

Only graduates for Pak polls

AFP, Islamabad

The Pakistani Supreme Court yesterday upheld President Pervez Musharraf's ban on non-university graduates from contesting elections, rejecting challenges led by a normally pro-government party.

First woman premier in South Korea

AFP, Seoul

South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung yesterday appointed a woman as prime minister and sacked the defence minister in a reshuffle aimed at rallying his weakened administration.

2 rebel leaders among 7 killed in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

Two senior commanders of frontline Islamic guerrilla organisations were among 13 people killed in Indian-administered Kashmir, police said yesterday.

district commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad, was shot dead overnight. The attack triggered a tense military stand-off between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, which have massed more than a million troops on their common borders.

Indian MP arrested in Tamil Nadu

AFP, Tamil Nadu

Police in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu yesterday arrested national parliament member and federal government ally MK Vaiko under a tough anti-terror law for supporting Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist guerrillas.

be cowed down by the repression unleashed by this regime," Waiko said. He also appealed to his party cadres to keep calm and not to resort to violence.



A woman passes by uprooted trees in Berlin yesterday. Seven people died in a storm that uprooted trees and damaged cars in Berlin, police and witnesses said.

Freak storm kills 7 in Germany

AFP, Berlin

At least seven people were killed and several others injured when a freak storm with winds of more than 150 kilometres (90 miles) an hour lashed Berlin and surrounding areas overnight, police said yesterday.

large lake southwest of the German capital. At least 12 other children and an adult organiser were injured at the same spot, where around 150 youths had set up camp for the night.

2 die as Maoists attack village in Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

Some 1,000 Maoist rebels descended on a village in western Nepal and killed two men after torturing them, officials said yesterday.

Bush comes under fire

US approach to AIDS epidemic blasted as timid, penny-pinching

AFP, Barcelona, Spain

President George W Bush was given a roasting yesterday at the International AIDS Conference, where his approach to the global AIDS epidemic was attacked as timid and penny-pinching.

conference. The UN has set a target of providing an additional 10 billion dollars a year by 2005, from all sources, to help fight AIDS and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in poorer countries.



Graca Machel, wife of former South African President Nelson Mandela, speaks to journalists during the XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona yesterday.

14 Colombian soldiers die in FARC fight

AFP, Bogota

Fourteen Colombian soldiers were killed during an assault on a FARC rebel mountain camp 350 kilometres (220 miles) northeast of here, a military spokesman said.

Indian safeguard against nuclear, bio-chemical attack developed

AFP, New Delhi

India's military scientists yesterday said they have developed safeguards against nuclear, biological and chemical attacks but asserted they have not violated any international convention during their experiments.

India, US plan series of joint military exercise

AFP, New Delhi

India and the United States are chalking out a timetable for a series of joint exercises as part of a bilateral agreement to boost military-to-military contacts, an official said yesterday.

and contingency squadron activity," Dhingra said, adding the Indian air force was likely to send its aircraft to join the US-led exercises, which have been code-named "Cape Hope."

China against US plans for Iraq

AFP, Beijing

China on said yesterday that it was opposed to US plans to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, arguing that the Middle Eastern country's sovereignty should not be violated.

Army officer warns of eruption in West Bank

AFP, Tel Aviv

Pressure mounted on the Israeli government yesterday to loosen its grip on the West Bank after senior army officers warned their new commander the occupied cities are a powder keg.

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