

Iran to build two uranium enrichment plants in Mar

Tehran vows tough response to any attack

AFP, Tehran/Zagreb

Iran said yesterday it is considering plans to start building two new uranium enrichment plants from March, with the sites concealed in the mountains to avert air strikes.

where Tehran is refining uranium despite three sets of UN sanctions. According to the latest UN nuclear watchdog report, Iran has installed in Natanz 8,610 centrifuges, the device which rotates at supersonic speed to enrich uranium.

Washington and its ally Israel have not ruled out military strikes against Iran's nuclear sites. On Sunday, Petraeus said the United States would increase pressure on the Islamic republic.

Israel unveils new drone fleet that can reach Iran

AP, Tel Nof Air Force Base

Israel's air force on Sunday introduced a fleet of huge pilotless planes that can remain in the air for a full day and could fly as far as the Persian Gulf, putting rival Iran within its range.



US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke (R) and Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili visit the Krtsanisi firing range outside Tbilisi yesterday. Holbrooke Monday visited a US training centre for Georgian soldiers who will be deployed to Afghanistan.



Israeli soldiers take position and open fire on Palestinian stonethrowers during clashes in the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday. Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in Hebron amid outrage over Israel's plan to restore two flashpoint Jewish holy sites in the occupied territory.

Clashes over Israeli plan to restore 2 Jewish holy sites in West Bank

Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Hebron on Monday amid outrage over Israel's plan to restore two flashpoint Jewish holy sites in the occupied territory.

heritage sites. "We strongly condemn this decision which yet again confirms the Israeli government's determination to impose facts on the ground," chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat told AFP by phone from Paris, where he was accompanying Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on an official visit.

Monarch, PM meet over future of Dutch govt

AFP, The Hague

Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende met Queen Beatrix yesterday for consultations after his government collapsed over the Netherlands's role in Afghanistan, a government spokesman said.

Nato airstrike kills 27 Afghan civilians

Tribal chief among 14 killed in bomb attack

AFP, Kabul/Jalalabad

A Nato airstrike killed up to 27 Afghan civilians, including women and a child, sparking fresh anger from Kabul yesterday against US-led forces pressing a major offensive to defeat the Taliban.

British rig to start drilling off the Falklands

AFP, London

A British oil rig was due to start drilling off the Falklands on Monday, a move likely to ratchet up tensions with Argentina which claims the disputed islands, the BBC reported, citing the oil company.

Aliens could be among us, says Britain's top astronomer

ANI, London

Lord Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal of the UK, says aliens could be among us and we may not be able to recognise them.



Swiss businessman Max Goeldi (R) sits in a car next to a Libyan policeman after turning himself in to Libyan authorities in Tripoli on Monday. Goeldi turned himself in to Libyan police to serve time in jail after leaving his shelter at the Swiss embassy, an AFP journalist said.

Kandahar next Nato target

AFP, Kabul/Washington

The commander of international forces in Afghanistan was quoted as saying Monday that the southern province of Kandahar was likely to be the next target of operations to eradicate the Taliban.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Government (গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার) featuring a table of services and contact information for the Ministry of Education.