

Palestinians dismantle 'death group' militia

AFP, Gaza City
Palestinian security officials said yesterday they were dismantling a notorious militia squad, known as 'the death group'...



President Leonid Kuchma (R) shakes hand of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko (L) while Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich looks on after Kuchma read a statement after the two presidential rivals agreed to form a working group to resolve the standoff over last weekend's contested election after three-hour closed-door talks in Kiev yesterday.

Tigers threaten to resume war

AFP, Colombo
Tamil Tiger guerrillas yesterday declared they will renew armed struggle unless Sri Lanka's government immediately agrees to revive peace talks based on a controversial blueprint for self-rule.

Barghuti quits race Abbas takes pole position

AFP, Ramallah
New PLO chief Mahmud Abbas emerged yesterday as the clear contender to replace Yasser Arafat a day after jailed West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghuti said he would not be running in the presidential runoff in six weeks time.

Sibu Soren reinducted into Indian cabinet

AFP, New Delhi
Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday reappointed a minister dismissed four months ago for alleged involvement in the killing of 10 villagers three decades ago, officials said.

EU stands firm on nuclear freeze Iran backs down

REUTERS, Vienna
Iran backed down in the face of fierce international pressure on Friday and dropped a demand for changes to a key agreement designed to reassure the world that Tehran does not want nuclear weapons.

Iraqi PM's party joins call for polls delay

REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad
The party of interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has joined a call by leading Sunni Muslim and secular parties for Jan 30 elections to be postponed because of the relentless bloodshed afflicting the country.



US army deserter Jenkins sobs at release

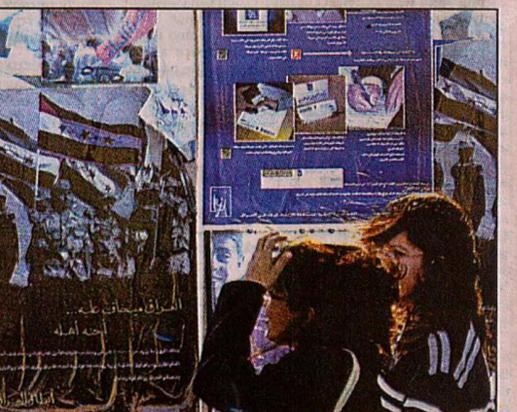
AP, Camp Zama
Free for the first time in nearly four decades, US Army deserter Charles Jenkins sobbed with joy as he was released from a military jail on Saturday after serving 25 days for abandoning his squadron and crossing the border into North Korea in 1965.

South Korea inks Asean non-aggression pact

AFP, Vientiane
Southeast Asian foreign ministers urged Australia and New Zealand yesterday to join a non-aggression pact with the 10-country Asean group as South Korea signed on to the agreement.

US television to air candid Diana video

AFP, New York
Videotape of the late Princess Diana talking frankly about her sex life with Prince Charles and suggesting that a lover on her royal staff was 'bumped off' will be broadcast on US television tomorrow.



Iraqi women walk past election posters in Baghdad yesterday. Iraq's electoral commission rules out a postponement of the elections it set for January 30, following a request by several leading parties which now have to decide whether or not to take part in the landmark polls.



Three Turkish women hold torches during the demonstration in a downtown Istanbul street Friday protesting US politics in the Middle-East and the attack on Fallujah in Iraq.

'US think-tank invites Kashmiri leaders to talks in Nepal'

AFP, Srinagar
Kashmiri leaders from both the Indian and Pakistani zones have been invited by US-based 'think-tank' Pugwash to meet in Nepal to discuss the disputed region's future, Indian Kashmiri separatist leaders said yesterday.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Science Academy (বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান একাডেমী) with details about the 11th annual meeting and prizes.