

'Beijing talks create new momentum in Sino-US ties'

WASHINGTON, Mar 30: US Vice President Al Gore returned from his most high-profile overseas trip with virtually nothing in terms of specific commitments from the Chinese, reports AP.

Grenade attack on political rally in Cambodia: 11 killed, 112 injured

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Mar 30: Grenades thrown into a political rally Sunday killed at least 11 people and wounded 112 including Cambodia's leading opposition politician, Cambodian officials said, reports AP.

Bid to kill Chandrika alleged Lankan police nabs LTTE suicide squad member

COLOMBO, Mar 30: Sri Lanka police have arrested a senior Tamil Tiger rebel suicide squad member planning to assassinate President Chandrika Kumaratunga, the state-owned Sunday Observer newspaper reported, says Reuter.

Jewish settlement in E Jerusalem Egypt warns Israel of dire consequences

CAIRO, Mar 30: Israel will be "playing with fire" if it continues building on disputed land in east Jerusalem, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday, reports AP.



Palestinians carry Abdallah Khalil Salah, a Palestinian student who was killed by an Israeli soldier in the main street of Ramallah on the eve of "Land Day" in the first killing since protests erupted over new Jewish settlement, on Saturday.



Catholic Cardinal Roger Mahoney (R) blesses a Burmese pythons that belongs to Bart Hibbs (L) during the Blessing of the Animals celebration on Saturday that takes place on the Saturday before Easter in the old Spanish quarter of Los Angeles.

PLO-Israeli ties receive another blow

JERUSALEM, Mar 30: Worsening relations between Israel and the Palestinians suffered yet another blow with the first fatality in 10 days of Palestinian unrest over Jewish settlement building in Arab east Jerusalem, reports Reuter.

4m people visit Calcutta everyday

CALCUTTA, Mar 30: This megapolis is visited everyday by four million people for business and the like. Besides, the 66 million living here also do not fulfil their commitment towards a clean city, reports PTI.

Pakistan behind blasts at bus station: Farooq Abdullah

JAMMU, India, Mar 30: Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said on Saturday Pakistan was behind the blasts at a bus station in this winter capital which killed 17 people and injured 53 others, reports AFP.

Vietnam okays \$163m tunnel project:

Vietnam has approved a 163 million dollars project to build a tunnel through Hai Van Pass in central Vietnam, the official Vietnam news agency reported yesterday, AFP says from Hanoi.

Trials of 30 rioters begin in Jakarta:

Trials for some 30 people charged with involvement in riots in Indonesia's central Java last week have already begun, police said yesterday, AFP reports from Jakarta.

Policy on Europe big headache for Major

LONDON, Mar 30: British Prime Minister John Major admitted in the Sunday Telegraph this week that policy on Europe has been his "biggest headache" while in office, reports AFP.

Rabies hit 18 Indonesian provinces:

A total of 18 of Indonesia's 27 provinces remain affected by rabies, a report said yesterday, AFP reports from Jakarta.

Road mishap kills 10 in China:

Ten people died and 17 were seriously injured when the bus they were travelling in plunged over a 200-metre (660-foot) drop and into a river, Chinese news reports said yesterday, AFP reports from Beijing.

3 killed in Seoul bldg fire:

At least three people died in a Seoul apartment building fire yesterday, as a helicopter plucked people from the roof of the blazing building, witnesses said, AFP reports from Seoul.

Sinn Fein may join peace talks this summer

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Mar 30: Supporters of the Irish Republican Army could join in peace talks this summer if a cease-fire is restored soon, a Labour Party spokeswoman said Saturday, reports AP.

Tough immigration law

Illegal aliens brave long lines to get married before April 1 in US

NEW YORK, Mar 30: Crowds of illegal aliens are braving long lines to get married before April 1, the date that new tough and poorly understood immigration laws go into effect in the United States, reports AFP.

Nearly 400,000 arrive in KSA to perform Hajj

RIYADH, Mar 30: Nearly 400,000 pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia for this year's annual Muslim pilgrimage to Makka, officials said on Saturday, reports AFP.

Solution to Peru's still a far cry

LIMA, Mar 30: The leader of leftist rebels holding 72 hostages here said on Saturday a solution to the crisis remained "a long way off," disputing government statements that hinted the two sides were close to an agreement, reports AFP.

Pope prays for peace, freedom in Albania, Zaire

VATICAN CITY, Mar 30: Pope John Paul prayed for peace and freedom in Albania and Zaire on Saturday night at an Easter vigil service in St Peter's Basilica, reports Reuter.

Albanian refugees

More than 13,000 Albanian refugees have fled to Italy in the last two weeks to escape the chaos in their country.