

Arafat blames Laden for exploiting Palestinians

REUTERS, London
Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has ordered al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden to stop exploiting the Palestinian cause to further his own interests.

Lankan peace panel moves to dismantle military camps

AFP, Colombo
Sri Lanka's warring parties meeting in Norwegian-brokered peace talks have begun moves to dismantle military camps as a confidence-building measure in efforts to end decades of ethnic bloodshed, diplomats said Sunday.

100 terror attacks foiled, claims FBI

AP, Washington
Nearly 100 terrorist attacks, some intended to take place on US soil, have been thwarted since Sept. 11, 2001, FBI Director Robert Mueller says.

US official in Pakistan for talks

AFP, Islamabad
US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca was to arrive early Monday in Pakistan for wide-ranging talks on regional and security issues, officials said.

Iraq urges UN to stop US-British air strikes

Experts probe defence factories, reinforces inspection mission

REUTERS, Baghdad
Iraq has urged the United Nations to stop an "undeclared war" waged by US and British warplanes policing a self-declared "no-fly" zone in the south of the country.

VHP sees end to secular forces

AFP, New Delhi
The BJP win in state assembly polls in Gujarat has killed off secular forces, the leader of a hardline rightwing Hindu group said Sunday.

Labour eyes Jerusalem partition

AFP, Jerusalem
In a bold move likely to stir up feelings over Jerusalem, Israel's Labour party, facing an uphill battle in January elections, said Sunday it would be ready to renounce Israeli claims on the annexed eastern sector of the disputed holy city.



A protester wears a large placard during a demonstration in Paris against a possible US-led war against Iraq on Saturday.



Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) set off firecrackers during celebrations in Bhopal on Sunday in Madhya Pradesh state as counting in Gujarat's state assembly elections began.

Sharon's Likud looks set to ride out Graft scam

AFP, Jerusalem
A police probe into allegations of a cash-for-votes scandal in internal elections could cost Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud party votes, although it is unlikely to shake the resounding victory he is tipped to win in January.

Laden tops White House 'hit list'

REUTERS, New York
The Central Intelligence Agency is authorised to kill individuals described as "terrorist leaders" on a list approved by the White House, the New York Times reported in its Sunday editions.

Crooner Clinton records CD with Sophia Loren

AFP, Geneva
Former US president Bill Clinton has recorded a CD with legendary Italian actress Sophia Loren and the Swiss Romande Orchestra, Swiss news media reported on Sunday.

S Korea opens talks with North on nuke

AFP, Seoul
South Korea is set to open three days of direct talks on Sunday with the North over its nuclear program, after the Stalinist state threatened to remove seals and surveillance cameras from its nuclear facilities.

Rally challenges Chavez rule in Venezuela

AP, Caracas
Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans poured into this capital for the biggest opposition rally of a growing political stalemate, many chanting for embattled President Hugo Chavez to resign.

Pak minorities face Islamist threat

AFP, Islamabad
Pakistan's religious minorities expressed outrage Sunday over threats they said have been made against non-Muslim politicians.



Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito (L) and Crown Princess Masako inspect at close quarters, a native bird called a Kea, in the snow as they visit the scenic Milford Sounds in New Zealand's South Island on Sunday.