

UN keeps up inspections, US moves to woo war support

Experts pay surprise visit to Iraqi army base

AFP, Baghdad
UN arms experts visited the "Mother of Battles" complex south of Baghdad Saturday on the third day of renewed inspections as US envoys prepared a marathon tour to woo support for Washington's headline stance amid persistent anti-war protests.

the government daily Al-Jumhuriya.
"The world is still shouting its refusal of US threats to attack Iraq," thundered another official newspaper, Al-Qadisiya.



Thousands of anti-war demonstrators march through the streets of Sydney on Saturday to protest against probable participation of Australia in a US-led military attack on Iraq.



Australian pop star Kylie Minogue poses with her Top Tour award, during BBC's Top Of The Pops Awards at the Manchester Evening News Arena in Manchester on Friday.

MMA-PML-Q to share power in Baluchistan

AFP, Quetta
Islamists in one of Pakistan's key western border provinces announced a surprise agreement Saturday to form a governing coalition with the army-backed Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), which it opposed at the federal level.

On Wednesday the MMA announced they had the support of minor parties opposed to President Pervez Musharraf and would be able to form government.

Fresh wave of violence in Kashmir: 15 killed

AFP, Srinagar
In a fresh flurry of violence in Indian Kashmir Saturday, security forces shot dead ten Islamic rebels, while militants triggered four explosions injuring 17 people.

New Pak PM says 'no' to any bargain on Kashmir

PTI, Islamabad
Ruling out any "bargain" on the Kashmir issue, Pakistan's new Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali has said his government would continue the political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris "fighting for right to self determination."

World AIDS Day targets stigma, discrimination

AFP, Paris
Doctors and activists muster on Sunday for World AIDS Day, launching a campaign for easing the burden of stigma suffered by many of the 42 million people with AIDS and HIV.

earlier this week by UN's specialist agency UNAIDS and the World Health Organisation (WHO), makes for grim reading.

Mystery disease kills 50 children in Uttar Pradesh

AFP, Lucknow
At least 50 children in north India have died of a mysterious fever in the past month, an official said Saturday. Media reports said the death toll was close to 100.

37 killed in bus accident in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar
At least 37 people were killed Saturday when an overcrowded minibus plunged into a ravine in Indian Kashmir, police said.



Activists and supporters of the National Human Rights Council shout anti-Pakistan slogans during a demonstration near the parliament in New Delhi on Saturday. The demonstrators protested against alleged cross border terrorism by Pakistan.

Kenya sees no al-Qaida link

6 Pakistanis among 12 detained for attacks

REUTERS, Mombasa
Kenya said on Saturday it had so far found no link between 12 people held over Thursday's attacks on Israelis in Mombasa and the al-Qaida network that US officials have said could have had a hand in them.

Sunkuli told a news conference that of the 12 detainees, all foreigners, a US and a Spanish national "appear to have the least connection" to the attacks and were likely to be freed.

received a warning from Australia, said: "I am saying I'm not the only person who ought to have that information, but I am saying, I don't have that information."

Lankan peace talks move to Europe

AFP, Oslo
Warring parties in Sri Lanka will have their first round of peace talks in a western capital Monday when they hold crucial negotiations to end decades of ethnic bloodshed, diplomats said.

expressed interest in hosting future rounds as a sign of support to the Norwegian-backed process, Sri Lankan diplomats said.

Israeli polls may delay peace plan

AP, AFP, Jerusalem
A US-backed plan for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict won't be ready by its December 20 target date and may be delayed until after the Israeli elections a month later, a Palestinian official said Friday.



Bollywood actors Amir Khan (L), Karishma Kapoor (2nd from L), former miss India Diya Mirza (2nd from R) and actor Vivek Oberoi (R) hold posters of the movie 'Dum' in Mumbai on Friday on the occasion of the movie's soundtrack release. Mirza and Oberoi play the lead role in the movie.

Last living Beatles lead Harrison tribute concert

AFP, London
Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, the last living Beatles, regrouped late Friday to head an all-star London concert in tribute to former band member George Harrison, a year to the day since he died.