



A Sri Lankan vehicle is engulfed by flames near the convoy of Sri Lankan Defence Ministry Secretary Gotabaya Rajapakse after a suicide bomb attack in Colombo yesterday.

Israel rules out blanket truce for moment

AFP, Jerusalem
Israel has ruled out any immediate blanket truce with the Palestinians, despite US calls for a comprehensive ceasefire, and yesterday demanded a complete halt to Palestinian rocket fire from Gaza.

Bush sees no 'graceful exit' from Iraq

AFP, Washington
US President George W Bush warned against expectations he will lay out plans for "a graceful exit" from Iraq, as news reports yesterday said the independent commission looking into Iraq policy will call for a 2008 withdrawal of US combat troops.

India frees Nepali Maoist leaders

REUTERS, Malda
Two senior leaders of Nepal's Maoist rebels were released from jail in West Bengal on Thursday, prison officials said, after all charges against them were dropped.

Fiji military extends coup deadline

REUTERS, Suva
Fiji's military has extended its deadline to Monday for the government to meet its demands or be toppled, embattled Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase said as he and his ministers went into hiding.

Iraqi PM faces revolt within govt

AP, Baghdad
Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki faced a widening revolt within his divided government as two senior Sunni politicians joined prominent Shia lawmakers and Cabinet members in criticising his policies.



Residents gather parts of a destroyed roof at Sarangani village in Quezon province yesterday after super typhoon Durian rampaged eastern Philippines.

US pushes for UN vote on Iran sanctions

AFP, Shuneh
The United States said Thursday that it might try to force through a United Nations resolution imposing sanctions on Iran over its suspect nuclear programme despite objections from Russia and China.

Every visitor to US to be assessed as 'risk' secretly

AFP, Washington
Starting Monday every person entering and leaving the United States will be evaluated as terrorist threats without their knowledge, and the results will be held for 40 years, according to the US Department of Homeland Security.

16 Taliban killed in Afghanistan

AFP, Kandahar
The identity of the suspected commanders captured in the raid was not revealed. An Isaf statement said troops seized two suicide vests, several rocket-propelled grenades and a cache of equipment and weapons.

Pak rape law changes okayed

AFP, Islamabad
Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf yesterday signed into law a bill amending the country's Islamic rape legislation, despite protests by religious parties, a government minister said.

Use carrot & stick on N Korea: ElBaradei

REUTERS, Tokyo
The international community needs to offer incentives to North Korea rather than just apply pressure for it to return to six-party talks aimed at dismantling its nuclear programme, the head of the UN nuclear agency said yesterday.



Activists from India's Trinamool Congress Party shout slogans after their arrest during a statewide strike in Kolkata yesterday.

