

Satellite pictures show huge eruption on sun

Reuters, Washington
A massive solar eruption, more than 30 times the length of Earth's diameter, blasted away from the sun on Monday, and a satellite captured graphic images of the event.

Philippine VP resigns as foreign minister

Philippine Vice President Teofisto Guingona resigned as foreign minister yesterday, settling but perhaps not ending a public row with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over U.S. military exercises in the south of the country.

Pinochet unfit for trial: Chile court

Citing his health, Chile's Supreme Court ruled ageing Gen. former dictator Augusto Pinochet unfit to stand trial for the notorious "Caravan of Death" political killings more than a quarter century ago.

Monday's Supreme Court decision could set a precedent for other cases pending against Pinochet. A lawyer for hundreds of relatives of those killed during Pinochet's 1973-90 dictatorship said they would continue pursuing legal action against him.

US, Afghan officials probe village bombing

REUTERS, Kabul
Afghan and US officials headed to an Afghan village yesterday to investigate reports that a stray US bomb killed 40 members of a wedding party during a major operation to track down Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.



Bollywood stars Vinod Khanna (L) and Shatrughan Sinha (R) pose for photographers after taking oath as minister of state and cabinet minister respectively during a swearing-in ceremony at the Presidential Palace in New Delhi on Monday.

were tracking them and were making a sustained effort to engage them," he said, adding that the planes had then dropped seven 2,000 bombs on the area. Raaz Mohammad, an official in the governor's office in the provincial capital of Tarin Kowt, told Reuters 40 people were killed.

Cabinet shake-up boosts clout of BJP

AFP, New Delhi
India's much vaunted cabinet shake-up proved little more than Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's BJP party boosting its dominance in the 24-member coalition government it heads, analysts said Tuesday.



Map of Afghanistan locating Uruzghan province, where a US bombing error killed scores of wedding guests on Monday.

US bombing error kills Afghans

AFP, Kabul
Villagers in central Afghanistan have begun mourning the deaths of 40 members of a wedding party who were killed in an apparently botched US bombing raid, local officials said Monday.

Pakistani cleric warns of upheaval

AP, Islamabad
A top Pakistani Muslim cleric said Monday that the fiercely independent tribesmen living near the Afghan border may resort to violent protest if the military continues a major US-backed search for al-Qaida fugitives in the mountainous area.

N Korea blames US for clash

REUTERS, Seoul/Yeonpyongdo
North Korea accused the United States of staging a weekend battle between the North and South Korean navies to strain ties between the divided neighbours, but Washington swiftly rejected this as "spurious."

Peru's ex-spy chief found guilty

AP, Lima
Vladimiro Montesinos, once one of Peru's most feared men, was convicted Monday of usurping office the first of more than 70 criminal charges ranging from arms smuggling to homicide that the ex-spy master faces.

Chemical factory blast in Japan

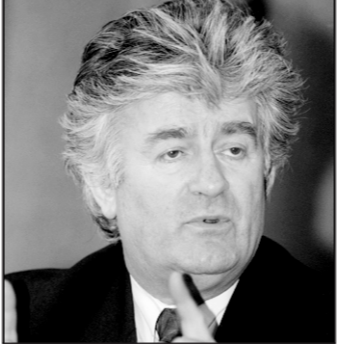
AP, Tokyo
A blast tore through a chemical-producing factory in southwestern Japan, forcing 70 residents nearby to flee their homes, police said. Two women were treated for possible inhalation of poisonous gas.

US bombing blunder likely to backfire

AFP, KABUL
The latest deadly blunder to blight US military operations in Afghanistan will fuel fears that support for Islamic extremists will be bolstered rather than diminished by what Washington claims is its most accurate ever air campaign, analysts say.

NATO troops ransack home of fugitive Karadzic

REUTERS, Pale, Bosnia
NATO-led peacekeeping troops in Bosnia broke into the family home of fugitive Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic early yesterday and turned it upside down in a thorough search.



US bombing blunder likely to backfire

Laden's terror network. London's Sunday Telegraph quoted a senior aide in Prime Minister Tony Blair's government as saying US troops engaged in searches in tribal areas along the Afghan-Pakistan border had adopted a "march in shooting" strategy.

US bombing blunder likely to backfire

The Karadzic house in the mountain village of Pale, once the "capital" of the breakaway Bosnian Serb Republic which he led, has been empty for five years, a guard who witnessed the operation told Reuters.