



Handout picture shows Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (C) touring "Jamran", Iran's first domestically built warship, during its unveiling ceremony at an undisclosed location in southern Iran yesterday.

Iran could be working on nukes, warns IAEA

Tehran terms warhead report 'baseless'

AFP, Vienna Tehran

The UN atomic watchdog is concerned that Tehran may be working on a nuclear warhead, according to a restricted report obtained by AFP Thursday.

The language of the report was much more blunt than that used by Amano's predecessor Egyptian Mohamed ElBaradei, who stepped down as head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the end of November.

The 10-page document, which is to be discussed by IAEA governors at a meeting next month, also confirmed Tehran had begun enriching uranium to higher levels, theoretically bringing it closer to the levels needed for an atomic bomb.

Soldiers sack Niger govt after toppling president

Troops in control after detaining Tandja, his ministers

AFP, Niamey

Niger's new military rulers posted tanks and trucks mounted with machine guns around the presidential palace yesterday after toppling strongman Mamadou Tandja and sacking the government in a deadly coup.

The military stormed the palace during a cabinet meeting, and seized Tandja and detained his ministers before announcing it was suspending the constitution that the 71-year-old forced through with a controversial referendum last year.

West Africa has been blighted by a string of recent coups, including takeovers by the military in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania.

Niger's uranium makes coup a world affair

AFP, Paris

Niger, where the military has ousted the country's strongman, is the world's third largest uranium producer and is aiming to double production by 2012, but the west African country is also impoverished and famine-hit.

Political unrest in Niger. Impoverished nation under dusk-to-dawn curfew after military coup. Thursday: Military stages coup toppling president Mamadou Tandja, imposes curfew. Friday: Military dissolves government.

Jailed Ulfa leaders could be freed

ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER Tarun Gogoi yesterday hinted at releasing jailed leaders of the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa) for peace talks, aimed at bringing an end to three decades of violent insurgency in the state.



Palestinian protesters take cover from tear gas fired by Israeli forces during a demonstration against Israel's separation barrier, in the West Bank village of Maasarah, near Bethlehem yesterday.

Canadian student ship sinks off Brazil, 64 rescued

A college class-at-sea ship carrying dozens of Canadian students sank off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, but all 64 passengers and crew members were plucked from the water alive, a Brazilian Navy spokesman said yesterday.

N Korea vows not to swap nukes for aid

North Korea, under international pressure to return to nuclear disarmament talks, vowed Friday never to give up its atomic arsenal in return for economic aid.

Several killed at demo in west Ivory Coast

Several people were killed yesterday in clashes between security forces and demonstrators staging a protest against President Laurent Gbagbo at Gagnoa in western Ivory Coast, hospital sources said.

HIV may soon fight HIV

Vaccines against many viruses, including flu, are made from deactivated versions of those viruses, but such an approach was previously dismissed as too risky in the case of HIV.

Europeans press Israel over Hamas killing row

Four European countries whose passports were implicated in a Hamas commander's killing have piled pressure on Israel, as Dubai said it wanted Mossad's chief arrested if his spies were behind the hit.

Rains highlight Haiti's urgent needs

Heavy rain Thursday in Haiti's capital worsened squalid camps and highlighted the urgent need for shelter after last month's quake, as the UN called for a record 1.44 billion dollars in aid.

Advertisement for PHONAK hearing aids. Includes text: 'আপনি কি কানে কম শুনছেন?' and 'সুইজারল্যান্ডের PHONAK অডিওলজিস্ট এর পরামর্শ নিন।'



Veterinary surgeons from the College of Veterinary Science perform a cuffed elbow surgery on "Rajib", a 7-year old male Royal Bengal tiger, at Assam State Zoo in Guwahati yesterday.

Attack on Google launched from Chinese schools

Cyberattacks aimed at Google and dozens of other firms have been traced to computers at two Chinese schools, one with ties to the military, The New York Times reported on Thursday.

Advertisement for Philips DVD Players. Includes text: 'Philips DVD Players. Unmatched performance at unbelievable price.' and 'TRANSKOM Digital. Your Trusted Electronics Retailer.'