

Laden leading Tora Bora defence in person

REUTERS, Kabul/Chaman

Osama bin Laden was said to be leading about 1,000 men "in person" in the defence of his bomb-blasted mountain hideouts in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday as tribesmen fended off former Taliban stronghold Kandahar.

As Pashtun tribes jostled for control of Kandahar, US Marines focused on the hunt for bin Laden and his aides, as well as Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, who was thought to have been holed up in the city before it changed hands.

Lanka enters era of uneasy cohabitation

AFP, Colombo

Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as Sri Lanka's new prime minister on Sunday, ushering in a period of uneasy cohabitation with his arch-rival, President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

ratists in a bid to resolve Sri Lanka's long-running civil war and faces a formidable challenge in reviving an economy mired in its worst performance in more than 50 years.

swearing-in ceremony live because of "obstacles" placed by Kumaratunga's office.

21 killed in N Alliance helicopter crash

AFP, Kabul

Twenty-one people including captured Taliban fighters and the family of a senior Northern Alliance commander have been killed in helicopter crash, an alliance commander said Sunday.

Indo-US joint naval exercise begins Dec 15

PTI, New Delhi

Capping a series of high level visits by top US defence brass here, India and United States will commence a three-day joint naval exercise off the Arabian sea coast from December 15.



PHOTO: AFP

Israeli soldiers inspect the body of a Palestinian suicide bomber lying on the ground after a he attempted a bomb attack at a bus station in Haifa on Sunday.

Israel occupies 2 areas of WB

4 Palestinian cops killed, another suicide attack in Haifa

AFP, Ramallah

The Israeli army occupied overnight two Palestinian areas to the east of Tulkarem in the north of the West Bank, Palestinian witnesses said on Sunday.

security liaison committee with Israel, Khalid Abu al-Ula, said several tanks rolled 500 metres (yards) into farmland east of the city of Rafah and blew apart the police posts with shells and machine guns.

the personal guard of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and arresting Palestinians there, the source said.



PHOTO: AFP

Female supporters greet India's main opposition Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi (C) during birthday celebrations at her residence in New Delhi on Sunday.

Nepal's army keeps up pressure on Maoists

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's army was continuing its campaign against Maoist rebels Sunday, with at least five killed in clashes with troops in the past 48 hours, according to media reports and a defence ministry statement.

Karzai begins his quest to resolve Kandahar dispute

AFP, Quetta

Afghanistan's leader-in-waiting Hamid Karzai was in Kandahar Sunday in a bid to resolve a dispute between rival factions threatening to return the province to pre-Taliban chaos, a family source said.

was deteriorating, with gunfire being heard during the night and armed men seen on the streets Sunday.

but most remained close. Scattered gunfire could be heard during the day but the bombing of the city by US jets seemed to have been halted overnight although warplanes could still be heard flying at night.

US ponders next terror target

AFP, Washington

As the military campaign against the Osama bin Laden, his Al-Qaida network and the Taliban winds down in Afghanistan, debate among US officials is growing over who, what, where and how the United States should strike next in its war on terrorism.

Bush would like to be rid of. And, they stress that an overt military operation against a particular nation or organisation is not the only possibility under consideration.

India forms group to talk to APHC

AFP, New Delhi

India's federal government has set up a special group to hold peace talks with Kashmir's main separatist alliance, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Sunday.

revive talks. The previous round of discussions stalled after senior Hurriyat leaders were not given visas by the Indian government to visit Pakistan, where they wanted to consult with other Kashmiri leaders and groups.

PM raises Nagaland peace hopes

AFP, Guwahati

The hopes for an end to five decades of violent insurgency in India's north-eastern state of Nagaland has brightened with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee holding peace talks in Japan with top Naga tribal separatists.

tion to the vexed insurgency problem in the state," said G Gainam, leader of the Naga Hoho, the apex tribal council in Nagaland.

several rounds of peace talks were held abroad between the militant leadership and government emissaries.

RANGS GROUP advertisement listing contact numbers for various cities like Dhaka, Kakrail, Mirpur, Mymensingh, Sholashahar, Rajshahi, etc.

TOSHIBA advertisement featuring images of various appliances like televisions, refrigerators, and washing machines with Bengali text.