**World**

PLO declares independent state

The Palestine Liberation Organization's parliament-in-exile last night proclaimed an independent Palestinian homeland with Jerusalem as its capital, and invited all Arab and Western parties to recognize it. But the group has not set boundaries for the homeland, which it said would include the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Lebanon. The announcement left open the issue of negotiations with the United Nations for the creation of a Palestinian state.

The move is likely to be met with international condemnation. The United States and the European Community have been working to bring about a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The US has called for a resumption of negotiations, and the European Community has called for a two-state solution, with an independent Palestinian state and a united Israel.

**Nation**

Transition to pick up

The presidential transition team should pick up steam this week, after President-elect George Bush ends his Florida vacation. Bush will hold a series of meetings with Cabinet members and advisers, and is expected to announce his choice for key positions in the new administration.

Bush is expected to name his chief of staff, treasure secretary, and other top officials in the coming days. The transition team is expected to focus on economic policy, security, and foreign affairs.

**Local**

Dukakis positive on state budget

Gov. Michael S. Dukakis praised a positive outlook on handling the state's fiscal problems. Dukakis said he would maintain the state's AAA credit rating, which is the highest possible.

Dukakis said that the state's budget for the fiscal year ending in June is expected to be in balance, and that he would be able to avoid further tax increases.

**Sports**

Notre Dame tops AP poll

There was little change in the weekly Associated Press Top 20 college football poll. Notre Dame held onto the top spot for a second straight week, receiving 49 of 60 first-place votes. The team's defense was honored as the nation's best.

Notre Dame

**Weather**

Wild weather continues in the Midwest

While residents of the central Rocky Mountain states northeast through Minnesota are dealing with moderate to heavy snow, cold temperatures, and strong winds, we in the northeast are continuing to enjoy rather mild weather. The pattern responsible for these weather conditions is expected to last through the week. The outlook for next week calls for similar conditions, with the possibility of a cold front moving in.

Compiled by Niraj S. Desai

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