UNITA seeks UN intervention

LUANDA, Angola, Jan 9 Government forces defeated about 6,000 rebel troops in a battle that left the streets of the central city of Kuito strewn with hundreds of bodies, reports said, according to AP.

The UNITA rebels on Friday called for UN intervention, but UN peacekeepers were reported preparing to abandon this southern African nation.

The rebels, meanwhile, moved reinforcements to strengthen their hold on Ndalatando, 150 kilometers (90 miles) southeast of Luanda, the capital, said Angolan National Radio. It said govern ment and rebel troops also battled in Saurimo in the north-

Portuguese TV said that after Friday's battle in Kuito, forces of UNITA National Union for the Total Independence of Angola- were reported regrouping about 13 miles outside the city.

Marcos Samondo, UNITA representative to the United Nations, sent a letter Friday to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asking the Security Council to push for a cease-fire. He gave a copy to The Associated Press.

The letter said that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' Angolan government

has launched an offensive "to destroy UNITA as a political force, kill its leaders and impose a one-party military dictatorship on Angola."

UNITA's representative in Paris, David Georges Sanguende, also urged France to intervene. He said the government offensive "has turned into a veritable genocide... One number of dead since... September is at least equal to those of 16 years of war. . Angola risks becoming the second Somalia." Fighting and famine in Somalia have left thousands dead.

Angola, with 8.8 million people, is a former Portuguese colony. Civil war broke out shortly before independence in 1975 and 350,000 people were killed before peace accords were signed in 1991.

After UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi refused to accept the victory of dos Santos' governing party in September elections, fighting broke out again.

Vincent Van Croix, a spokesman for the French humanitarian agency Doctors Without Borders, said the Fighting in Kuito was sierce, and medical workers had to abandon the city, leaving behind "many, many dead and injured."



US team plans Somalia visit: A congressional delegation planned to leave Friday for Somalia to inspect US operations and assess the military's progress in aiding the famine-stricken population, AP reports from Washington.

The five-day trip begins a day after US Marines killed seven Somalis in their biggest strike against bandits and feuding clansmen. UN officials, meanwhile, say shipments of food are being slowed by dangerous conditions.

Rep John Murtha, chairman of the defense appropriations subcommittee and leader of the delegation, has expressed concern about the Somali mission, predicting it would provide only short-lived stability while setting a dubious precedent for US military intervention.

Members accompanying Murtha include Reps Tony Hall chairman of the Hunger Committee; desense appropriations subcommittee members George Darden, and Bob Livingston; Curt Weldon, a member of the Armed Services Committee and Nick Joe Rahall.

2 more beheaded in S Arabia: A Saudi Arabian and a Pakistani were beheaded Friday in Saudi Arabia for sex and drug crimes, the kingdom's official television reported, citing an interior ministry statement, reports AFP from Riyadh.

It said Talal Al-Dussarim, a Saudi, was sentenced to death for "sexually abusing" a child and trying to get rid of him by shoving him off the roof of a building.

Last week, Riyadh announced the execution of four people, including two Pakistani drug traffickers.

Mexican plane with 8 crashes: A corporate jet earrying eight people crashed in the side of a hill on stormy weather in northern Mexico Friday, killing all

aboard, officials said, reports AFP from Mexico City. The Lear jet carrying six passengers and a crew of two went down near the city of Hermosillo, the Sonora State Attorney General's office said.

The cause of the accident was not known, but indications were the plane crashed because of dense fog and heavy rain in the area.

Flash flood in S California: Heavy rain from a storm that caused deadly flooding in Southern California and Mexico forced evacuations in Arizona. A new Pacific storm with more heavy rain was expected during the weekend, reports AP from New York.

Snow fell at higher elevations from California's Sierra Nevada across Nevada and Utah into northern Arizona. Up to 2 feet (60 cms) of snow had fallen in Utah's mountains Friday. On Thursday, the storm was blamed for at least 14 deaths

in Tijuana, Mexico, and three in Southern California. The Coast Guard used helicopters and the Navy sent am phtbious vehicles Friday to search for more possible flood victims around rivers as far north as Oceanside in northern San Diego County, said coast'guard Lt Dan Deldgado.

McCurdy to be replaced: House of Representatives Speaker Thomas S Foley has decided to replace Congressman Dave McCurdy as chairman of the lower house Intelligence Committee, McCurdy said Friday, reports AP from Washington.

Disclosing the decision to reporters on Capitol Hill, the Oklahoma Democrat said the move reflects Foley's "desire to place his own team on the committee."

Along with the Senate Intelligence Committee, the lower house panel oversees government intelligence operations and gets special clearance to secret information not available to all members of Congress. Committee seats are much sought.

McCurdy had been rumoured as a candidate for CIA director or Defence Secretary in President-elect Clinton's administration, but others got those jobs.

List of states sponsoring terrorism

US keeps Pakistan under review

WASHINGTON, Jan 9: The United States on Friday warned that it was keeping Pakistan under review as a country that may be added to its list of states sponsoring terrorism because of alleged support for extremists in India, reports Reuter.

In an unusual public threat to a nation that was once and important US ally, the State Department expressed concern about what it said were reports of Pakistan support for Kashmiri and Sikh militants' who commit terrorist acts in India."

"The US has raised this issue frequently with the Pakistani government at the highest level," the department

said in a written statement. "They are aware of our views and we hope they will take them into account."

US Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger considered adding Pakistan to the terrorism list but decided against it "at this time," the department reported. Eagleburger determined

that "the available information did not warrant a finding that Pakistan repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism," it said. In the statement, the de-

partment emphasised that Pakistan --- or any nation -- may be designated as a state sponsor of terrorism at any time should the facts warrant. It warned that we are keeping the (Pakistan) situation under active, continuing review.

Under Secretary of State Arnold Kanter met on Thursday with Pakistani Ambassador Syeda Abida Hussain to discuss Pakistan's ties with the militants in India and other issues.

In last year's annual report on terrorism, the department also made a point of citing reports of official Pakistani support for Kashmiri militant groups engaging in terrorism through the provision of weapons and training.

Pakistan, conduit to Afghan Mujahideen rebels, was a key US strategic partner and recipient of US aid until Soviet troops pulled out of neighbouring Afghanistan in 1989 after a 10-year occupation. US and Soviet aid to respective warring Afghan factions was ended in January 1992.

Since then, the United States has shown less willingness to tolerate some of Pakistan's pursuits, including a nuclear weapons programme.

Six nations are on the US terrorism list - Libya, Iran, Syria, North Korea, Iraq and Cuba - and a US official said no change was expected when the new list is issued in April. He said the department also considered adding Sudan to the list but decided against it at this time for the same reason as Pakistan was rejected.

Americans intensify operations



Ibrahim in the Italian village a relief camp on the outskirts of Bardera, 390 kms from Mogadishu on Friday. A month after Operation Restore Hope got underway up to 50 people a day are still dying w Bardera.

today.

ports AP.

GENEVA, Jan 9: A team of

European Community experts

which visited former

Yugoslavia to investigate

allegations of mass rape

reported that Bosnian Serbs

had raped 20,000 Muslim

women as part of a campaign

of "Ethnic cleansing", reports

mate suggested to the delega-

Lanka buys

aircraft

gunboats

Lanka has bought new aircraft

and gunboats from Argentina,

France and Russia, in what

could be the start of a stepped

up campaign to crush the is-

land's separatist rebellion, re-

Argentine-built Pucara ground

attack aircraft was delivered to

Colombo and was being as

sembled for test flights, air

aircraft, capable of carrying

1,500 kilograms (3,300

pounds) of bombs, rockets or

missiles, cost the government

2.8 million dollar each, said

Ranil Wickreasinghe, the

built Mi-8 helicopters and

French fast gunboats due for

early delivery will enhance the

capability of attacking.

The Pucaras, three Russian

The twin turboprop

force officials said.

spokes-man.

Last week, the first of four

COLOMBO, Jan 9: Shri

"The most reasoned esti-

Reuter.

ports AP.

-AFP/UNB photo

tion indicated a figure in the

region of 20,000 victims," the

team, headed by former

British diplomat Dame Anne

Warburtin, said in a confiden-

tial report obtained by Reuters

summit of EC leaders last

month spent five days in

Croatia last month consulting

with United Nations and other

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Jan 9: Key

August 21- Iraq rejects as

events involving the allied "no-

fly zone" in southern Iraq, re-

an "aggressive measure"

Western plan to impose an air

exclusion zone below the 32nd

parallel to protect Shifte

Muslim rebels from air attacks.

citing UN Resolution 688 of

April 5, 1991, declares Iraq

has 24 hours to halt air strikes

against Shittes. Iraq says this

August 27- No-fly zone

August 30- Saddam vows to

September 1 - French

September 2- Iraqi officials

September 9- US war-

send Mirage 2000 fighters to

says their forces have been or

dered not to fire on allied air

takes effect. US and British

warplanes begin patrols.

resist, but does not say how.

could lead to renewed hostili

August 26- President Bush,

The mission, set up by a

MOGHADISHU, Somalia, Jan 9: Hundreds of US marines have stepped up their operations in lawless Mogadishu with an assault on a major gun market and new food-for-guns rewards, Reports AP.

Friday's 450-man exercise met no opposition and netted 250 assault rifles and machine guns, said Col. Michael W Hagee, a spokesman.

"This sends a message we're after any weapons we can find," Hagee told reporters. "You'll see more patrolling. We are increasing our presence in Mogadishu."

The intensified operations are designed to bring some semblance of security to threatened international famine relief workers, and allow the withdrawal of the first American troops since US Marines landed December 9.

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, meanwhile, 14 warring Somali factions signed an agreement Friday calling for a cease-fire, a national reconciliation conference and cooperation with aid agencies, offering some hope of future peace in their home-

Lt Gen Robert Johnston, commander of Operation Restore Hope, told The Associated Press in Mogadishu that Marine operations should make the capital secure enough to allow some of the 21,000 American troops to return home within three weeks.

The first of 930 Australian troops will begin arriving Sunday to join the 20-nation task force under Johnston's command. They will replace Kismayu.

aid workers and interviewing

team included former French

Health Minister Simone Veil

and a number of experts in

Clinical psychology and rape

pressed by the interlocutors

whom the delegation consid-

ered responsible and credible

planes drop leaflets warning

Iraqi pilots that if they fly be-

low the 32nd parallel "you

commander in the Gulf, Adm

Raynor AK Taylor, says allied

patrols have halted lraqi air

strikes against Shiites, but

rebels claim army still shelling

about 7,500 patrols, US pilots

report that Saddam has

shown no inclination.... to test

shoots down one of four Iraqi

December 28- Pentagon

January 4- US officials says

divorts aircraft carrier US

Kitty Hawk from Somalia to

Saddam has moved surface to

air missiles into zone.

January 6- US and allies give

Baghdad 48 hours to remove

missiles or face military action

January 8— Baghdad rejects

December 27- F-16 fighter

November 26- After flying

September 10- US Navy

won't come back."

our resolve.

Persian Gulf.

Mig-25s

"The general view ex-

Apart from Warburton, the

alleged victims.

counselling.

Key events in no-fly zone

Marines in Baidoa, one of eight relief centres in the country, 240 kilometers (150 miles) northwest of Mogadishu.

Hagee said Marines used armouted personnel carriers and helicopters in their sweep of the gun market. Besides the assault rifles and machine guns, they collected one small tank, two armoured personnel carriers, and ammunition including artillery and mortar

"One shot was fired to take the lock off a door," said Hagee, and no arrests were

Two trucks filled with grain accompanied the Marines. Psychological operations officers announced over loud speakers that anyone turning in his weapons would get a bag of food. "They gave away all the

food," said Hagee, "Based on its success, I would not be surprised to see it again."

Marines based in Baidoa, in an unusual move, airlifted 16 tons of food by helicopter to the villages of Shriro and Lbato, which relief officials said could not be reached by road because of mines. In the southern port of

Kismayu, US Army elements were reported planning to pull out and begin operations in a bandit-infested river valley 130 kilometers (80 miles) away. Indian and Belgian troops were expected to take over peacekeeping duties in Kismayu.

US Brig Gen Lawson Magruder said conditions have improved markedly in Serbs rape 20000 Muslim women: EC team

was that a horrifying number

of Muslim women had suffered

rape and that this was continu-

the number of victims involved

cannot be given, the

delegation accepts, on the

basis of evidence available to

it, that it is possible to speak

US, EC envoys

Boycott

convention

in Myanmar

European Community ambas-

sadors on Saturday boycotted

the start of Myanmar's consti-

tutional convention, which

many dissident and rebel

groups have dismissed as a

Yangon, reached by telephone

from Bangkok, said the EC

countries decided not to send

the heads of their diplomatic

missions to a ceremony start-

ing the convention because

they doubted that it would fol-

proved guidelines for a new

constitution. The military junta

has said it will not cede power

to a civilian administration un-

til the charter is finished

The convention is to ap-

low democratic procedures.

A European diplomat in

sham, reports AP.

YANGON, Jan 9: US and

of many thousands," it added.

While a precise figure for

ing," their reports said.

tragic and very painful," she said. "It's also a victory for other women in the community who are in abusive relationships and want to get out. It shows that abusive husbands will be ac-

Delay had been accused of raping his wife in late

Ms. Delay told authorities she had taken prescription medication that made her drowsy that right. The next thing she remembered was being awakened by her husband, who

It's amazing!

MOBILE. Ala: One of the juniors at the University of South Alabama has his mother accompany him to school everyday. reports AP.

Michael started classes at the university this week, after transferring from Santa Rosa Junior College in California when his father took a job at the Naval Station in Mobile.

caught older classmates off-guard. "If he makes a better grade than me, I'm quitting," said Jenny Glossinger, a senior majoring in English. "This whole

thing is amazing. It's hard to believe an 8-year-old can be only a year behind me and I'm 21." Michael is majoring in anthropology, and after he receives

Michael was reading "Treasure Island" and "The Count of Monte Cristo" and reciting algebraic equations by the time he

was 3 years old, his parents said. He doesn't expect any special treatment from teachers or

"I just want to be treated like a normal student", Michael said. "I'm 23 when I'm in class, but I'm 8 when I'm out the

He said most of his friends are his age, and "we do regular

things," like playing video games and watching cartoons and TV game shows. His mother, Cassidy Kearney, said Michael's motor skills

She helps him with note-taking in some lectures, and

drops him off for science or math classes. She also drops him off at exam time.

"He's strictly on his own then," she said. "I'll just stand

King Fahd's help Rabin shelves Shamir's doctrine about Jewish settlement for British child

LONDON, Jan 9: Saudi Arabian ruler King Fahd gave money yesterday to help a sick British child go to the United States for a life-saving opera-

tion, reports Reuter. Saudi Ambassador Dr Ghazi Algosatbi handed 75,000 pounds to the family of three year old Stuart masters to contribute to the cost of a bowel and liver transplant.

It is the second time in a year King Fahd has given money for such an operation, carried out by doctors in Pittsburgh.

Last year the Saudi King gave 150,000 pounds to help four-year old Laura Davies go to the children's hospital there for the same operation.

ARIEL, Occupied West Bank, Jan 9: In the

good old days Cabinet ministers were forever dropping by to congratulate the Jewish settlers of Ariel on their pioneering zeal, reports AP. That was when Yttzhak Shamir was prime

minister and Ariel was a centrepiece in his grand design of filling the occupied West bank with Jews Yitzhak Rabin shelved the Shamir doctrine when he took over in July, and the effect is evident in places like Ariel.

Rabin's freeze on settlement development means construction of new homes and factories has all but stopped in Ariel. The secondlargest settlement in the occupied territories. whose apartments used to be sold before the first brick was laid, is now stuck with 800 un-

Ariel's 1990-93 plan envisaged 3,400 new homes. The 1,800 under construction when the freeze was imposed will be completed, but 1,600 will not be built.

The government has revoked the tax incentives and housing grants offered by the previous administration. Thus the average monthly mortgage payment in this town has jumped from 160 dollars to nearly 290 dollar according to the mayor, Ron Nachman. Just before Rabin's election victory, Aricl

began bulldozing the rocky hills for a 200 acre

joint allies.

(81 hectare) industrial park. Contracts were initialed with eight manufacturers. "That was frozen," said Dina Shalit, a munic

ipal official. The bulldozers were removed and the companies were told in very clear terms that they could not establish plants there.

A four-lane, 40 kilometer (25-mile) highway was planned to transform Ariel into a virtual bedroom suburb of Tel Aviv and attract thou sands of new settlers to the town of 11,000. That too is cancelled.

And there are few visiting ministers. Justice Minister David Libai, who came here last week, was the first in six months and brought scant Libai is a law professor and human rights

advocate. A political dove, he was the only min-

ister who abstained in the Cabinet vote on

Rabin's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to

Lebanon last month.

allied ultimatum

He said he had come to see Ariel's court house, meet the judge and hear about the town's legal problems. He stressed more than once that he would be making a similar, sepa rate visit to the Arab towns and courts of the West Bank

His dry, lawyerly approach was a sobering reminder to the people of Ariel that times have changed. Libra showed no trace of the biblical fervour exhibited by Shamir and his ministers Not for him "Judea and Samaria," the biblical name of the West Bank.

"The territories" sufficed. Artel's town councilors complained to Libai of living in a legal limbo of Israeli civil and military law, plus the relics of the Jordanian legal code. It galled them to have to seek a lowly army captain's approval of every by law they passed. Why couldn't Parliament simply

legislate for the settlers? Libat's reply forced them to look back at a fact they would prefer to ignore: that the West Bank was captured in the 1967 war and has

been under military rule since - a situation that successive right-wing governments, for all their insistence on biblical rights, never altered by law.

The residents of Ariel would like Ariel to be in the territory of the state of Israel," he said. "But the political reality is different. Ariel was built outside the borders of Israel." Libdi gazed at a hillside covered with new,

unsold cottages and the flattened earth of a shelved road plan, and listened impassively as mayor Nachman bemoaned the building freeze.

He offered no comfort - indeed, seemed almost to be rubbing it in- when he said: From what I could see, the new government's policy of freezing construction in the territories has been most successful."

Still, as Nachman pointed out, "the government of Israel cannot ignore us. Ariel is a living, breathing fact." Ariel has 29 kindergartens, a high school, a

room hotel.

small university, three synagogues, two supermarkets, a performing arts centre and a 100-

The defence attorney, Gilles Flavigny, Friday accused the

prosecution of hypocritically trying to inflame jurors' emotions, rather than acknowledging that Mrs. Jahate's intentions were good. "This has been done since the time of the Pharoahs," he

Off the Record

Jail for circumcision

of her daughters

ancestors, Teneng Jahate was merely a dutiful mother. But

French prosecutors, in a landmark case, Friday urged that she

be jailed for arranging the circumcision of her two eldest

trial in Paris for hiring a midwife to circumcise the two girls

without anesthesia, entailed slicing off the clitoris and adja-

cent tissue. Critics call it genital mutilation French law classi-

fied it as a form of child abuse so severe it could draw a max-

practice among its large African immigrant population.

The trial was a milestone in France's battle to quash the

Previously, a midwife who performed a circumcisions was

sent to jail, but never before had a parent received anything

harsher than a suspended sentence. This time, the prosecu-

tion, in requesting a three-to-four-year jail term, said the

woman should spend "a significant part" of that period behind

The nine-member jury, assisted by three judges, then re-

"I didn't know it was forbidden in France," Mrs. Jahate,

34, testified through an interpreter Thursday. "I did it be-

cause I knew they would be circumcised once when returned

to Gambia, so why not do it when they were little."

daughters, reports AP.

imum life sentence.

cessed for deliberations.

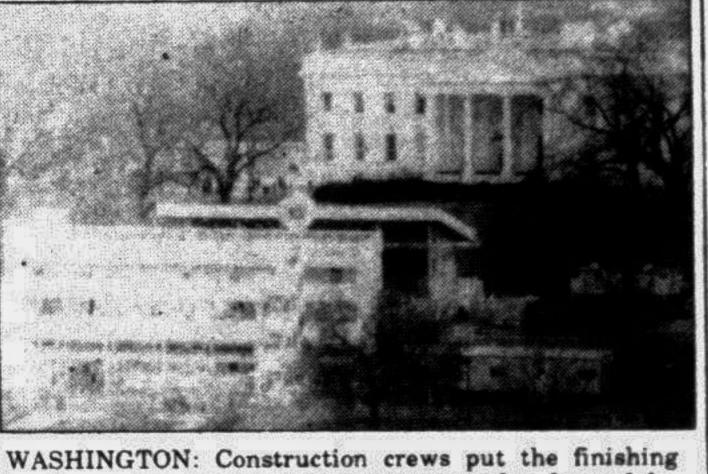
in 1987, when they were 1 and 2.

PARIS: According to the ancient customs of her African

Mr Jahate, a Gambian living in France since 1983, was on

The procedure, carried out in the mother's presence

It will take two or three or four generations to die out.



touches on the presidential reviewing stand in front of the White House on Saturday. The inauguration of Presidentelect Bill Clinton will take place January 20. - AFP/UNB photo.

Spousal abuse

FORT COLLINS, Colo: A man has pleaded guilty to attempted sexual assault against his wife, reports AP. Randy E. Delay his plea Thursday in Larimer County

District Court as part of an agreement in which prosecutors dropped two charges of sexual assault. Christine R. Delay, 32, who made her identity public, said

the case's outcome will help her and other victims of spousal "It's a personal victory for a part of my life that has been

countable for their behaviour."

September at the couple's Fort Collins residence.

was fondling her body.

After all, Michael Kearney is only 8 years old.

His presence in an anthropology lecture earlier this week

his master's and doctoral degrees. Michael said he plans on becoming a geologist, or a game show host, or a cartoonist.

door."

are typical of a third-grader's and he can't write as quickly as the older students.

outside the door."

Terrorism threat

to Egypt's tourism industry LUXOR, Egypt, Jan 9: The

terrorist threat to Egypt's tourisms industry grew slowly. It began in June with some firebombings in Luxor that caused no damage. Six months later, it has come to the streets of Cairo, reports AP. Thursday night, a small

bus carrying eight Germans through the city's outskirts to the Giza pyramids, the country's top tourist attraction. No one was hurt. The bomber, like many before him, got away. It seems unthinkable that

firebomb broke windows on a

fundamentalists could succeed in their goal of ousting President Hosnt Mubarak and establishing an Islamic state.