

ME peace talks conditional on end of settlements: Abbas

US pushing for final deal in two years

AFP, Cairo
Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas said yesterday he was open to peace negotiations with Israel...

contradicting reports in Israel's Maariv newspaper, which said Mubarak was to press Abbas to accept a US peace plan to restart the talks immediately.

Meanwhile Jordan's King Abdullah II also arrived Monday in Sharm el-Sheikh where he held talks with Mubarak, the Egyptian news agency MENA said.



PHOTO: AFP
Palestinian students demonstrate outside the destroyed premises of the American international school in the Gaza town of Beit Lahia on Sunday to mark the first anniversary since the deadliest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

18 drown as boat sinks in West Bengal

AFP, Kolkata
At least 18 people, including 11 children, died after an overcrowded boat capsized in a river in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal, police said Monday.

Cold wave leaves over 100 dead in Uttar Pradesh

ANI, New Delhi
With temperatures dipping below normal and snowfall witnessed in the upper reaches of Himachal Pradesh and the Kashmir Valley, the normal routine of the people was disturbed for the third consecutive day and over 100 deaths were reported in Uttar Pradesh.



PHOTO: AFP
A Pakistani man directs his horse drawn cart in the fog on a street in Lahore yesterday. At least 15 people, including women and children, were injured in fog-related road accidents there yesterday.

Congress legislators revolt against party chiefs in Tripura, Nagaland

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Agartala/Kohima
A section of Congress leaders and legislators in Tripura and Nagaland have revolted against their state party chiefs and have demanded their immediate removal, party sources said yesterday.

Terrorists threaten to attack trains in Bihar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Patna
Security has been tightened at main railway stations and in all trains passing through Bihar after an alert of possible attacks on railway installations by Taliban-trained suicide squads, an official said yesterday.

Yemen tightens security around embassies

AFP, Sanaa
Yemeni forces have tightened security around the airport and foreign embassies in Sanaa, officials said yesterday, amid fears of strikes by an al-Qaeda branch linked to a botched attack on a US airliner.

Hundreds gather for Zuma's fifth wedding

AFP, Nkandla
South Africa's political and business elite as well as hundreds of villagers in traditional dress yesterday gathered for President Jacob Zuma's fifth wedding in his remote home village.

Myanmar junta asks people to make 'correct choices' in election

AFP, Naypyidaw
Military-ruled Myanmar's junta chief urged people yesterday to make "correct choices" at national elections to be held this year, in a message to mark the country's 62nd independence anniversary.

Twins born a year apart!

AP, Tampa
Identical twin boys in Florida will get to celebrate their birthdays individually after they were born in separate decades.



PHOTO: AFP
Photo taken on Sunday shows a farmer trying to round up his horses from a flooded paddock near Coonamble in the Australian state of New South Wales. Major flooding ravages Coonamble, thanks to heavy storms since Christmas Day. The floods forced more than 1,000 people to evacuate their homes and move to higher ground.

Flooded Australian town declared disaster zone

AP, Sydney
Authorities declared two flooded farming regions in southwestern Australia natural disaster zones Monday as residents in one town nervously watched a rising river in hopes that it wouldn't break its levees.

Congress, TDP split on Telangana ahead of all-party meet

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Hyderabad
Political observers say the meeting of eight recognised political parties convened by Home Minister P Chidambaram is not expected to achieve any dramatic breakthrough on the sensitive issue that has divided people along regional lines.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Advertisement for North South University, Bangladesh. Includes text: 'NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY The first private university in Bangladesh. Student Counselor: (Male & Female)'. Details about education, experience, and salary.

Advertisement for SAFS (Safes & Accounts Firm) and BBA/EMBA programs. Includes text: 'ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি ২০১০ সাফস এডুকেশন গ্রুপ'. Details about HND, ACCA, CAT, and BBA/EMBA courses.



PHOTO: AFP
Rescuers evacuate passengers trapped in a train carriage due to heavy snowfall in Ulan Bator, China's Inner Mongolia region yesterday. Record snow disrupted air and road travel in northeast Asia on Monday, grounding dozens of planes in China and South Korea and forcing schools to close in Beijing, with more freezing weather on the way.