

Mortar fire from Gaza amounts to declaration of war: Israel

Israeli rabbi whips up storm in call for annihilation of Arabs

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday said the firing of mortar bombs on its territory from areas run by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority amounted to a "declaration of war," adding that it would hit back without warning.

Vatikan said Israel had reauthorised the transfer of construction materials via the Karni crossing two or three weeks ago.

China tones down anti-US rhetoric, but seeks apology

PLA demands an end to spying on Chinese coast

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday toned down a week of vitriolic anti-American rhetoric, but reiterated uncompromising demands for an apology over the collision between a US spy plane and Chinese fighter jet.

"It is clear that the US plane broke flight rules and made dangerous movements, causing the crash of the Chinese jet and the disappearance of the Chinese pilot, violations of international and Chinese law," it said.

Most Chinese dailies continued reporting on the ongoing search for missing Chinese pilot Wang Wei, who parachuted from his damaged fighter jet following the collision but whose still missing.

S Korea recalls ambassador to Japan over textbook row

AFP, Seoul

South Korea said yesterday it was recalling its ambassador to Japan in protest at Tokyo's decision to approve school history textbooks which gloss over Japanese wartime abuses.

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Clashes claim 11 in Colombia

REUTERS, Bogota

Colombian right-wing militias this week advanced toward an area the government wants to cede to leftist rebels as a venue for peace talks, sparking clashes that killed 11 people, local media said.

38 killed in Chinese coal mine blast

AFP, Shaanxi

Thirty-eight miners were killed and 16 injured in an explosion at a coal mine in northwest China's Shaanxi province, state media reported yesterday.

The world's biggest coal producer and consumer, where independent analysis estimate mine deaths top 10,000 annually.

Troops kill 4 Abu Sayyaf men amid hunt for hostages

AFP, Iloilo

Four Muslim extremists have been killed on this southern Philippine island amid a major assault to rescue an American and a Filipino being held captive, the military said yesterday.



Indonesian Vice-President Megawati Sukarnoputri shows the way to UNICEF goodwill ambassador and movie star Roger Moore at the start of their meeting at her office in Jakarta yesterday.

Sino-American scholar arrested in China

AFP, Beijing

A third Sino-American researcher has been detained in China since December and is expected to face politically-motivated charges of "leaking secrets," a Hong Kong-based rights group said yesterday.

Megawati spells her terms for replacing Wahid

REUTERS, Jakarta

Indonesia's Megawati Sukarnoputri has set three conditions for running to replace embattled President Abdurrahman Wahid, including guarantees she won't be challenged before her term ends, a newspaper said yesterday.

Vajpayee to call all-party meeting to end deadlock

Kashmir negotiator tight-lipped about dates of talks

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee will convene an all-party meeting this week to try and break an impasse in parliament over an arms bribery scandal, officials said yesterday.

for the government to resign over a video expose showing top politicians, civil servants and military officials apparently taking bribes from journalists posing as arms dealers.

and is a member of the powerful cabinet committee on security, which takes all important decisions related to national security.

British media mulls monarchy's future after 'Sophiegate' scandal

AFP, London

The British media was questioning the role and future of the monarchy yesterday, amid a royal scandal over ill-judged comments made by Queen Elizabeth's daughter-in-law to an undercover tabloid reporter.



Sophie, 36, is a partner in a London public relations company called R-JH.

Doctors speak out against plastic surgery on teens

AFP, New York

The trend of adolescents undergoing plastic surgery has been heating up in the United States, angering some within the medical community, who blame parents for fanning the flames.

Hundreds flee Borneo

AFP, Jakarta

A mass exodus kept up unabated yesterday as 1,300 settlers boarded a ship for Java amid tight security to flee the violence which has ravaged Indonesian Borneo since February, police and officials said.

later Monday, he added. It will be the third boat to leave the port since Saturday after community leaders in Pangkalan Bun decided to temporarily evacuate all Madurese to other parts of Indonesia after the violence spread to the town this month.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority Tender Notice. 141-143 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka. Purchase & Storage Department, Dhaka.

Detailed tender notice text including purchase details, dates, and contact information for Md Golam Mowla Molla, Director, Purchase & Storage Department.