# BERFERY

French aid team missing: A French aid team transporting medical supplies to victims of Somalia's civil war has gone missing at sea, the Charity Medicins Du Monde said on Monday, Reuter reports from Paris.

The three-member team last made contact when it set off by boat from Djibouti eight days ago, the charity's Secretary-General Jean Porrint said

He feared it had been attacked by pirates or one of Somalia's warring factions.

The team, on its way to Mait in northern Somalia, was carrying trucks and electrical equipment as well as medicines. No trace had been found of the boat after five days of intensive searching by French troops stationed in Djibouti and local authorities, Porrini said.

NLF leaders resign in Algeria: The entire leadership of the National Liberation Front, which led Algeria's war for independence and ran its government for almost three decades after 1962, resigned late Monday.

its general secretary said, AFP reports from Algiers.

Adelhamid Mehri told an Algerian radio station that "there has been a collective resignation of the political bureau and its general secretary."

Clashes leave 17 dead in Peru: 🗚 least 17 people were killed in two clashes between rebels and security forces in Peru's upper Huallaga Valley over the weekend, authorities said Monday, AFP reports from Peru.

Eleven guerillas and two soldiers died in a three-hour battle Saturday after an army patrol surprised a group believed to be members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) along a highway in the Narantillo district some 700 kilometers (430 miles) northeast of the capital.

Cuba expels Spanish newsman: Cuba has expelled a Spanish journalist for having links with "counter-revolutionary" groups on the island and writing "offensive and false" articles, a foreign ministry official said on Monday, Reuter reports from Havana. Hector Argiles, head of the ministry's international press centre, said Santiago Aroca of the Madrid daily El Mundo, who was travelling on a tourist visa, was declared 'persona non grata' and expelled by immigration authorities on Sunday.

"He is a non-destrable person for us here," Argiles said. Aroca alleged he was beaten by Cuban officials after being taken from his Havana hotel. He said the officials also confiscated 600 dollars of his money, his computer, notes, address book and other personal possessions.

#### Shamir survives no confidence: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's minority government survived five parliamentary motions of no confidence on

Monday. Reuter reports from Jerusalem. The motions were put down in a single vote 55-49 with five abstentions, a knesset (parliament) spokesman said. It was the first challenge to Shamir's fragile coalition since

two-far right parties quit the government last week over its participation in Middle East peace talks. Shamir's success in mustering enough support for his government in the vote will give him the upper hand in setting the early date for national elections set for November but now

#### Plane crash claims 7 in Canada: A seaplane crashed on take off Monday at the port of Nanatmo

expected to take place within six months.

in British Columbia, killing seven people, local police said. AFP reports from Canada. Two of the nine people on board survived the accident.

The seaplane, belonging to charter company Air Rainbow, was buffeted by a strong guest of wind as it took off from Nanaimo on the island of Vancouver in western Canada, and was hurled on to rocks, then exploded, a police spokesman

The plane was on a charter flight to a logging camp in the north of the island carrying eight passengers and a pilot.

### EC urges Israel to quit South Lebanon

MOSCOW, Jan 28: The European Community today called on Israel to withdraw from Southern Lebanon and stressed that the United Nations had a role to play in Middle East peace talks, reports AFP.

Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro of Portugal, the current EC president, told the opening session of multilateral Middle East negotiations here. "the European Community welcomes the start of this process, based on resolutions 242 and 338 of the UN Security Council, and also hopes the application of resolution 452 will become a reality."

The first two UN measures call for the return of Israelheld Arab land in exchange for regional peace, while the third stipulates an Israeli military withdrawal from Southern

Pinheiro also backed a Middle East peace role for the United Nations, which is not represented at multilateral talks here that are to focus on broad regional issues.

A western diplomat said UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali had refused the role of observer that the organizers of the conference, the United States and Russia, had assigned to the United Nations.

Abdel Matutes, European Commissioner for Mediterranean affair, meanwhile stated that the community "was prepared to assist the initiative by all means at its disposal."

### 60 Azeri troops killed in clash with Armenians

MOSCOW, Jan 28: More than 60 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed by ethnic Armenians defending their village in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, Tass said Monday, reports AP.

The report also said at least 20 civilians died in the Sunday raid on Karin-Tak in the Susha district.

No casualty reports were given by official Azerbaijani sources, Tass said fighting

continued Monday. Predominantly Muslim Azerbaijan and mainly Christian Armenia, two former Soviet republics, have fought for three years to control the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which lies in Azerbaijan but

population. More than 800 people

has a predominantly Armenian

have died in the conflict. Russian TV said that during the counter attacks, one fighter on Armenia's side who was killed carried a document identifying him as French. It quoted a spokesman for the Azerbaijan People's Front as saying the man was a mercenary. French Embassy officials in Moscow said they had no information about the man.

Fighting intensified after Russia decided last month to

withdraw military units from

On January 2, President Ayaz Mutaliboy of Azerbaijan imposed direct rule on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nagorno-Karabakh declared independence January 19 and decided to seek to join the Commonwealth Independent States.

United States thought the re-

publics were making good

progress in rendering their

"We have already made

progress. You have to collect

them, then you have to store

them, you have to disable them

and then you can go about the

business of destroying them", a

nuclear arsenals safe.

Special envoy to visit Kabul this week

## Time is ripe for Afghan settlement, says Ghali

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 28 Special UN envoy Benon Sevan is going to Afghanistan this week to see if the time is ripe for a special assembly to end the country's civil war. Secretary-General B. Boutros-Ghalt said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The time is ripe, in my view, to take concrete steps to promote a comprehensive political settlement. Boutros-Ghali said in a statement.

In the past decade more than a million people have died and two million have been disabled, he said. Five million are in extle and another two million have moved from their

"I should like to assure the Afghan people of my commit ment to promote vigorously a political settlement to end the protracted conflict," Boutros-

**Ohali** added The United Nations has long presented a plan for a transition period leading to the establishment of a broadbased government through

To this end it hoped to organise an assembly or gathering of leaders of all political. regional, tribal opposition, and resistance groups in April. UN sources said varying dates have been considered but it is far

from certain there will be one in the near future.

Hard-line guerilla groups have repeatedly sabotaged ciforts to start an intra-Afghan dialogue, which some thought would come about after the United States and the Soviet Union stopped shipping weapons to the Afghan government and rebels in Pakistan on January 1.

Boutros-Ghalt, saying there had been positive developments in recent months. called on other governments to adopt decisions similar to those of Washington and Moscow, which invaded Afghantstan 12 years ago.



MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev (R) chats with US Secretary of State James Baker prior to the meeting. Russia and US are co-sponsoring the Middle East multilateral talks. -AFP/UNB photo

# Angry Iraqis clash with UN chemical inspectors

NEW YORK, Jan 28: The United Nations filed a protest Monday with Iraqi authorities after a group of angry demonstrators in Baghdad clashed with a team of UN inspectors, the UN press service reported, says AFP.

Eighteen UN chemical and biological weapons inspectors were met by about 40 Iraqi protestors when they arrived at their Baghdad Hotel, and several of the inspectors were pushed around.

Karen Jansen, one of the group leaders, was pushed and then pinned against a hotel wall, said Francois Giuliani, a spokesman of US Secretary General Boutros -Ghali.

Some of the UN inspectors remained for nearly 30 minutes on the bus that had been transporting them rather than face the angry mob. Local police did not move to intervene, Giultani said.

The incident is a clear violation of the agreement between the United Nations and Iraq on inspection teams appointed by the UN'special commission in charge of eliminating all of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The Chief of the Security Council and the UN secretariat have been informed of the incident, and an oral and written complaint had been registered with the Iraqi government.

It is not the first incident

between UN inspectors and Iragi authorities.

Last fall, Iraqi police blocked a team of UN nuclear experts from leaving, charging that they had setzed confidential documents on personnel working in Iraq's nuclear programme. That team spent five days on the bus.

Other UN inspectors were met with shots fired into the air as they approached a site where elements for urantum enrichment had been stored.

Since resolution 687 was passed in April providing for the elimination of Iraq's of mass destruction as part of a ceasefire 26 UN missions have been dispatched.

## Financial wrongdoing alleged

## Opposition launches fresh move to unseat Sharif

ISLAMABAD, Jan 28 Pakistan's opposition launched a fresh attempt to have Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif disqualified from office on Monday, alleging wrongdoing over the awarding of contracts for a highway project, reports Reuter.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) sent a report to the National Assembly speaker alleging that South Korea's Daewoo Corporation was awarded contracts to build a new road between Islamabad and Lahore in spite of a lower Italian offer.

The opposition asked Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan to send the allegation, known as a "reference", to the Chief Election Commissioner, the independent Pakistan Press

International News Agency

A ruling by the commisstoner upholding any of the al-



legations could unseat Sharif. Earlier this month, the PPP made two similar accusations of financial wrongdoing against

Sharif, both of which he has AFP adds: Prime Minister

Nawaz Sharif held talks Monday in Punjab with United Arab Emirates President Shetkh Zayed Bins Sultan Al-Nahayan.who is on a private visit to Pakistan, official sources said.

The two leaders, accompanied by senior aides, discussed matters of mutual interest in the Punjab town of Rahimyar Khan, were Zayed has built a place, officials said, without giving details.

Sharif presented a pair of Falcons and a specially made tent to Zayed, they said.

UAE and Pakistan have cor-'dial relations and the Gulf Sheikhdom has helped Pakistan financially in the past.

#### 4 killed as trains collide in Rome

ROME, Jan 28: Two packed passenger trains collided head-on in a Rome suburb Monday, killing four persons and injuring 50 the Civil Defense Ministry said, reports

The trains, one from Rome and the other from Velletri about 30 kilometers (20 miles) away, collided south of the capital near Clampino airport.

Witnesses said the trains bore down on one another after an apparent switching error failed to hold the Rome-Velletri train at the Clampino station until the Velletri-Rome train had passed on the single track line.

#### Judge shot dead, former governor kidnapped in Colombia

SANTAFE DE BOGOTA, Jan 28 : A judge was shot dead and a former provincial governor was kidnapped Monday in separate incidents in Northeastern Colombia, police said. reports AFP.

Judge Luis Omar Herreno. who dealt with customs mat ters, was shot 10 times by two people on a motorcycle in downtown Cucuta in Santander province, authorities said. No motive has been established in the case, they added.

in the town of Ocana, former Santander Governor Argelino Duran was kidnapped by suspected leftist rebels while visiting the home of a friend

Duran's relatives were tightlipped about the abduction, but there was speculation that he was kidnapped so insurgents can use him to pass on a message to the government as the two sides prepare to resume peace talks next month.

#### Satyajit hospitalised

CALCUTTA, Jan 28 : Film director Satyatt Ray, who hopes to attend the Oscars ceremony in March to receive a special award, has been admitted to a nursing home, reports AP.

An official at the Bellevue Clinic said Tuesday that Ray, 70, was brought Monday evening for routine tests. His ailment was not disclosed but he has had recurring heart problems, including two heart attacks.

Ray, who has produced widely acclaimed films in the Bengali language for 35 years, has said he would like to attend the March 31 ceremonies in Los Angeles if his doctor pérmits him. He is to receive an honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement.

#### 10 right-wingers arrested in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 28 Police arrested the country's most militant right-wing leader and nine of his colleagues Tuesday in a major crackdown on the leading white extremist group, reports

The pre-dawn arrest of Eugene TerreBlanche, head of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement, is certain to outrage right-wingers. already threatening violence to prevent additional political reforms by President F W de

#### Li verbally assaulted in Italy

ROME, Jan 28: Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng was verbally assaulted Monday by a deputy as he visited the Italian parliament, reports AFP. Radical party leader Marco

Pannella rushed up to him as he arrived at the parliament, shouting: "Long live the Dalai Lama, long live free Tibet, long live the Tiananmen martyrs. long live democracy, down with the killers of China."

### Myanmar Junta blames varsity staff for unrest

BANCKOK, Jan 28 Myanmar intelligence chief, Major General Khin Nyunt, has accused university instructors of failing to control their students, who staged illegal protests last month, state-run radio said Monday, reports

Opening a training course for university staff from throughout, Myanmar, Khin Nyunt faulted his audience for failing to instill discipline on students, leading to illegal anti-government demonstrations in December, radio Yangoon said.

The four-week course, from Monday, was to include training in campus management, personnel management discipline public relations, law and moral studies, the radio said in a report monitored here.

Khin Nyunt told nearly

issue in the campaign.

3,000 lecturers, professors and administrative staff that the course was launched after the military government decided 'poor management and lack of discipline" had prompted the student unrest.

"Bad characters" among the foreign diplomatic corps in Yngoon and local political groups have tried to exploit the situation to create instability in Myanmar, Khin Nyunt

#### Moldova seeks UN membership

NEW YORK, Jan 28: The former Soviet Republic of Moldova has formally requested admission to the United Nations, an official source said Monday, reports

### Off the Record

#### Flowers may not be Clinton's losing power

NEW YORK : Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton and an Arkansas woman on Monday accused each other of lying in a renewed dispute over her assertion that they had a 12-year affair, reports AP.

At a New York news conference sponsored by the tabloid Star, which paid Gennifer Flowers for her story, Flowers said Clinton is "absolutely lying" in denying the affair. Clinton shot back emphatically: "She didn't tell the truth." Flowers allegations are unsubstantiated, and a tape

recording played at the "Star" news conference, said to be of telephone conversations between Flowers and Clinton, did not establish that there had been an affair. A poll conducted by ABC-TV News Monday showed that 73 per cent of respondents said they agreed with Clinton that

the question of whether he had an extramarital affair was between him and his wife. Stxty-six per cent of the 790 adults surveyed said they could vote for a presidential candidate who had an extramarital affair. Eighty per cent said the allegations should not be an

### Silicone bust workers fired

MIDLAND, Mich : Dow Corning Corporation fired 53 workers at a Tennessee plant that makes silicone gel breast implants, citing the US Food and Drug Administration's volun-

tary moratorium on breast implant operations, reports AP. We regret the need to make this permanent work force reduction, but the long-term outlook for the viability of this product is not good," said Dan M Hayes, president and chief executive officer of Dow Corning Wright. The division makes the implants.

The employees at the Arlington, Tenn, plant had been on temporary leave with full pay and benefits since January 6. when the FDA called for the 45-day moratorium. Each fired worker will receive severance pay and benefits

and will be offered training and help in finding new jobs, the About 35 employees at Dow Corning's plant in Hemlock,

Mich., were reassigned to other positions after the morato-Dow Corning agreed last week to make public 90 studies and internal memoranda, the FDA cited as part of the basis

for the moratorium. The FDA last week told the company to make the documents public because so many concerns that the implants may not be safe have arisen among plastic surgeons and im-

planted women since the agency called for the moratorium. Dow Corning contends that the implants are safe.

### Becky backs off from Blandford

LONDON: The Marquess of Blandford and his pregnant wife Becky have separated after less than two years of marriage, their solicitors say, reports AP.

The statement ends mounting speculation about the marriage of the former Becky Few Brown, 28, and the ex-convict and recovered drug addict who is heir to Blendheim Palace, birthplace of Winsto Churchill and one of Britain's most magnificent country estates. In a statement Friday issued through the British national

news agency, the Press Association, the 35-year-old marquess said he and his wife had 'entered a period of separation.' Blandford's uncle, Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, said the family was pleased he was taking positive steps to put his

life in order. The Blandfords' marriage got off to a fairytale start in a glittering ceremony with 700 guests at Blendheim Palace in February 1990. But it has been far from happy and has provided a sensational long-running saga for Britain's tabloid

They first separated 18 months after their wedding amid rumors that Blandford was seeing a former girlfriend.

### China to veto any UN action against Libya

TEHRAN, Jan 28: China would put a veto on "any action against Libya" in a vote by the United Nations Security Council, a Libyan official told here Monday, reports AFP.

The Chinese government committed itself to a veto in talks last week in Beijing with a Libyan delegation headed by Major Abdelsalam Jalloud,

to be identified. Libya pledge Sunday it was ready to cooperate in full with the U.N Secretary General in investigating the bombings of a U.S and a French civilian air-

Libya'a second-in-command,

said the official, who asked not

U.S reprisal. "Not only China but also the Arab League, the Non-aligned Movement, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of the Islamic Conference are opposed to any

liner but warned against any

attack against Libya," he said. China is one of five permanent members of the Security Council, the others being the United States, Russia, France

and Britain.

Jalloud and his delegation left Iran Monday after a fourday visit after Iranian leaders expressed support for Libya.

The Security Council passed a resolution last week urging Libya to comply with U.S and British requests for the surrender of two Libyan nationals, indicted in connection with the bombing of Pan Am airliner

France has also named Libyans as suspects in the explosion of a French airliner over Niger.

#### CIS starts dismantling N-weapons: Baker MOSCOW, Jan 28: US beaming Baker told reporters. initiatives would emerge from established last month, has set stroying their nuclear arms Secretary of State James Baker "What we have is some real A senior official on Baker's

said on Monday that republics plane to Moscow said earlier of the former Soviet Union that the republics were acting were moving rapidly to put quickly on the questions of their tactical nuclear weapons assembly, storage and disin storage and had started to disable them, reports Reuter. "But where there isn't as yet Speaking before meeting as rapid a movement is on de-Russian Foreign Minister struction, not because they Andrei Kozyrev, he said the

don't want to do it but because the technology is more problematic," the official said. "They have done a good job in terms of movement and assembly which probably exceeded expectations. They

have begun the disabling process as well." Kozyrev and Baker indicated that new disarmament

US President George Bush's state of the union address today and Russian President Boris Yeltsin's speech to the UN Security Council in New York on Friday.

"We are waiting for major foreign policy speeches by President Bush. And I am sure that President Yeltsin will speak as well in New York and other places," Kozyrev said. Baker said dramatic and

remarkable developments were under way in the former Soviet Union, not only in the area of economic reform but in security policies as well. The republics had laid

down rapid timetables for de-

and had asked the United States for technical help. Congress has appropriated 400 million dollars for this. An estimated 19,000 nuclear warheads are believed to

be in Russia with a further 8,000 deployed in Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Under Secretary of State Reginald Bartholemew toured the four nuclear republics last

week to discuss ways of neutralising and eventually destroying the vast bulk of the former Soviet nuclear arsenal. The Commonwealth of Independent States, which 11 of the former Soviet republics

meet Baker on Wednesday, said at the weekend his country's Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles would no longer target US cities. The US official said re-

weapons is more problematic.

strategic nuclear weapons.

publics were both assembling nuclear weapons within their borders and moving some to Russia. He did not want to be specific because, he said, it was for each republic to say what it was doing.

up a joint command to control responsive to the concerns which we had and I think very good news in the area of But the question of control movement, storage and disof short-range, tactical abling and further engagement about how to go about destruc-Yeltsin, who was due to tion in the right kind of sequence," he said.

Belarus and Kazakhstan had all reaffirmed to Bartholefw their desire to become nuclear-free.

Belarus, there is movement clearly in that direction. In Kazakhstan, certainly with regard to the tactical nukes. there has also been movement," he said.

The official said Ukraine, "In the case of Ukraine and

over Lockerbie, Scotland.