Clashes leave 5 dead in Kenya: Five people were killed and another five wounded in fresh tribal clashes sparked by a cattle rustling incident involving

members of the Kikuyu and Maasai ethnic groups in Kenya's southwestern region of Mau Narok, local newspapers said vesterday. AFP reports from Nairobi. A government official in the area was quoted as saying fighting broke out when Maasais pursued what they believed to be Kikuyu cattle rustlers who stole livestock from them on

Friday. Nakuru district commissioner Willian Kerario said police arrested 44 suspected cattle rustlers and recovered 22 livestock.

4 climbers die in Japan: All of the four climbers missing on mount Daisen in the western Japan prefecture of Tottori were found dead yesterday, police said,

AFP reports from Tokyo. Rescuers had been searching for the four, three men and a woman, who went missing on the snow-covered, 1.711-metre

(5,650-foot) peak on Monday. It was the first time that four people had gone missing at on time on mount Daisen, police said.,

Indonesia deports 40 immigrants: Authorities in the Indonesian province of East Kalimantan have deported 40 illegal immigrants, mainly Malaysians, the Antara

News Agency said Sunday, AFP reports from Jakarta. Antara quoted Nunukan district Immigration Chief Joko Budihartono as saying that the 40 - 37 Malaysians and three Pakistanis - were arrested in Nunukan, near the border with Sabah, during a week-long operation just before new year.

5 Chinese murdered in Spain: Five Chinese nationals were found murdered in this east coast resort Saturday night, victims of an apparent revenge attack, the Commercial Radio Station Cadena Ser reported, AFP reports

from Spain. One of the victims was the owner of a restaurant in the town. and the four others worked as waiters.

The radio said one of the owner's friends or relatives, worried at this absence, phoned the police, who went to the restaurant and found his body. He had been hacked to death.

3 Mexican police officers killed: Attacks by hundreds of armed Indian peasants on four towns in

the southwestern state of Chiapas left at least three police officers dead and 18 wounded, news reports said, AP reports from Mexico City.

The privately owned Televisa network said the rebels, who called themselves members of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, unleashed the attacks at around 4:30 am Saturday. Televisa's correspondent in the area said San Cristobal de

Las Casas the state's second biggest community with 80,000 residents, and the towns of Ocosingo, Altamirano and Las Margaritas were stormed. Road mishaps claim 19 in Thailand:

Nineteen persons were dead and several others injured in five road accidents in Thailand on New Year's Eve, according to local press yesterday. Xinhua reports from Bangkok. In Lampang province, Northern Thailand, a police officer was

crushed to death behind the steering wheel and another officer was injured when their pick-up truck overturned on the high-In LP Buri province, Central Thailand, seven passengers in a vandied and the driver was injured when the van was rammed

Aristide asks Haitians to

by a bus on the saraburi-Lomsak highway.

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Haiti). Jan 2: Haitians must do more to resist the Haitian military and its allies, exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said, in a radio address to his home-

land, reports AP. "We are on the road of resistance, mobilisation and resistance everywhere," Aristide said Saturday.

"The year has to change gears so that the car of democracy will run more swiftly

Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected leader, gave the speech to mark Haiti's 190th anniversary of independence from France. It was carried in Creole by the Voice of America.

The Haitian military has ruled Haiti since ousting Aristide in a coup in 1991. While pledging to work to-

ward a negotiated solution. Aristide used a harsher tone than in an address earlier last week.

He said that Haitians in 1994 will "march more to the rhythm" of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who became the first ruler of independent Haiti in 1804. Dessalines helped defeat France through violent means. including decapitating his cuemies and burning down their

On Tuesday, Aristide had called for an end to the country's violence following a fire in a Port-au-Prince slum that left more than 5,000 people homeless.

Armed men set the fire hours after a pro-military activist was killed in the Cite

India hopes to sign

resist military regime Solehi slum, where many Aristide supporters, were killed

following the 1991 coup. In a New Year's message broadcast Friday, the military urged an end to the violence.

Under an agreement with the military last summer, Aristide was authorised to appoint a prime minister, to head a caretaker government in preparation for Aristide's return.

Hopes for a democratic renewal in the impoverished Caribbean country were aborted in October when the military leadership broke its promise to step down

Wijetunga confident of winning elections

COLOMBO, Jan 2: Shri Lankan President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, thrust into the top post by accident, said in an interview published today, he is confident of winning this year's presidential election as the ruling party candidate, reports Reuter.

"Yes. We are sure of an overwhelming majority. The (main opposition) peoples' alliance is in disarray. It is virtually leaderless," he was quoted as saying in the interview in the Sunday Times.

Wijetunga predicted the government would win both the presidential poll scheduled for December this year and parliamentary elections due in early 1995.

Dostum's forces lay siege to Afghan presidential palace

ISLAMABAD, Jan 2: The Afghan presidential palace was under siege today in the second day of heavy fighting in Kabul between presidential and rebel forces which has left hundreds dead or injured. Afghan sources said, reports AFP.

The attacks from combined anti-government forces, aimed at toppling President Burhanuddin Rabbani, resumed at dawn, centering on the palace and the Defence Ministry.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a long-time rival of Rabbani, told AFP that the palace was under the siege by the joint forces of a newly formed four-party military alliance.

Reporting a string of strategic gains from Saturday's predawn operation, Haji Fareed said "the situation is in favour of Mujahideen," a term now used to identify Rabbani's ri-

Afghan diplomatic sources here said hundreds of people including civilians were feared dead in Saturday's fighting. The exact figure was not available as Kabul became paralysed by the heavy shelling. A hospital was among the buildings hit.

The offensive was launched by Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum after difference had developed between him and Rabbani and between his main commander and former Defence

Pope John Paul II celebrates the Angelus mass at Saint

Peter's Basilica in Vatican City Jan 01 on the occasion of the

new year. The Pontiff expressed his concern over the rise of

- AFP photo

The United States has

hinted at possible sanctions if

North Korea continues to

refuse mandatory inspections

by the International Atomic

Energy Agency, a UN watch-

dog, at two suspected nuclear

sites. The North denies that it

is trying to build a nuclear

have no effect on us. Such an

attempt may invite catastro-

phe, far from finding a solution

to the problem." Kim said in

his address, carried by the of-

"Pressure or threat will

US threat may invite catastrophe

over N-issue: Kim Il Sung

nationalism and the world economic crisis.

TOKYO, Jan 2: The United

States should "behave with

prudence" in talks aimed at

convincing North Korea to al-

low international monitoring of

dent Kim Il Sung said, reports

hard-line Communist state

since 1948, also acknowledged

Saturday that North Korea's

economy faced "enormous dif-

ficulties" with the end of the

Cold War and increased ten-

sion on the Korean peninsula

Kim, who has ruled the

its nuclear programme, Presi-

Minister Ahmad Shah Masood. an ally of Rabbani.

Apparently with prior agreement, Hekmatyar's Hezb-I-Islami and the pro-Iran-Hezb-I-Wahdat joined the new year offensive with Dostum's forces, while reports of pro-Saudi Arabia Ittehad-I-Islami Party's participation were contradictory.

Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami sources said Rasul Sayyaf of Ittehad had responded to Rabbani's appeal for help to "save Kabul from communists."

The Jamiat spokesman claimed that the rival forces were repulsed at several places including the airport. However, he said fighting was heavy in southeastern and western parts of the city.

AP adds: Workers with the International Committee of the Red Cross, normally the most reliable source for casualty figures, had to take cover from the shelling in the basements of their homes, and no one was at the office.

However, Red Cross officials in the main northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif said fighting broke out there between rival factions, leaving the streets deserted except for the combat-

Much of the fighting in Mazar-i-Sharif appeared to be near the airport, where Dostum controls more than 40 jet fighter planes.

Arafat urges Israel to abide by autonomy deal

NICOSIA, Jan 2: PLO chief Yasser Arafat on Saturday called for accurate applicationof the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accord for the occupied territories and urged Israel to abide by it, reports

"Israel must respect what it signed. I only ask for faithful and accurate implementation of what was signed," he told Radio Monte Carlo in an interview monitored in Nicosia.

"When we speak of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho that means pullout, not redeployment" he said about the two regions from where the Israeli army was to have begun withdrawing on December 13 under the accord signed in Washington on September 13.

Arafat said the Palestinians had no intention of living in

ghettos or bantustans.

"That's why we cannot accept the conditions that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and others have tried to impose on the Palestinian people," he said.

"Rabin can continue the occupation of our land for some time to come, but he must understand that he will never be able to impose his injustice and his contempt," Arafat said.

The PLO chairman said that a summit in Geneva this month between US President Bill Clinton and his Syrian counterpart Hafez al-Assad would provide the needed push to revive the deadlocked Israeli-Syrian talks.

He added that the meeting would undoubtedly promote progress on all the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Sino-Indian talks on reducing border forces soon

giants China and India will soon start talks aimed at cutting military deployment on both sides of their disputed frontier, the Chinese envoy here was quoted as saying today, reports AFP.

"Both sides want to divert their resources from military to economic development," ambassador Cheng Ruisheng told the Press Trust of India (PTI).

An expert group of military personnel and diplomats set up to maintain peace on the border will meet here in February to discuss the pruning of top levels, Cheng said.

The issue also figured at talks held here last month by a high ranking Chinese military delegation led by Lieutenant General Xi Hui, vice chief of staff of the People's Liberation Army.

India has some 60,000 combat troops on its side of the rugged mountainous frontier. The Chinese military strength across the Himalayan border is estimated to be much greater.

ficial Korean Central News

Agency and monitored in

Tokyo. "The United States

must see all the facts squarely

ongvang's strongest vet on the

nuclear issue, according to

North Korea watchers in

Japan. Other official state-

ments had used phrases such

ported progress after talks last

week, and Kim's statement in-

cluded vague reference to ac-

However, the two sides re-

as "grave consequences."

The warning was Py-

and behave with prudence."

The two countries fought a

NEW DELHI, Jan 2: Asian brief but bitter war in 1962 over a border dispute which involves 128,000 square kilometres (51,200 square miles) of territory. The war led to a 14-year freeze in diplomatic relations.

Cheng told PTI that the conflict and resultant tensions belonged to history. "We are trying to catch up with the lost time," the envoy said, referring to a gradual improvement in relations.

"We should keep the tempo next year," he was quoted as

A high level Chinese Communist Party delegation is to visit here January 7-13 at the invitation of the ruling Congress (I) Party. The Chinese Defence Minister is also due to travel here in the second half of 1994.

Indian Vice President K R Narayanan is expected to visit China for a festival of Indian culture in May.

Ambassador Cheng stressed that Beijing's relations with Pakistan, India's bitter rival, had no bearing on its ties with

"Since a joint statement has

been adopted by (North) Korea

and the United States, the nu-

clear problem on the Korean

peninsula can be settled fairly

if both sides keep and imple-

ment the principles that have

The speech did not give any

North Korea has had a se-

details about just what joint

ries of informal meetings with

American officials in New

York, and both sides reported

progress on ending the dis-

pute over the inspection of

nuclear facilities after their

latest meeting Thursday. Kim

did not specifically discuss the

"It is the United States that

has created the fictitious

doubt about nuclear develop-

ment by the North'," Kim said.

There fore, the nuclear prob-

lem on the Korean peninsula

must on any account be settled

sides after the New York meet-

ings were the most promising

sign to date that a peaceful

The Central Intelligence

Agency believes the North Ko-

reans have one or two atomic

bombs, although there is

widespread disagreement over

whether they can deliver the

weapons. The issue has

resolution may be possible.

The comments by the two

through Korea-US talks."

contacts in his speech.

been agreed upon," he said.

statement Kim meant.

New Delhi.

journal "contraception," the IIT-AIIMS scientists said the safety trials conducted on 38 male volunteers showed that it is a safe procedure with no adverse effects. Cat causes fire

Off the Record

Male contraceptive safe

oped by a team of scientists here has passed the mandatory

phase efficacy trials that might ultimately help this injectible

The technique was devised at the Centre for Biomediacal

Engineering, a research centre run jointly by the Indian

Institute of Technology (IIT) and the All India Institute of

vas deferens, a narrow channel through which spermatozoa

Styrene Maleic Anhydride (SMA) which blocks the way out for

the spermatozoa and also reduces their ability to fertilise.

The new technique involves injecting a chemical into the

The injection contains a polymer-like substance called

Reporting their findings in the international research

safety trials in human volunteers, reports PTI.

emerge an alternative to vasectomy.

Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here.

pass before ejaculation.

NEW DELHI: An injectible contraceptive for men devel-

The successful safety trials clear the way for the second

LUCENA (Philippines): A stray cat caused a fire here that claimed the lives of three children on New Year's eve. police said Saturday, repots AFP. The feline entered a squatters' shanty on the outskirts of

town and accidentally knocked down a kerosene lamp that had been set on a window sill.

The lamp fell to the floor, causing a fire that killed two sisters aged 11 and seven and their nine-year old brother.

Flight lands with one passenger more than expected LONDON: A Thai airways flight from New Delhi arrived in

London Saturday with one passenger more than expected - a baby boy born to an Indian woman who went into labour while the boeing 747 was in the air, reports AFP. Udom Tawatsin, the carrier's manager at London's

Heathrow Airport, said the woman began having contractions three hours after the flight took off and that she gave birth in the first class cabin before landing. "Fortunately, we had two doctors on board and they both

came forward to help with the birth," he said. "There was little space on the plane for the baby's delivery but we man-

Mother and child were taken to a hospital in London and were doing well. The father, who had come to Heathrow to met his wife, was said to be "surprised and delighted."

Don't try to make eye contact with an elephant

UNDATED: Never stand in an elephant's path. And whatever you do, don't try to make eye contact, reports AP.

With a herd of lost and hungry wild elephants roving through the nearby countryside, having trampled six people to death, Calcutta newspapers on Saturday published reports on elephant behaviour and tips on what to do it one ap-

The bottom line when you face an elephant, they said, is to avoid walking in front of it or letting it get a direct look at The elephants' small eyes and huge bulk limits their pe-

ripheral vision.

The good news: Elephants rarely go on the offensive unless teased or made to panic, and with a herd's pecking order it is far less threatening than a lone bull, contends Shantanu Ghosh of the Zoological Survey of India. The Telegraph newspaper asked Calcutta residents as well

as experts what they would do if confronted by one of the huge beasts. "I don't run," replied Mama Ghosh, no relation to the pa-

cychderm expert. "I just hide."

Birth of a boy means year of war ahead

SARAJEVO: Sarajevo's first baby of the new year was a boy and according to local superstition this means the city will face another year of war in 1994, reports Reuter. Hospital authorities said 30-year-old Zejreka Dzafovic gave

birth to a baby boy of four kilos (nine pounds) at 7.50 PM on the evening of January 1. The gloomy superstition attached to the birth of a boy as

the new year's first baby stems from Sarajevo's unsettled history over the last century. In 1914, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in the city led to World War I.

Hospital officials said that in 1993, 1,400 babies were born in the Bosnian capital, which has been under Serb siege for

Tournament of Roses parade. The entry, from the Republic of Indonesia, won the International prompted fears of a nuclear 21 months. Award for most beautiful entry from outside the United States. - AFP photo arms race in Northeast Asia War has become the only profession in former Y'slavia

extradition pacts with US, Canada and Germany NEW DELHI, Jan 2: India

hopes to sign extradition treaties with the United States, Canada and Germany in a bid to fight insurgents operating from foreign shors. Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan said in remarks published today, reports AFP.

Chavan told the National Herald newspaper that he would be visiting the three countries by early February to finalise the agreements that would be modelled on an India British treaty signed in 1992.

That accord, ratified during a visit here in January 1993 by British Prime Minister John Major

vina. Jan 2: In this battered black marketeering the domi capital, 20 months under siege. many people still get up and go to work It's no normal 9-to-5 toil, more a way of defying the Serb gunners who want the city to die, reports AP

But most Bosnians - and many people in neighbouring Croatia and Serbia — do not have the luxury of even pretending life is normal. War has become almost the only profession with work to offer

Across Bosnia, and in much of Croatia and Serbia, the ravages and brutal displacements of Europe's worst bloodletting since 1945 have brought manufacturing and commerce to a standstill

Near worthless local current

cies have made barter and nant trade. Poverty and ubiqui tous guns lure people into ban ditry to survive. Even many of those who do not live directly off the war do so indirectly

The retreat of a sophisticated society into subsistence and dog-eat-dog morality is as dev astating as the physical toll of more than 200,000 killed and missing, many more wounded and countless buildings destroyed since war crupted when the Yugoslav federation began splintering in June 1991

Gen Jean Cot, commander of UN peacekeeping troops in the region, likens the devastation and primitive existence to the Thirty Years War that laid waste to central Europe in the 17th century

There is a proliferation of bandits and outlaws, who are dying of hunger, and therefore that happens in these areas committing acts of banditry Cot said. "And it's not over yet. It will get worse.

The float, "Mysterious Island Borneo, Kalimantan moves along Jan 01 in US during the 105th

More than 2 million people are refugees, eking out an empty existence in camps or the homes of strangers, dependent on handouts to stay alive In Sarajevo, even without

heat, light or water, residents have the moral satisfaction of maintaining a facade of nor maley by working, even socialising or visiting rare movies and Yet even here most men are

at least part-time soldiers en during the front line and bring ing back tales of its horrors Everywhere, the fighting creates its own cycle of destruc

"The war is the only thing said Bruno Sisic, 38, an un married electrician from Konjic central Bosnia, in the Bosnian Croat army fighting around the southwestern city of Mostar

You cannot sit and watch TV you cannot have fun. There is no work because of constant fighting." Sisic said "You con only be imprisoned, killed, tor tured or finally, a refugee. "Then you realise that you

will be able to live normally only il you fight against them, if the war stops. So, you join the war to be a little wheel in stopping

the war to continue. The UN refugee agency is feeding 3 million Muslims.

Croats and Serbs in Bosnia this winter. With 200,000 dead or missing, and at least 1 million fled to Croatia, Serbia or further abroad, that is everyone left fighters and victims - of a prewar population of 4.3 million The United Nations has been

forced to make deals with the warring sides to get aid past roadblocks That has meant giving fuel to Bosnian Serbs. and building roads that help Bosnian Croat militiamen or troops of the Muslim-dominated government fighting in central Bosnia.

But if aid did not get through there would be ag fromcally, outside aid helps mammoth exodus from Bosnia

Even in Serbia, where there has been no fighting, and in Croatia, where a UN patrolled

ceasefire has brought almost two years of uneasy prace. there is little normal life left. Serbia houses nearly a half

million registered refugees 260,000 from Bosnia and 190,000 from Croatia, Croatia has 280,700 refugees from Bosnia, and 250,000 from 115 own 1991 war. They have no jobs, no home, no future

Rose Rendulic, 65, left home in Slunj. 45 miles south of Zagreb. Croatia's capital, in 1991. She lives in a hut on the edge of Zagreb, caring for her physically handicapped daugh ter scrounging for food and sharing clothes handouts with 800 other refugees.

"We remodel them, or just knit she said dully My days are like years.

111,000 greet Akihito

TOKYO, Jan 2: Emperor Akihito on Sunday received his largest crowd of well-wishers since assuming the throne in 1989, making one more palace balcony appearance that scheduled to accommodate the New Year's crowd of more than 111.000, reports AP.

I pray for the happiness of all people and wish for peace in the world," Akihito told the crowds on each of eight appearances behind bullet-proof glass In clear, windless weather.

the visitors waved small Japanese rising sun flags and shouted "banzai," or long life, for the emperor, who turned 60 on December 23.

About 2,600 policemen were mobilised in and around the palace grounds.