in Lanka as Tigers vow to retaliate

AFP, Colombo A security alert was in place across Sri Lanka yesterday after Tamil Tiger rebels vowed to retaliate for air attacks following a day of fierce battles on land and sea that left more than 50 people dead.

The leader of the LTTE's political wing, S. P. Thamilselvan, denied Tiger involvement with Thursday's bus attack. "We categorically deny the accusation that the Tigers attacked the civilian passenger bus," he said in remarks published on the pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website.



23 killed as truck plunges into Kashmir gorge

AFP, Jammu The accident took place at Ramban, 157 kilometres (97 miles) from Jammu, winter capital of Indian Kashmir. The workers were being ferried from Jammu to Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, when the driver lost control of the truck which toppled 350 feet (106 metres) into a gorge, a police spokesman said.

British troops kill 6 Taliban attacking power plant

AFP, Kandahar British troops said Sunday they had killed six Taliban rebels who had been firing mortars at one of Afghanistan's few functioning hydro-electric dams. British forces returned fire with mortars after they also came under fire late Saturday near the Kajaki dam and power plant in southern Helmand province, a British military spokesman said.



Balinese dancers perform during an art festival in Denpasar, to increase tourism which has suffered since the two Bali bombings.

True identity of al-Masri still an enigma

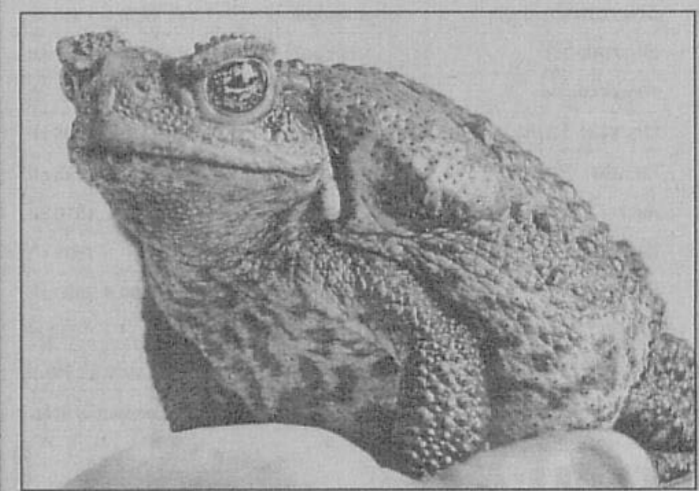
AFP, Cairo The true identity of Abu Ayyub al-Masri, the man said to have succeeded the slain Abu Musab al-Zarqawi as leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, remains an enigma in his reported homeland of Egypt. "His real name is Yussef al-Dardiri, he is around 38 years old and he comes from Upper Egypt," Montasser al-Zayat, a lawyer and former member of the Islamist group Gamaa Islamiya, told AFP.



Abu Ayyub al-Masri

Nasa for next Discovery launch July 1

AFP, Washington NASA said Saturday it would forge ahead with its space shuttle program, announcing a July 1 launch of the Discovery, while admitting that certain safety issues have not been resolved. After a final review in which not all officials agreed with the decision to proceed with a new mission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration set a window for the first shuttle launch in nearly one year for July 1-19.



Army called to fight toad invasion

AFP, Sydney Northern Territory to kill the toads. "The army in the Northern Territory is greater than any other part of Australia," McGowan told national radio. "We'd seek the Commonwealth (federal government) to help us in fighting this terrible threat to native fauna in Western Australia."

Philippines arrests two aides of coup plotter

AFP, Manila Officials arrested two former colonels linked to a fugitive former senator, a military spokesman said Sunday. Police arrested Romeo Lazo and Virgilio Briones in separate raids in a suburb of the Philippine capital late Saturday, said Colonel Tristan Kison.

Advertisement for 'Daka Oyasama' (ঢাকা ওয়াসা) featuring a water drop logo and text about water purification and health benefits.

Daring Egyptian actress calls Iran 'role model'

AFP, Cairo Young Egyptian actress Hanan Turk, known for her daring roles in a conservative society, caused a stir when she recently called Iranian cinema a "role model" and donned the Islamic headscarf.

Table titled 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার' (People's Republic of Bangladesh Government) containing a list of government appointments and positions.