Factional violence in Palestine

Palestinian President Mahmood Abbas prepares to call early parliamentary and presidential elections as a means to resolve the political impasse in the occupied territories, a move the ruling Hamas leadership condemn as an attack on democracy and a coup d'etat. The ensuing week is marked by gun battles in Gaza City, the death of three sons of a Fatah intelligence official loyal to Abbas, and an alleged assassination attempt on the life of Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya as violence amongst Palestinians reaches historic heights.



AFP

Iran sanctions

The UN Security Council votes unanimously to impose sanctions on Iran's trade in sensitive nuclear materials and technology, as part of an effort to pressure Tehran to halt uranium enrichment work. The resolution also includes a freeze on the financial assets abroad of 12 individuals and 10 organizations from Iran associated with nuclear programs. Iran condemns the resolution as illegal, stating that it will not affect what it claims are its "peaceful" nuclear activities, and considers altering its relationship with the international nuclear watchdog, the IAEA.



AFP



WHITE HOSE

Iraq policy

The Bush administration continues to delay a decisive policy shift on Iraq, as the white house receives conflicting advice on future action. The newly formed Iraq Study Group recommends the withdrawal of the majority of American combat forces from Iraq, leaving just 70,000 American trainers, logistics experts and members of a rapid reaction force. Alternatively, top military commanders in Iraq allegedly endorse the deployment of at least 20,000 fresh combat troops. Bush is expected to make a public announcement on Iraq policy in January 2007.



WIKI COMMONS

Pinochet dies

General Augusto Pinochet, who overthrew Chile's democratically elected Marxist president in a bloody coup and ruled the Andean nation for 17 years, dies in a military hospital, dashing the hopes of victims of his regime's abuses that he would be brought to justice. His death sparks clashes in the Chilean capital Santiago between Pinochet loyalists and their political opponents. He was 91.