

## BRIEFLY

## Gorbachev to sue journalist:

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is to sue a television journalist who accused him of involvement in a hardline communist coup attempt last August, central television reported Tuesday. AFP reports from Moscow.

"I declare that everything he has said is false and therefore I have asked the prosecutor's office to start proceedings for slander against Belozertsev," Gorbachev said in a letter sent to television director Yegor Yakovlev.

The journalist, whose first name was not available, made his allegations in a programme broadcast on January 17.

## David Levy arrives in Beijing:

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, arriving to establish diplomatic relations with China, said Wednesday that cooperation between the two countries will contribute to world peace. AP from Beijing says.

"This is a moment we have awaited for a long time," Levy said after stepping off an Israeli government plane, whose crew hung a blue and white Israeli flag from the cockpit. Levy is the first Israeli foreign minister ever to visit China, a longtime champion of the Palestinian cause. He was met by Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang.

Before leaving Jerusalem, he confirmed that he and Chinese officials will sign a protocol Friday establishing formal ties. His announced schedule before Friday consists largely of sightseeing, including trips to the Great Wall and the former imperial palace.

## Russia to work with UN on N-safety:

Russia has pledged to cooperate with the United Nations on nuclear safety, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Tuesday. Reuter reports from Vienna. IAEA Director-General Hans Blix wrote to Russian President Boris Yeltsin last week, offering to help Russia handle nuclear material from dismantled atomic weapons.

"The leaders of Russia will make every effort to ensure that the collaboration between our country and the IAEA continues to flourish in all important areas of the agency's activities," the Russian authorities said in a reply issued by the IAEA. The letter did not specify whether this included disposal of material from redundant weapons.

## Violence claims 7 in S. Africa:

Gunmen killed seven people, six of them from the same family, in a black township in South Africa's Natal Province, police said on Tuesday. Reuter reports from Johannesburg. A spokesman said a group of men wielding AK-47 rifles burst into a house in Umbumbulu on Monday night and shot six family members, then killed another person in a neighbouring house.

The motive was not immediately clear, the police spokesman said.

## Israel lobbs shells into Lebanon:

Israeli artillery lobbed shells into a southern Lebanon village for around an hour late on Tuesday, a security service source said here, AFP reports from Lebanon.

He said a tank and howitzers based inside Israel's self-declared Buffer Zone adjoining the Israeli border, targeted the locality of Talet Zighlay, near the village of Mimes.

It was not immediately known if there were casualties. The shelling followed several attacks by Lebanese groups on Israeli forces and their proxies in the Buffer Zone in the past three days.

## Sydney police open fire on sharks:

Swooping low over the water in a helicopter Sydney police opened fire on a pack of sharks on Wednesday in an attempt to scare them from hundreds of swimmers. Reuter reports from Sydney.

Police fired five shots from a revolver at the pack of about 10 sharks as they swam some 50 to 100 metres (160 to 330 feet) off Queenscliff beach on Sydney's northern peninsula, beach inspector Murray McGlenchy told Reuter.

The helicopter flew low over the pack to try to scare them away and when that didn't work they came back and let off a few rounds, McGlenchy said.

Police said none of the shots hit the sharks which were later herded out to sea.

## CIS army hostage of political ambitions, says ex-Soviet Gen

MOSCOW, Jan 22: General Valery Mironov, commander of former Soviet forces in Latvia, has strongly attacked political leaders who make the army a hostage to their ambitions, Tass news agency reported Tuesday, says AFP.

The Armed Forces of the

## Myanmar junta accused of torturing Muslims

JAKARTA, Jan 22: Indonesian Muslims on Tuesday likened the Myanmar government's treatment of its Muslim minority to Nazi Germany's persecution of Jews, reports Reuter.

The committee for Islamic Solidarity in a statement called on the United Nations Secretary General to send a mission to investigate reports of atrocities against Muslims in Myanmar.

The committee is headed by Lukman Harun, one of the most outspoken Muslim leaders in Indonesia which is home to the world's biggest Muslim community.

## Wives of 40 world leaders meet next month

ROME, Jan 22: More than 40 wives of world leaders will meet next month to try to ease the plight of poor rural women in the developing world, the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Irina Jazayri, President of the Rome-based agency, said in a speech the meeting would be "the first of its kind in that it will give rural women a unique opportunity to address an assembly of decision-makers".



KARACHI, Leaders of the opposition parties of Pakistan meet in Karachi to give unanimous support to former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's call for the immediate dismissal of the Sind government for allegedly patronising separatists. — AFP/UNB photo

## Sharif came to power thru' rigged polls: Pak opposition

KARACHI, Jan 22: A Pakistani opposition alliance said on Tuesday Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's 14-month-old government was losing popularity and the opposition was gaining strength, reports Reuter.

"The reason behind this is that the government is working for polarisation and opposition for national reconciliation," Alliance leader Nawazuddin Khan said.

"We do not consider Nawaz Sharif as public representative any more," he said after meeting opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and other partners in his All Parties Conference (APC).

Opposition parties say Sharif came to power through what they call massively rigged elections in October 1990. They demand fresh polls under neutral administration.

The government denies rigging the election and has rejected the demand for new polls.

"The APC favours a national government to end polarisation, frustration and sense of deprivation ahead of free and fair elections," Nasrullah Khan said. "This is the only solution to keep the nation united."

He said the APC had formed a 10-member committee to coordinate a campaign for the establishment of a national government.

APF from Islamabad adds: Pakistan faces an economic dilemma with the religious parties putting pressure on the government to enforce a ban on earning interest decreed recently by the country's top Islamic court.

Islamic fundamentalists have geared up a campaign to

confront the government if it exercise a constitutional right of appeal to the Supreme Court against the judgement of the Federal Shariat Court (FSC).

Privately, several ministers have indicated that the authorities would find a way to forestall drastic changes in the present financial system largely based on western practices.

Such changes could wreck the nation's economic growth, some say.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, emphasizing his government's commitment to building a modern economy, said earlier this month "we are moving towards a free market economy" which is opposed by a lot of forces.

Look at our privatisation programme...I am taking it forward with a great speed, he said.

## Pan Am, UTA bombing UN asks Libya to help investigate attacks

NEW YORK, Jan 22: The UN Security Council Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution urging that Libya "immediately cooperate with international probes into the bombing of two planes in which 440 people died, reports AFP.

The United States, France and Britain have said they have proof that Libyan Secret Service agents were responsible for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Scotland that killed 270 people and a 1989 bombing of a plane of French Airline UTA over Niger in which 170 people died.

The Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 731 condemning the bombings and calling for UN member nations and the Secretary General to pressure Tripoli to cooperate in the investigations of the attacks.

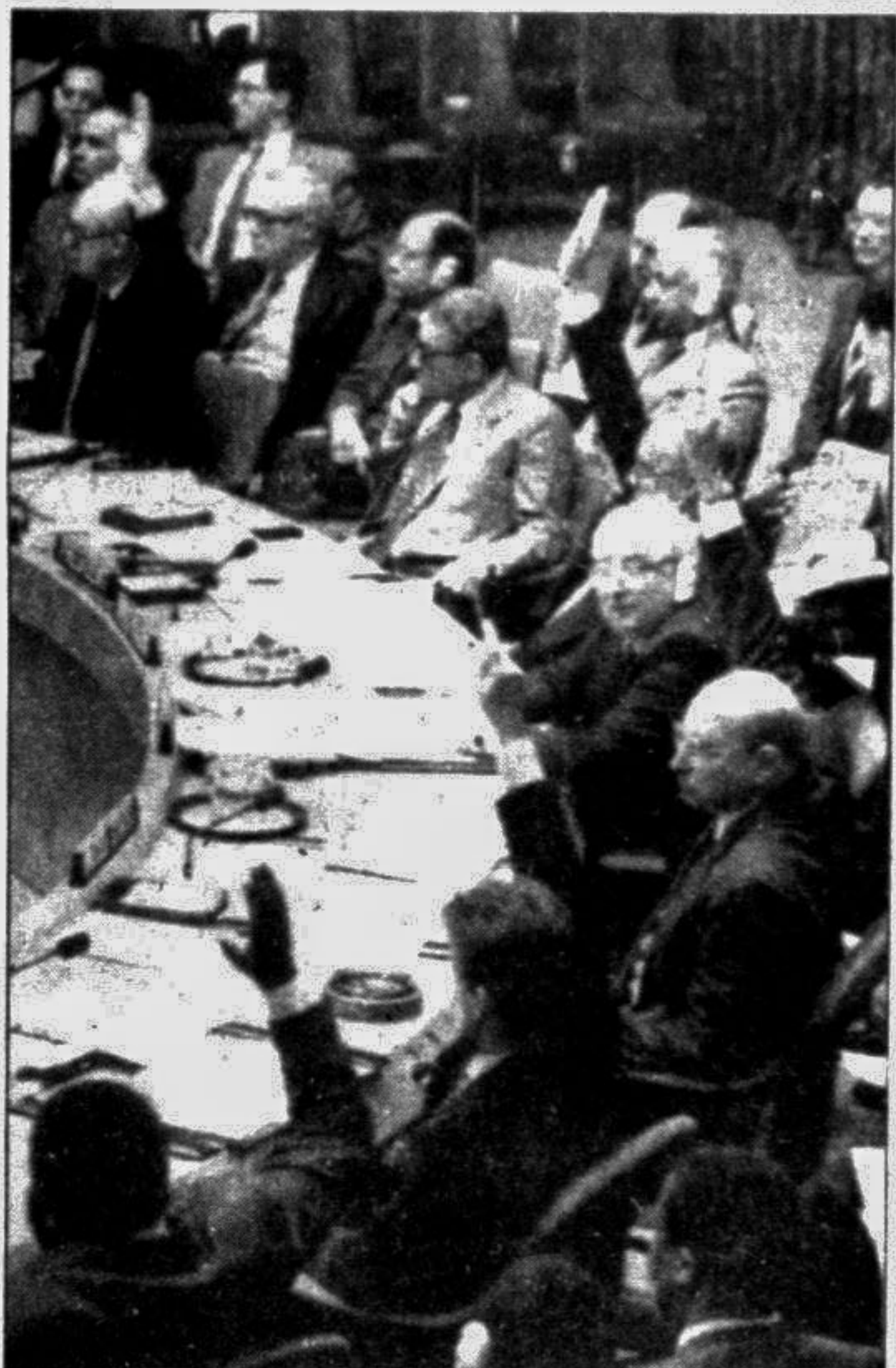
It is the first time the Security Council has passed a resolution calling on a member state to participate in an international judicial investigation. The United States, France and Britain sponsored the resolution.

Libyan UN representative Jadhah Azouz Talhi said before the vote that this judicial question was not a Security Council issue and he invited London and Washington - with no mention of Paris - to resolve the matter through international arbitration.

## Imelda faces 4 more graft charges

MANILA, Jan 22: The government on Wednesday lodged four more graft charges against Imelda Marcos a day after she filed her presidential candidacy in the May national elections, reports AP.

The government Ombudsman charged the widow of President Ferdinand Marcos with violating anti-graft laws in connection with contracts for the lease of properties owned by state-run Light



UNITED NATIONS, UN Security Council members (from top) Russian UN Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali, UK Ambassador David Hannay, UN Under Secretary V Safronchuk, and US Ambassador I Pickering vote unanimously in support of a UN resolution urging that Libya immediately cooperate with international probes into the Pan Am bombing which killed 440 people. — AFP/UNB photo.

Rail Transit system. Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez said that in 1984, a year before the trains began operation, Mrs Marcos awarded leases for commercial space at the train stations to private firms "under terms and conditions manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the government."

Vasquez said the Mrs Marcos took advantage of her positions at the time as member of the national assembly,

chairman of the rail authority, and governor of metropolitan Manila. On Tuesday, Mrs Marcos filed papers to run for president to succeed Corason Aquino, who took power after a revolt ousted Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986.

The Aquino government has accused the Marcoses of embezzling billions of dollars from the national treasury during Marcos' 20-year rule.

## Ashrawi suspects Israeli hand in killing of US lecturer

AMMAN, Jan 22: Palestinian spokesman Hanan Ashrawi on Tuesday implicated Israel in the killing Sunday of an American university lecturer near Jerusalem, reports AFP.

"We don't know as yet who is responsible, but we have suspicions that covert Israeli hands were involved in the killing," Ashrawi told reporters on her arrival here from Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

Albert Glock, 67, an archaeology professor from Oxford, Idaho, who was teaching at the Bir Zeit University of the West Bank, was shot dead by a masked gunman near the home of a woman assistant near Ram.

Ashrawi charged that the killing was designed to disrupt the internal Palestinian situation and torpedo the peace process.

Israeli military sources said the crime may have been work-related, adding that Glock had recently had a dispute with a Palestinian instructor in his department whom he sought to fire.

But the Palestinian University's Vice President, Gaby Baramki, denied the report, adding that "only enemies of the Palestinian people could have committed such a heinous crime."

Glock, a married man with four children, moved to Bir Zeit in 1976.

## Afghan students burn effigy of Zahir Shah in Peshawar

PESHAWAR, Jan 22: Afghan students marched in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar on Tuesday and burned an effigy of former King Zahir Shah to oppose any moves for his return to head a future Afghan government, reports Reuter.

About 2,000 refugee students backing radical Muslim guerrillas took part in the march in an apparent reply to some Afghan exile leaders in Pakistan who last week urged the former king to return from exile in Rome.

Speakers at a rally after the march accused the United States of trying to impose Zahir Shah in a settlement of the 13-year-old Afghan civil war, and vowed to resist the move.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, leader of Pakistan's right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami Party, said on Tuesday some elements in Pakistan's administration were also lobbying for Zahir Shah.

A United Nations peace plan for Afghanistan envisages a ceasefire and an interim administration leading to election.

Pakistan, which has backed the guerrillas and served as their bases backs the UN plan but says it is not sponsoring any individual as the country's leader.

## Vietnam sets up ties with Uzbekistan

HANOI, Jan 22: Communist Vietnam, one of Moscow's past proteges, has set up its first diplomatic relations with a former Soviet Republic, an official Hanoi newspaper said today, reports Reuter.

Vietnam and Uzbekistan announced the ties in a joint communiqué released in Tashkent during the visit of Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, Vietnam news said.

It gave no date for the commune but Nien's delegation left Hanoi on January 15 for a two-week trip to try to establish diplomatic relations with several republics, a Russian diplomat said in Hanoi. Vietnam and Uzbekistan said they were ready to trade Vietnamese rice, meat and tea for cotton from the former Soviet Republic on a barter basis.

The former Soviet Union was Vietnam's main source of aid and trade until last year.

Nien was also expected to visit Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, the diplomat said.

## Off the Record

## Madonna maddens three male dancers

LOS ANGELES: Pop superstar Madonna was sued on Tuesday by three male dancers who appeared in her reveal-all movie, "Truth or Dare," in which the singer and actress talks candidly about her private life and appears in sexy, on-stage footage, reports Reuter.

The dancers, who are claiming unspecified damages, accuse Madonna of revealing their own private lives in the documentary-style movie, which was a box office hit last year.

The three, Oliver Crumes, Kevin Stea and Gabriel Trupin, complained in their lawsuit that candid footage taken while they were relaxing off the set was used in the movie against their wishes.

The suit, filed in Los Angeles county court, claims the dancers were told the non-performance scenes were for Madonna's private use and would not be used in the movie.

But when the film came out Crumes was seen with Madonna, who was teasing him about his intelligence, lack of knowledge and understanding.

Steas is seen in Madonna's bed during one scene, while Trupin is seen being kissed by another male dancer in a restaurant during a game of "Truth or Dare" organised by Madonna.



## Show for cowboy dreamers

DENVER: Somewhere between Hollywood cowboys and real-life cattle drives, between the Western mystique and the beef industry, lies the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo, reports AP.

Part exhibition, part county fair, the annual stock show is a convention for modern cowboys. This 13-day gathering ended Sunday.

Trade secrets are exchanged, reputations are built and millions of dollars change hands. It's billed as the country's biggest livestock show, with nearly 500,000 people attending this year.

Men in cowboy hats, pointed boots and Wrangler jeans stroll over frozen mud looking at breeding cows and bulls in stockyards, romanticising the cowboy days of the 19th century.

Jim Clark works for Olathe Boot Co., which had a booth at the stock show. He said he's been selling boots to Australians and Britons "playing cowboy."

"Here in Denver, we do a lot for a lot of wannabes," Clark said.

Western Tradition hatmakers said about a quarter of their National Western business is not from real cowboys.

"Everybody in their heart, deep down, wants to be a cowboy," said Western Tradition President Gary Brumbaugh. "What is more American than the West? Rough and tough and hard to bluff. Everybody wants to be a part of the frontier."

## Bush may gain from Barbara-push

WASHINGTON: President Bush may be taking a beating in the polls but he can still win over most crowds with a single word - Barbara, says AP.

With Bush's approval ratings plunging in the face of a stagnant economy, political analysts say he can use all the help he can get on the domestic front - even if it means hopping a ride on his popular wife's coattails.

Some recent examples from the New Hampshire campaign trial:

"A lot of families are hurting. The answer: Barbara cares and I care," he told insurance workers last week in Dover, New Hampshire.

"I'm pretty proud of her," he told a civic group in Portsmouth. "When she hugs a baby or teaches somebody to read, why she's saying something."

"With her interest in literacy, she's tried to impress upon people the importance of reading to kids, broadening their horizons, expanding their young minds," he told an Atlanta audience last Friday.

No one knows whether a first lady can have political coattails, but analysts say Bush can hardly go wrong by calling attention to his wife.



## Congo demonstrators defy army order

BRAZZAVILLE, Jan 22: Demonstrators defied an order by the military to stay off the streets on Tuesday while Congo's embattled civilian Prime Minister Andre Milongo refused to negotiate with the army, reports AFP.

Congo's high command sent tanks onto the streets after warning it would use force to restore order in parts of the capital where thousands of people were demonstrating in support of Milongo.

The tanks appeared as the army broadcast a condemnation of "dishonest politicians" who had got their followers to put up barricades in the

working-class districts Baongo and makelekele.

Five civilians were killed in clashes on Monday between soldiers and pro-Milongo demonstrators, according to the Interior Ministry.

Despite the order to remove barricades and to stay off the streets, several thousand people were still demonstrating Tuesday afternoon in the south of the city, an area inhabited mostly by Laris from Milongo's tribe.

The army is pushing for the dismissal of Milongo and his interim government by the high council of the republic.

## UN talks on chemical disarmament resume

GENEVA, Jan 22: U.N.-led negotiations on chemical disarmament resumed here Tuesday amid high hopes of finalising a convention for a total ban on such arms by the end of 1992, after 21 years of discussions, reports AFP.

However key differences, notably over verification procedures, still remain to be resolved.

## Artillery duels leave thousands homeless in Cambodia

KOMPONG THOM, Cambodia, Jan 22: More than 10,000 refugees fleeing daily artillery duels between government forces and Khmer Rouge guerrillas are massed along a national highway in dire need of food and assistance, reports AP.

UN peacekeepers must be sent quickly to stop the renewed fighting, a government military commander also told an Associated Press reporter touring this central province.

Cambodian Red Cross officials on Tuesday delivered more than 100 tons of rice to

hungry refugees along highway No. 6, the main road between the capital of Phnom Penh and this provincial capital. However, stocks ran out and several thousand refugees were turned away empty-handed.

Meanwhile, a government military commander, Lt Gen Bou Moen, said more than 50 civilians have been killed or wounded here in the past two weeks.

"If the U.N. delays sending troops here much longer, the fighting will get much worse," Bou Moen said.

The battles are the largest

in Cambodia since the government and the Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrilla coalition signed a peace treaty in Paris in October.

The violence has underlined the importance of quickly deploying U.N. peacekeepers, Western and Asian diplomats in Phnom Penh say.

The head of the U.N. authority, Yasushi Akashi of Japan, arrived in Phnom Penh on Wednesday to oversee the huge operation. Thousands of U.N. personnel and troops eventually will be deployed to help guide Cambodia to demo-

cratic elections in 1993, but only a few hundred are currently in place.

The dead included villager's Leak Lo's 14-year-old daughter, who was struck by artillery fire.

"I heard that there was a peace agreement on the radio, but there is no peace here," the 50-year-old woman said Tuesday as she waited for rice and plastic sheeting to make a temporary shelter.

The government claims the Khmer Rouge started the fighting and the Khmer Rouge claim the government did.

she said. "All I know is that they are shooting at each other and my daughter is dead."

Kompong Thom has suffered from some of the heaviest fighting of the War, which began after Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978. The invasion ousted a brutal khmer Rouge regime that killed hundreds of thousands of people in a campaign to turn the nation into an agrarian commune.

It is unclear which side renewed the fighting. However, government military commanders say the Khmer Rouge's two non-Communist guerrilla

allies - the forces of Prince Norodom Banariddh and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front - have not engaged in fighting here since the cease-fire took effect.

The Khmer Rouge hold much of the area north of the provincial capital, also called Kompong Thom. Everyday, villagers are being admitted to Kompong Thom hospital with gunshot and shelling wounds, a nurse said.

Government military authorities say they have counted 121 incidents of fighting in Kompong Thom province.