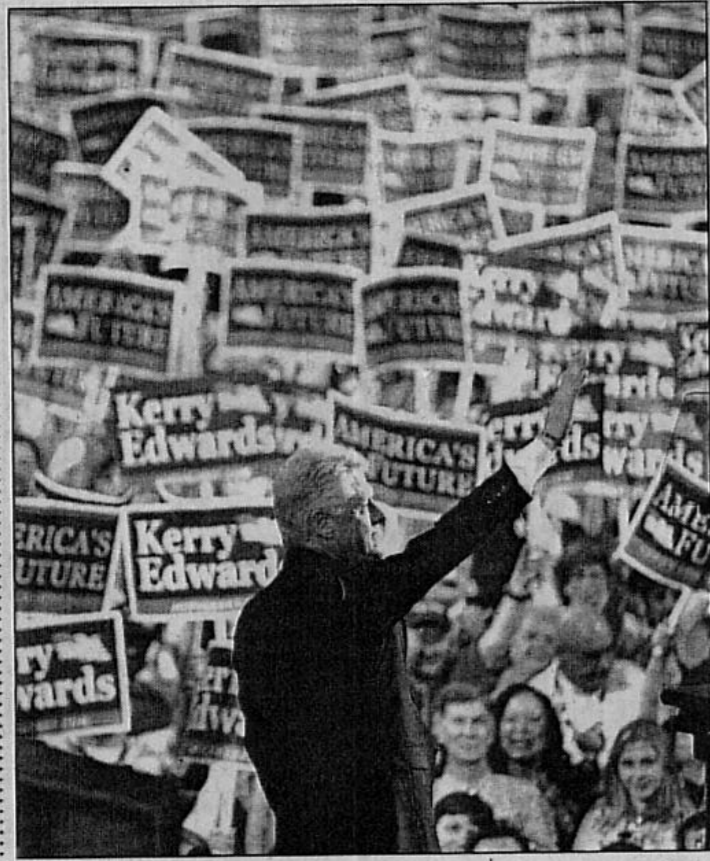


Democrats vow to bag Asian votes

As the race to the White House heats up, Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry is moving aggressively to win the hearts of minority Asian Americans...



Former US president Bill Clinton waves after speaking to the Democratic National Convention on Monday at the Fleet Center in Boston, Massachusetts.

Clinton invigorates Kerry campaign

Energized by Bill and Hillary Clinton, Democrats castigated George W. Bush as a president who mishandled the economy and bungled the war on terror.

President Bush may act within days on some of the commission's recommendations, a spokeswoman said, as the question of which candidate can best protect America...

Turkey warned of 9/11 styled plane attacks

Turkey has received intelligence the al-Qaeda network may try to carry out attacks in the country similar to the plane hijackings in September 11, 2001 in the United States...

Security measures at airports have already been kept at a maximum level since September 11, he said. Another airport official said: 'I am not aware of such an intelligence but security is always tight at airports.'

US war on terror is 'void' after decision to protect Mujahedeen: Iran

Iran hit out at the US decision to grant protected status to the Iraq-based People's Mujahedeen yesterday, the main Iranian armed opposition group, saying it proved Washington's war on terrorism was a sham.

The United States is using its fight against terrorism as a tool, and we knew from the beginning that this fight is void and they are not serious, foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said.

Egyptian diplomat freed

Kidnappers urged to release Pakistanis

Two Iraqis were killed and more than a dozen US soldiers wounded, as Islamabad made a fresh appeal Tuesday for two Pakistanis threatened with death after an Egyptian diplomat was released by his abductors.

Egyptian interests section in Baghdad, Kotb, Cairo's third ranking diplomat in Baghdad, told AFP by telephone: 'I thank God and all those who worked for my release here in Iraq and Egypt.'

Just minutes before, Al-Jazeera broadcast a video apparently showing him being released and even hugging one of his kidnapers.

US using Darfur to topple govt: Sudan

Washington is using the Darfur crisis as a pretext to topple the Sudanese government, Khartoum's envoy to the African Union (AU) said yesterday.

because of its political stance, he said, indicating Sudan's anti-American policies on prominent Arab issues such as Iraq and the Israel/Palestinian dispute.

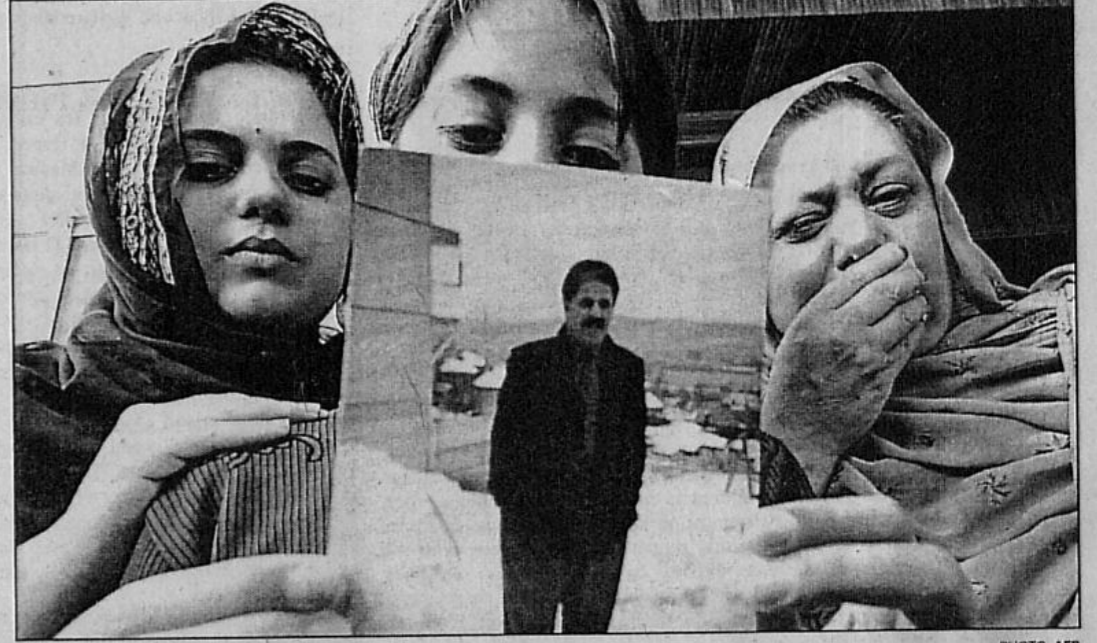
4 Guantanamo prisoners handed over to France

Four French detainees at the US prison complex at Guantanamo Bay who were handed over to French authorities arrived Tuesday at an airbase west of Paris, officials said.

Powell urges coalition partners to stay in Iraq

US Secretary of State Colin Powell urged Hungary yesterday to remain part of the increasingly shaky coalition of occupation forces in Iraq, saying that was the only hope for the Iraqi people.

Powell said that when he meets Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs here Tuesday that 'I will convey our appreciation, our thanks and the thanks of the Iraqi people for Hungarian steadfastness, willingness to stay in the presence of continued danger.'



Kausar Perveen (R), the wife of Pakistani hostage Azad Hussein who is held by insurgents in Iraq, cries as her children show a picture of her husband in Islamabad yesterday.

DPRK threatens to quit talks

200 N Korean defectors land in Seoul

North Korea said yesterday it may consider pulling out of talks aimed at resolving the nuclear standoff in an angry response to the passage of a US human rights bill critical of the Stalinist state.

Meanwhile, more than 200 North Koreans arrived in South Korea yesterday behind a wall of secrecy as the government played down the biggest influx yet of defectors from the Stalinist state.

Bomb threat forces UA flight to return to Sydney

A bomb threat found mid-flight on a United Airlines plane carrying 264 people forced an emergency return to Sydney yesterday, sparking a full alert in airspace along Australia's eastern seaboard.



Indian activists of the left-wing All India Popular Women's Committee listen to speech as they display banners during a demonstration near Parliament in New Delhi yesterday.

Tigers insist on self-rule in talks with peace envoy

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels Monday called for self rule during talks with a top Norwegian envoy Monday, a day after the guerrillas killed eight rivals from a breakaway group, officials said.

Kilinochchi, 330km north of Colombo. His visit is part of the shuttle diplomacy to take the peace process forward, a Norwegian diplomat said.

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