Daytime curfews lifted

Uneasy calm prevails in Bombay

BOMBAY, Jan 14: Daytime curfews were lifted in riot-hit neighbourhoods of Bombay today as an uneasy calm prevailed in the shell-shocked metropolis after a week of fierce Hindu-Muslim violence, reports AFP.

Sporadic clashes continued in the city's distant suburbs over night and into early today but no casualties were reported by police, who described the situation as "tense but calm."

Local press reports meanwhile increased the death toll from the violence which broke out January 5 to between 620 and 650, as the figure released by Police Commissioner Srikanth Bapat stayed at 158.

The overstretched fire brigade said it responded to 47 minor fires in suburban districts overnight. Muslim homes and businesses were attacked by Hindu arsonists but the fires were quickly doused.

The police control room said the situation was "more or less peaceful" as army and paramilitary reinforcements continued to be deployed in trouble spots in the western Indian city of 12 million people, India's financial capital.

"We hope it remains calm like this," an official said, although he noted that there was "still a lot of tension."

The authorities, who on Wednesday proclaimed the worst was over, ordered 12hour curfew breaks Thursday in 14 of 22 areas where residents have been confined in barricaded homes since January 5.

Residents in the eight other neighbourhoods were enjoying six-hour respites from curfew until noon, and thousands poured out of their homes to shop for food and other essential items as security forces kept watch.

Municipal authorities took advantage of the calm to prepare for a cleanup of the debris left by mobs who sacked and set fire to scores of houses, shops and vehicles.

More taxis and buses were visible on the streets than in previous day, but many of Bombay's usually bustling areas still wore a deserted look.

Banks and government offices remained shut even in areas where curlews were relaxed. Trading remained suspended on the Bombay stock exchange, India's premier share market, and schools remained closed.

schools located in trouble spots where nearly 400,000 students study would not reopen "until further orders." As troops secured Hindu

Officials said 600 primary

temples and Muslim mosques against possible attacks, religious leaders appealed for communal harmony.

"Any religion worth its name stands for love. There is no room for the venom of vio-

WASHINGTON, Jan 14: A

number of ethnic groups, har-

bouring high expectations after

12 years outside of the federal

power loop, are beginning to

worry that President-elect

Clinton might give their con-

cerns short shrift, reports AP.

Clinton may renege on his

promise to reverse President

Bush's policy on Haitian refu-

gecs. The Latino Community is

fretting about tighter imm-

igration policies for Cubans

and Mexicans. Both urban and

rural interests complain

there's no money or attention

these concerns has fallen to

Henry Cisneros, Clinton's pick

"It's a well-known litany of

crime, economic development

and job needs, and the need

for housing, better quality

schools," Cisneros said in an

interview Wednesday. "All of

these things have to be

worries that the long-en-

trenched problems of racial

tension, poverty and crime will

Endeavour

releases

\$ 200m satellite

SPACE CENTRE, Houston,

Jan 14: Endeavour's astronauts

accomplished the main goal of

their shuttle mission six hours

after liftoff, releasing a 200

million dollar satellite that will

serve as a switchboard be-

tween spacecraft and Earth,

Mario Runco Jr said as the

satclite drifted from the cargo

first shuttle flight of the year

and the third voyage for

Endeavour, NASA's newest

bay Wednesday afternoon.

"There she goes" crewmen

The six-day mission in the

reports AP.

Cisneros, like many others,

for housing secretary.

brought together."

So far, the job of soothing

for them.

Blacks are concerned that

lence," five Christian bishops said in a joint statement.

Syedna Mohammad Burhanuddin, leader of the Muslim Bohra sect, urged people to show the "utmost patience and tolerance."

"All of us belong to one country, whatever one's religion or belief," he said in a statement. "It is in the best interest of the country that we all live in complete harmony.' Officials have described the

violence as a fallout of tensions stemming from the December 6 destruction of the 16th century Babri Mosque in Ayodhya town by Hindu zealots.

In the immediate aftermath of the demolition last month, more than 200 people were killed in Bombay.

A Bombay newspaper, the daily, put the death toll in the latest round of religious rioting at 620 and the Indian Express said some 650 people had

Deportation order on tour more cancelled

JERUSALEM, Jan 14: The army has cancelled deportation orders against another six Palestinians expelled last month and radio stations reported Thursday that they were deported by mistake, reports AP.

The development meant that Israel has admitted that 16 of 415 Palestinians deported to Lebanon on December 17 should not have been sent there.

Israel expelled the men in retaliation for the kidnapping and slaying of a border guard and killings of five other troops by Muslim fundamentalist militants in the occupied territories.

A military statement published Wednesday night said six were tried and sentenced by military tribunals for anti-Israeli actions.

verse. The only way to deal

with the problem is head-on,

voiced quietly; no one is will-

ing to openly criticize Clinton

the National Rainbow Coalition

and the American Jewish Con-

gress, have offered Clin-ton's

transition team full agendas

possible, disentangle race pro-

blems from the problems of

economic isolation," said Ro-

"We have to, as much as

enumerating their concerns.

The complaints are largely

But some groups, such as

calling for reconciliation."

at this early stage.

BERLIN, Jan 14: Erich Honecker will spend the last months of his life with his family in Chile, not in a Berlin courtroom facing charges he ordered border guards to kill people fleeing to the West, reports AP.

Berlin courts, putting mercy above justice, halted the ailing Honecker's trial for manslaughter for killings at the Berlin Wall. He was freed from prison Wednesday and left for Chile.

Reviled by many, pitied by others, the 80-year-old unrepentant Communist suffers from liver cancer doctors say will kill him within six months. His trial had started on November 12 and had been expected to continue for many months.

Honecker flew from Germany late Wednesday on a jumbo jet bound first for Sao Paulo, Brazil and then Santiago, Chile, where he will be reunited with his wife, Margot, and daughter Sonja.

He will be hospitalized as soon as he arrives in Chile, his wife was quoted as saying Wednesday in Las Ultimas Noticias, a daily in Santiago.

Honecker to spend his last days in Chile

"For the victims and for those who suffered under the regime, this is a slap in the face," said Berndt Seite, governor of the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a region that had been under Honecker's rule.

Christian Fuehrer, the daring Lutheran pastor who helped guide East Germany's peaceful revolution in 1989, said he regretted that Honecker never showed any sings of guilt.

'Honecker can leave the country, without there ever being anywhere near a full discussion of the unjust system that he embodied, the Leipzig pastor said Wednesday.

That system ordered border guards to shoot to death those trying to escape, and set mines and booby traps along the bor-

Honecker had proudly supervised the concrete barrier's construction. He and his Communist cronies called it an anti-fascist protection wall

needed to protect Communists from the imperialist West.

Honecker, who ruled with an iron fist from 1971 to 1989, spoke only once during his trial, when he delivered an hourlong 'political testament

December 3. Much of Honecker's oration sounded like a standard Communist party line of a

decade ago. He said the Berlin wall prevented World War III and that

he bore neither 'judicial nor political or moral guilt." In January 1990, Honecker was thrown into jail for one

With prosecutors hot on his trial, Honecker and wife found refuge in a Soviet military hospital outside Berlin in April

They escaped to Moscow in March 1991. As the Soviet Union faced its own collapse, Honecker took up refuge in the Chilean Embassy there.

Honecker left the Chilean Embassy in July to face his accusers in Berlin, where he was jailed again. His wife left for Chile to live with her daughter, who is married to a Chilean.

129 Chinese held in Singapore: Authorities have removed 129 illegal Chinese immigrants from the unsanitary hold of the freighter on which they were seized, a police spokesman said Thursday, reports AP from Singapore. The apparent attempt to smuggle the passengers into the

United States is being investigated as an immigration offence, the spokesman said. The 499-ton cargo ship Solas left Hong Kong on November

25 for New York. The authorities said the 116 men and 13 women boarded at Taiwan. None had travel documents. Because of cramped and unhealthy conditions in the rusty hold, they were taken to the new Tampines Prison, which has

Miyazawa in Malaysia: Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was welcomed to Malaysia Thursday and took an impromptu look at a Malaysian car made with Japanese help, reports AP from Kuala Lumpur.

been designated as an immigration depot.

Miyazawa arrived in Malaysia from Indonesia on the second leg of a four-nation Southeast Asian tour Wednesday evening. The formal welcoming ceremony took place Thursday morn-

ing in front of the parliament house. Visiting leaders usually drive off after the ceremony, but Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad departed from protocol and invited Miyazawa to take a peek at his cherry-red Proton Saga limousine.

Miyazawa opened the back door of the limousine and popped his head inside to take a look.

Chung defies prosecutors' summon: Billionaire politician Chung Ju-yung refused Thursday to appear before prosecutors to answer charges that he used illegal funds in campaigning for last month's presidential election, reports AP from Seoul.

Seoul prosecutors, who had ordered the founder of the giant Hyundai conglomerate to appear Thursday for questioning, said a new subpoena would be issued. They refused to

comment on whether Chung would be arrested. He has been accused of illegally diverting Hyundai's man-

power and funds to buy votes in the December 18 election. Chung's aides denounced the summons, describing it as political retaliation by President-elect Kim Young-sam. Chung finished a distant third in the election but has pledged to remain in politics, despite calls that he resign.

Hawaii bans US flag: Governor John Walhee has ordered the US flag not be flown over state buildings during the centennial commemoration of the overthrow of Hwaii's last queen, reports AP from Honolulu.

Not flying the flag again until Monday is "an appropriate reminder" of US involvement in the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani, Waihee said during Wednesday's opening ceremonies of the five-day centennial.

Waihee, the state's first governor of Hawaiian ancestry, said it was important "to remember the events 100 years ago that stole a nation, and to dedicate ourselves to right that wrong." More than 1,000 people attended Wednesday's cere-

monies at the foot of the queen Liliuokalani Statue between

historic Iolani Palace and the state Capitol. Tamils kill 7 Lankan cops: A suspected Tamil rebel attack on a refugee camp in northern Shri Lanka killed seven policemen and injured one, residents

said yesterday, reports Reuter from Colombo.

The details are very sketchy but it appears to be an attack by the "Tigers," one resident said by telephone from Vavuniya. 240 km (150 miles) north of Colombo.

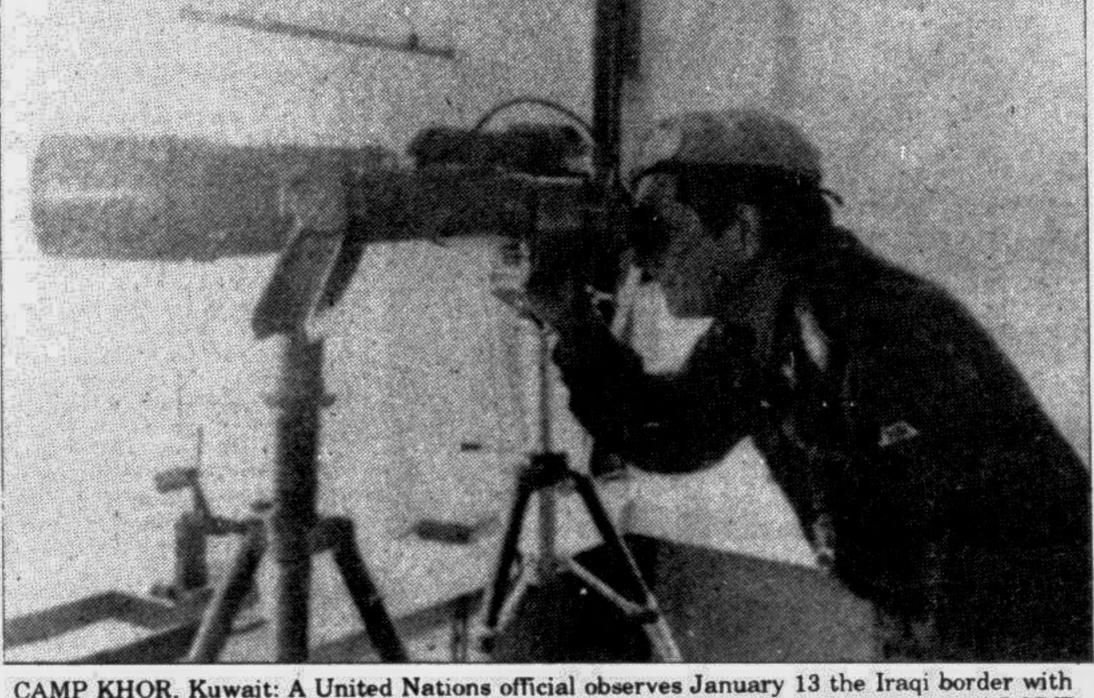
Police were guarding the camp home for about 100 Tamil refugees about seven km (four miles) from Vavuniya, when they were attacked on Wednesday night, residents said.

32 die in Polish ferry capsize: At least 32 people died Thursday when a ferry capsized in a violent storm near this Baltic Sea island between Poland and Sweden, authorities said, reports AP from Ruegen. The Polish ferry carried 60 people and was sinking in icc-

cold waters some 30 kilometers (18 miles) east of Ruegen. Only its keel was above water, officials said. German and Swedish rescue helicopters and ships were searching for

Many passengers jumped into the ocean, officials said, as a storm packing winds of 150 kph (90 mph) raged across the Baltic, apparently capsizing the ship.

Police in Schwerin, an east German port city, said at least 32 people died. The 125-meter (412-foot) Jan Heweliusz carried 29 crewmembers and 31 passengers and was sailing from the Swedish port of Yestad to Swinemuede, Poland, authorities



CAMP KHOR, Kuwait: A United Nations official observes January 13 the Iraqi border with - AFP/UNB Kuwait from Camp Khor, 128 kms north of Kuwaiti City.

erupt, as they did in Los

Angeles last year if not ad-

But the problems is money.

And the Clinton administration

has edged away from some

campaign promises this week,

citing new, more dire projec-

tions about the federal deficit.

time when we've had 12 years,

largely, of neglect," said Will-

iam Taylor former staff di-

rector for the US Commission

on Civil Rights. "It leaves a

residue of bitterness, on top of

the country getting more di-

"Clinton's taking over at a

dressed quickly.

51 children die of starvation, cold in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Jan 14: Fiftyone children have died of starvation and cold in an eastern Bosnian town blockaded by Serbs and isolated for nine months, according to ham radio reports, says AP.

In addition, 34 adults perished Tuesday night in Zepa, 60 kilometers (35 miles) east of Sarajevo. In Srebrenica, a town near the Serbia border. 17 people - including nine children - died Tuesday night, according to the reports.

Amateur radio operators have been the only link to the outside for the 28,000 people of Zepa since April, Serb gunman and mines prevent UN convoys from crossing snowy roads to the town, where some people are living in caves. UN officials say up to

400,000 Bosnians could die of starvation or cold this winter. Clinton policy worries minorities

bert Woodson, founder of the

National Centre for Neig-

hbourhood Enterprise, a non-

profit advocacy group for low-

pointed that Clinton and his

wife, Hillary, selected a private

school for daughter Chelsea,

rather than Washington's pre-

dominantly black public school

Hispanic groups are con-

cerned that their input in ur-

ban reform efforts, particularly

in riot-torn Los Angeles, might

be limited. And they fear that

immigration policies that limit

the flow of Haitians might be

extended to Cubans and

the legitimate interest of this

or any nation to protect its

borders against disorderly

immigration," said Ramon Saul

Sanchez, spokesman for the

Cuban National Commission in

Miami. "But we call upon the

US authorities to recognize

that Haiti is governed, as Cuba

is, by a murderous military

respect for human life or dig-

dictatorship (that) lacks and

"We understand and respect

Many blacks were disap-

income people.

Mexicans, too.

system.

Off the Record

Humanitarian awards for Hepburn, Taylor BEVERLY HILLS, California: Audrey Hepburn and Elizabeth

Taylor have been chosen to receive humanitarian awards at this year's academy awards ceremony, the academy of motion picture arts and sciences said on Wednesday, reports Reuter. They are to be honoured

on March 29 with the Jean Hersholt award, which recognises humanitarian efforts that have brought credit to the motion picture industry. It marks the first time in

the 26-year history of the award that it has been given to two recipients in the same year. Hepburn, 63, who

received an Oscar in 1953 for her performance in "Roman Holiday," is being recognised for her efforts to ease the plight of children in the Third World. Taylor, one

Hollywood's most glamorous stars and a two-time Oscar AIDS education and research.



winner, was being honoured for her efforts in support of

'Six minutes of smut"

LONDON: A lusty love-tape in which Prince Charles allegedly expresses his ardour for a married woman has caused a royal sensation and left some British subjects wondering if the heir-to-the-throne could ever be King, reports Reuter. Tabloid newspapers congratulated themselves on their re-

serve today for printing only parts of the purported telephone conversation. But they speculated at length on the impact of the exchange upon the battered British monarchy. Royal correspondents declared that the embarrassingly

explicit tape, dubbed 'six minutes of smut" by one columnist, was a serious blow to the Prince's reputation and could eventually cost him his crown. Camella, a 45-year-old mother of two, says she wants

Charles "desperately, desperately, desperately" while he says he loves her and cannot bring himself to say goodbye. The impression is of a deeply attached couple with a bawdy sense of humour.

In a snap poll of London television viewers, a majority decided that the Prince's apparently long and intimate association with old flame Camilla meant he should never ascend the throne. Of the 8,500 callers to a tabloid-style nightly news programme on Wednesday, 53 per cent were in favour of having Charles as their king and 47 per cent against.

He chooses nature not charms of fiancee

TOKYO: Crown Prince Naruhito, whose recent engagement has set Japan abuzz, got a chance to express his feelings Thursday in a fittingly sublime setting— the annual palace poetry party, reports AP.

But, in keeping with ageold tradition, the 32-yearold heir to the ancient Chrysanthemum Throne chose nature, not the charms of financee Masako Owada, as the theme of his Seeing the flock of

cranes Dance up to the sky

The dream of my childhood Comes true According to a palace

statement, the poem was inspired by a trip the prince made in 1991 to an area in northern Japan

known for its cranes, a symbol of longevity and good fortune. More than a dozen poems in the classic 31-syllable style were chanted melodiously by turyedo-clad poetry readers during the hourlong gathering at the Pine Hall of the Imperial

Aristide calls Haitian govt to accept observer WASHINGTON, Jan 14:

Haiti's deposed President Aristide is urging his country's military-backed government to accept a large force of international observers to restore order in the Caribbean nation, reports AP.

US officials said Wednesday that Aristide was sending a letter to Haiti's rulers Thursday in an attempt to break the logiam in international efforts to restore the democratically elected president to power

district of Mogadishu on Wednesday. - AFP/ UNB photo. Arms trade flourishes in Somalia despite US marine search 210 artillery pieces, 278 air desence guns and The Marines have had an effect "in the LONDON, Jan 14: Arms are flowing across 70 surface-to-air missiles. sense that people are not running around with Samatar said the Somali border is also guns in open daylight anymore," he said.

MOGADISHU: A US marine secures a street in the Sinay

tal, but establishing peace and stability throughout the country. "It doesn't matter how many raids the Marines are able to do inside Mogadishu be-

cause there are plenty more weapons where they came from," said Prof Bernard Hela nder of the University of Uppsala in Sweden, a Somalia expert who has been advising the United Nations.

US-led allied forces now control major ports and airports in Somalia. But its borders with Kenya and Ethiopia have very few controls and it is easy to bring in truckloads of arms.

unstoppable - it's like a steve," said Samatar, a UN adviser and professor of African history at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, said

in a telephone interviews.

But there are tens of thousands of weapons

in Mogadishu alone, and to disarm the city... you will have to have a search and destroy operation that will require literally hundreds of daily searches.

Helander praised the Mar-ines for trying to clear guns from the cities, but added: "I think disarmament is som-ething that comes out of a peace process and isn't something which can initiate a peace process." The allied forces are confronting the effects

of a vast military arsenal, supplied by both superpowers during the Cold War. Pentagon records show the United States provided Som-alia with 187 million dollar in grants, credits and loans to buy a variety of

In the late 1980s, Jane's said, the now disbanded Som-alt army had an array of US, Soviet, and Italian military hardware including 303 tanks, 474 armoured personnel carriers,

pian army, which disintegrated following the downfall of Mengistu Haile Marliam. "Former Ethiopian army officers have gotten into a lucrative trade there and I'm told by one

Prof loan Lewis of the London School of Economics consultant director of the International African Institute and a UN adviser, said he believes the Ethiopian government wants to stop the wea-pons traffic - but

groups straddle the Kenyan and Ethiopian frontiers, and it's very easy for people to move backward and forward across them," he said.

difficult, he said, because "there are Somali figures at very high levels in the Kenyan administration and they have their attachments across the border in Somalia."

Somalis in Kenya are reported to be supplying both Gen Mohamed Farah Aidid, Somalia's main warlord, and Gen Mohamed Said Hersi Mor gan, a warlord loyal to ousted dictator Mohammed Stad Bar-re, he said.

"Obviously there is some form of protection in Kenyan official circles that turns a blind eye to this continuing trade," he said. Lewis said it is also widely believed that one route for arms entering Som-alia from Ethiopia originates in Sudan.

Libya have also been identified as potential

The Libyans would like to destabilize that part of the world because of the American interest. The Iranians are keen to establish fundamentalist footholds in Africa. But as yet there's no evidence that they are openly sup-

lishing aerial frontier patrols with Kenya and Ethiopia to monitor arms traffic on the ground.

China urges HK governor to drop democracy plan BEIJING, Jan 14: China on

Thursday renewed its call for Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten to drop his plan to expand democracy in the British colony before it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997, reports "Our position is Chris

Patten must withdraw his plan of political reform," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin. China has repeatedly or-

democratization plan, saying it goes against the Basic Law, the Chinese drafted document that is to serve as Honk Kong's mini-constitution after 1997, and violates previous bilateral agreements,

to join UN operation BONN, Jan 14: Germany's coalition parties agreed on Wednesday to try to sweep

Germans may

allow soldiers

away constitutional barriers to let German soldiers join international military operations, officials said, reports Reuter. Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said they should hold talks immediately with the more reluctant opposition Social

tional changes. This agreement is a breakthrough, a sensible compromise," Kinkel told reporters.

Democrats (SPD) whose

support is vital for constitu-

The SPD had said talks were useless until the coalition itself was united.

Somalia's por-ous borders, even as US Marines confiscate truckloads of weapons in Mogadishu, experts say, reports AP.

The key to disarmament, the Somalia watchers say, is not collecting guns in the capi-

according to Helander and others. The arms coming across the border are

military hardware between 1980-1989, Jane's Defence Weekly reported earlier this month.

"crawling with arms" from the former Ethio-

source you can buy a tank for 200 dollars he

whether it actually has the means to do this in southern Ethiopia, I'm doubtful." "The problem is that the same Somali

Controlling weapons traffic from Kenya is

Jane's publisher Paul Beaver said Iran and arms suppliers.

porting any of the sides in Somalia," he said. Lewis said the allies should consider estab-

dered Patten to give up his